



The Concept of HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in School Environment

To Education Authorities, Heads of Bodies
on Youth Affairs of Subjects of the Russian Federation,
Heads of Educational Institutions Subordinated
to the Federal Education Agency

To Public Health Authorities
of Subjects of the Russian Federation,
Heads of Regional Departments of Rospotrebnadzora
within Subjects of the Russian Federation

Conception of HIV and AIDS Preventive Education

In order to force HIV/AIDS prevention activities among children and young people more effectively, this Conception (hereinafter 'Conception') of HIV and AIDS Preventive Education in school environment has been developed by the Federal Department on Supervision in Protection of Consumers and Welfare together with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

The proposition is designed for the Public Health Authorities, Education Authorities, Bodies on Youth Affairs, Regional Departments of Rospotrebnadzor within all of the Subjects of the Russian Federation that together should distribute the Conception to all subordinate bodies and institutions, and provide interaction between all bodies and institutions which are responsible for realization of the preventive education in all aspects in the school environment and within the framework of their competence.

Deputy Minister
of Education and Science
of the Russian Federation

Head of Federal Department
on Supervision in Protection
of Consumers and Welfare

1. Introduction	2
2. The substantiation of expediency of the development and realization of the HIV/AIDS Preventive Education Concept in school environment	2
3. Legal Basis of the Concept Development and Realization	4
4. Aims and Tasks of the Concept	5
5. Key Provisions of the Concept	6
6. Key principles of the realization of HIV/AIDS preventive education in the education sector	8
7. The main directions in HIV/AIDS preventive education in the education sector	10
8. Mechanism of the Concept Realization	11
9. Glossary	

1. Introduction

The Concept of HIV/AIDS preventive education in school environment is developed to be realized by the Russian Ministry of Education, Russian Ministry of Public Health and Social Development, other Ministries and Departments concerned, all institutions and subordinated organizations in the Russian Federation, as well as some international and public organizations engaged in HIV/AIDS Preventive Education program.

The Concept includes some basic principles that help arrange the HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in the school environment and perform relative activity. The duly and full-scale introduction of these principles will allow to control the spread of epidemic diseases in the Russian Federation by making children and adolescents well-informed on HIV/AIDS infection transmission and preventive measures to stop infection and influence on their behavior.

2. The substantiation of expediency of the development and realization of the HIV/AIDS Preventive Education Concept in school environment

Today the HIV/AIDS epidemic threatens to destroy stability of economic and social development in countries throughout the world including the Russian Federation. The epidemic results in aggravation of social problems that finally it can threaten to economic stability of Russia.

Now the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Russian Federation is the socio-medical and biological phenomenon characterized by its dynamically increasing negative impact when the state of emergency is in the combination with the long-lasting problem. It requires both to take active measures immediately, and to develop a system of a long-term protection and counteraction.

The dynamics in change of totally AIDS-infected people in the Russian Federation shows that since 1999 the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus has grown threateningly. The number of HIV-infected people, recorded

only within 1999-2001, equals to an absolute total majority for the whole previous period of statistical observation. Since 2001 the decreasing tendency of a number of newly AIDS-infected people has been evident, but a rate of prevalence is steadily growing. The total number of AIDS-infected persons in the Russian Federation recorded by September 2005 amounted up to more than 330 thousand people, 14 thousand of which are children aged 14.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia generally resembles the worldwide tendencies. However, it has a number of features, as there are more women and adolescents among those infected by AIDS both in all population and in vulnerable groups.

The investigation of factors contributing to the AIDS infection provided a possibility to establish a fact that the infection depends on risk behavior (drugs abuse, sexual casual contacts, etc.) that may promote the virus transmission from person to person via blood and sexual contacts. A long-standing experience in investigation of the epidemic spread shows that adolescents are especially vulnerable to HIV due to their risk behavior, use of psychoactive substances, no access to HIV-related information resources and prevention programs along with a number of other social and economic reasons.

Until recently, the drug injection way of HIV-infection (parenteral transmission) was dominating in the Russian Federation, but now its extent is equal to the spread of the sexually transmitted diseases. This fact proves that the epidemic grows beyond the groups of HIV-infection risk and spreads to almost all levels of the population.

