



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. P.16012/16/2017-TC

31st August, 2021

राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS

SECRETARY

Dear Colleague,

This has reference to my D.O. letter no. P.16012/03/2021-TC, dated 14th August, 2021, vide which the National Fact Sheet of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2019 (GYTS-4) was shared with States/UTs. Subsequently, the State Fact Sheet of the GYTS-4 has also been shared by the Ministry. Although, the GYTS-4 findings indicate that there is a remarkable decline in prevalence of tobacco use among school children in the age group 13 to 15 years, the findings also highlight that the estimated prevalence is still significant. The Survey also brings out that the median age of initiation on tobacco products among children ranges from 7 years to 10 years. Thus, the Survey clearly brings out the imperative of action starting right from the Primary School level.

2. It is with the aforesaid considerations that, this Ministry released the Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI). States/UTs were also requested to undertake necessary steps for effective implementation of ToFEI guidelines, vide joint D.O. Letter No. P.16012/16/2017-TC dated 18th December, 2020 from Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Secretary, Department of Higher Education and Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy. *(copy enclosed)*. The ToFEI Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework to enable educational institutions to develop a healthy and tobacco free environment.

3. In order to ensure comprehensive and effective implementation of tobacco control initiatives for children and in schools, it is requested that a special "Tobacco Free Schools" campaign may be taken up in the State/UT. The suggested activities under the Campaign include - self-assessment by all educational institutions in terms of their status on parameters as specified in the self-assessment scorecard in the Guidelines in the period up to 15th September 2021, special enforcement drives and "No Tobacco Pledges" in educational institutions up to 31st October 2021, final assessment and certification of educational institutions as a ToFEI Institutions and recognition of these efforts on the occasion of Children's day on 14th November, 2021. The suggested schedule is also *enclosed*.

4. The interventions such as enforcement of ban on smoking in educational institutions and ensuring no tobacco products are used in and in the vicinity of educational institutions, would also help prevent the risks of transmission of infection that is associated with second hand smoke and spitting as a consequence of tobacco use. The States/UTs may also undertake other additional activities suited to their local context.