According to WHO's experts estimation, it is possible to bring down the rates of epidemic prevalence, first of all, owing to education of people to change their behavior. Taking into consideration the worldwide experience to prevent the HIV-infection and the experience accumulated in Russia, it can be supposed that HIV/AIDS preventive education should allow both to cut down the infection threat, and to develop healthy and responsible adolescents' behaviors.

3. Legal Basis of the Concept Development and Realization

The legal basis of the Concept is the Constitution of the Russian Federation, some Federal laws and other statutory acts as well as the generally accepted principles and the standards of international law, including:

- UN Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted and proclaimed by the Resolution 217 A (III) of the UN General Meeting dated 10 December 1948. Ratified by the Russian Federation dated 5 May 1998.
- Declaration on Child Rights that was proclaimed by the Resolution 1386 (XIV) of the UN General Meeting as of 20 November 1959.
- Convention on Child Rights that was adopted and opened to be signed, ratified and joined by the Resolution of the UN General Meeting No 44/25 dated 20 November 1989. Ratified by the Decree of Supreme Soviet of the USSR as of 13 June 1990, No 1559-1.
- Family Code of the Russian Federation as of 29 December 1995, No 223-F3.
- Federal Law as of 30 March 1995. No 38-F3. On Prevention of the disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-infection) on the territory of the Russian Federation.
- Federal Law as of 30 March 1999. No 52-F3. On Sanitary-and-epidemiological well-being of the population.
- Law of the Russian Federation as of 22 June 1993. No 5487-1. Legislative basis of the Russian Federation on health protection of citizens.
- Law of the Russian Federation as of 10 July 1992. No 3266-1. On education.
- Federal Law as of 24 June 1999. No 120-F3. On basis of the system of preventive measures against child neglect and juvenile delinquency.
- Federal Law as 19 May 1995. No N 82-F3. On public unions.
- Decree of Russian Government as of 13 November 2001. N 790. On Federal special programme 'The prevention and struggle against diseases having a social nature (2002/ 2006)'.
- Directive of the Minzdravmedprom of Russia as of 16 August 1994. N 170. On the measures of improvement of prevention and treatment of HIV-infection in the Russian Federation.

- Directive of the Ministry of Public Health of the USSR as of 5 September 1988. N 690. On improvement of the control of HIV-infected and AIDS-affected persons.
- Directive of the Ministry of Public Health of Russia as of 7 August 2000. N 312. On the improvement of the organizational structure and activities of institutions on prevention and struggle against AIDS.
- Directive of the Ministry of Public Health of the USSR as of 10 June 1985. N 776. On searching for AIDS-infected people and donors' examination for AIDS-virus.
- Decree of the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Russian Federation as of 14 January 2004. No 2. On promotion of measures to eliminate the HIV-infection spread in the Russian Federation.

4. Aims and Tasks of the Concept

The aim of the given Concept is to establish a coordinated position of the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Russia, Ministry of Public Health and Social Development of Russia, other ministries concerned and departments on development of the system of HIV/AIDS preventive education to cut down the rates of HIV/AIDS epidemic spread among children and young people in the Russian Federation.

The Tasks of this Concept are as follows:

- To form some priority ways of HIV/AIDS preventive education in the school environment; to form a single conceptual – methodological basis of HIV/AIDS preventive education; key principles of HIV/AIDS prevention educational programmes;
- To develop a single strategy in the organization of HIV/AIDS preventive education within the frameworks of the interdepartmental interaction between the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Russia, Ministry of Public Health and Social Development of Russia, other ministries concerned and departments and the cooperation with international organizations and public unions;
- To create a foundation of HIV/AIDS preventive education by public authorities, local governments, international organizations and public unions;

- To optimize the use of financial and personnel resources of HIV/AIDS preventive education at the expense of united efforts of all structures concerned, including nongovernmental and international organizations;
- To elaborate a system for monitoring HIV/AIDS prevention in the Russian Federation and its subjects.

5. Key Provisions of the Concept

The prevention of HIV/AIDS spread on the territory of the Russian Federation is a national political task that cannot and should not be tackled as a departmental project. The subjects of preventive activity are Federal and regional authorities, local governments, pedagogical, scientific, cultural, business community, other public institutes, youth associations, all citizens of Russia, including a family and the parental public.

The Concept is based on the evaluation of the current epidemiological situation, the latest scientific and methodological achievement in virology and preventive measures of socially caused diseases and states. If some new data, that is supplement or contradicted to one adopted currently, will appear, some alterations and supplements can be made in the Concept.

The HIV/AIDS preventive education can be planned and predicted only when it is formed in terms and notions of a specific 'state standard' that defines the participants of the preventive process, features of their activities, focusing on 'target groups' to work with, the prediction of the expected result. Otherwise, it remains a spontaneous, almost uncontrollable process related with some isolated initiatives of the authors of separate programmes, educational and other institutions.

The preventive programmes of both educational and training nature provide a powerful tool to influence on children and young behaviors. Their spontaneous realization can be connected with a risk of enhanced interest to extreme behavior, activation of resistant behavior mechanisms, perceiving inadequate information and other negative

consequences. In this connection, all programmes realized in the education sector should be approved by those who are responsible for examination of preventive educational programmes at the levels of the local educational institutions, regions, Federation.

To realize the provided programmes effectively, a task-oriented training of professional teachers with higher pedagogical, medical or psychological education who can perform preventive programmes. All trainers engaged in these activities should have proper documents, which confirm their right to perform preventive programmes in the school environment.

All preventive programmes being developed for the education sector should be based on the latest achievements in psychology, education and culture. They should take into account specific features of regions and those target groups for which they were developed, including ethnic, social and economic, age and gender features.

It is necessary to develop some special preventive programmes, which will take into account specific features of life experience, specific character of the social environment, emotional and personal features and a level of development in the communicative and intellectual sphere for children and young people who are grown in asocial families, children's homes, asylums and institution of confinement inclined to asocial behavior.

To preserve a continuity of various directions in forming responsible behavior and healthy life-style, it is advisable to apply the models and programmes of preventive measures against drug addiction and other socially caused diseases by focusing on HIV/AIDS preventive measures, which were already realized.

The key elements of HIV/AIDS preventive education in the education sector include: HIV/AIDS/STI education and informing of the population; reproductive health; development of human resources, formation

of social and personal competence, development of adaptive strategy of behaviour, formation healthy gender and family identification.

The HIV/AIDS preventive education Concept in the school environment is a developing system that later can be a part of the national strategy to practice responsible behaviors of all members of the community.

The given Concept is the basis to develop appropriate target programmes of HIV/AIDS preventive education for adolescents and young people on the Federal, regional and local levels depending on an epidemiological situation.

6. Key principles of HIV/AIDS preventive education in the education sector

The principle of the systematic character supposes that the development and realization of preventive programmes should be based on the system analysis of an actual HIV-infection social and epidemiological situation in the country.

The principle of the strategic integrity defines a uniform complete strategy of preventive measures that causes the main strategic directions and concrete measures and actions.

The multispects principle supposes that there will be a combination of various aspects of preventive measures:

- the educational aspect that makes a basic system of notions and knowledge about social and psychological, medical, legal, mental and ethical consequences of HIV infection;
- the social aspect focused on formation of the positive ethical and moral principles which determine a choice of the healthy life-style;
- the psychological aspect directed on formation of stress-resistant human resources, positive-and-cognitive evaluations as well as the aim 'to be successful', be capable to make a positive alternative choice in a difficult vital situation.

The principle of axiology (human values orientation). This principle includes the formation of internal children and young valuing systems based on the ideas of human values, attraction of the healthy life-style,

law-abiding, respect for a person, the State, environment, which are reference points and regulators of their behavior. Recognition of human values and norms of behavior is one of the basic mental and ethical barriers to avoid HIV infection resulting in limitation of the HIV epidemic.

The principle of situational adequacy means that preventive measures should conform to the actual social and economic situation in the country and in educational environment, continuity, integrity, dynamics, permanency, development and improvement of preventive measures bearing in mind an estimation of efficiency and situation monitoring.

The principle of individual adequacy means the development of preventive programmes keeping in mind age, gender, cultural, national, religious and other features of target groups.

The principle of legitimacy – it means that preventive activities should correspond to the legislation of the Russian Federation and standards of international law.

The principle of human rights observance – it means that preventive actions should not violate human rights and abridge human freedom.

The principle of the integrated approach assumes a coordination of interaction:

- at the professional level – of the experts of various occupations whose functional duties cover different aspects of the preventive work (educators, teachers, pre-school and school psychologists, physicians, social teachers, social workers, employees of the commission on juveniles affairs and their rights protection, inspectors of divisions on juveniles affairs, etc.);
- at the departmental level – of the bodies and institutions belonging to appropriate departments and implementing HIV/AIDS prevention in the school environment (on the Federal, regional and local levels);
- at the interdepartmental level – of bodies and institutions which are responsible for the realization of different aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention in the school environment within their competence (bodies and institutions of education, public health, etc.);
- at the level of the state, public and international organizations.

7. The main directions in HIV/AIDS preventive education in the education sector

Today WHO's experts and domestic scholars select the most promising directions in HIV/AIDS preventive education:

- HIV/AIDS education and information;
- education of children and young people to behave responsibly;
- creation of conditions supporting preventive measures.

7.1. HIV/AIDS education and information

The global task in this direction is to provide comprehensive and reliable information about ways of HIV infection transmission and measures of its prevention; circumstances raising risk of infection with HIV.

It is necessary to engage the central and local mass media, including TV to impart HIV/AIDS-related knowledge to children and young people. Specialists from different sectors (education, public health, psychology, etc.), workers of the state structures and organizations, scientific institutions should be engaged to provide reliable and safe HIV/AIDS-related information.

7.2. Education of children and young people to behave responsibly

A number of preventive measures in this direction can be realized only in the frameworks of preventive education that makes the healthy life-style motivation, changes risk behavior, enhances social, interpersonal competence on the basis of preventive education programmes.

The task of the programmes like this is to create some personal resources, effective strategy of behavior leading to responsibility for their own life, choice of the healthy life-style, confidence in resistance to the negative impact of environment, minimizing risky behavior, healthy gender and family identification, abstinence from early sexual contacts.

7.3. Creation of conditions supporting preventive measures

Within the frameworks of the given direction the family counseling aimed at improvement of family relations; education of parents by giving them basic knowledge on children sexual education; engagement of people capable to have a positive effect on children and youth in preventive activities; attraction of young people to play leading roles in counteraction of epidemic; extending the opportunities for children and young people to get access to counseling services, programmes of preventive support, health services. It is advisable to get a consent of adolescents' parents (or other legal representatives) for the participation of the adolescents in all preventive education programmes which cover sexual education problems, excluding basic programmes of general education meeting requirements of the state educational standard of general education.

8. Mechanism of the Concept Realization

The Federal executive authorities and executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation should take into consideration the Concept provisions when developing measures of the state support of HIV/AIDS preventive education and realizing Federal and regional programmes on protection and building up children, adolescents and young people's health.

The Concept realization covers:

- the development of HIV/AIDS special-purpose preventive education programmes and their methodical support provided by the leading education and research institutions of the Russian Federation;
- putting these programmes into practice of educational institutions and/or integration of HIV/AIDS preventive education problems into the programmes of HIV/AIDS general and additional education, into the system of pedagogical and social work;

- providing the system of pedagogical personnel HIV/AIDS training at the higher education institutions and postgraduate study;
- creation of mechanisms of the examination of HIV/AIDS preventive education programmes in the school environment on the basis of objective criteria of their safety and efficiency;
- creation of the HIV/AIDS monitoring system in the Russian Federation and its subjects based on up-to-date scientific methods. The monitoring realization should be regulated by standard acts and carried out on behalf of and under control of executing agencies and the most competent experts. Results of this monitoring should be used in analyzing of efficiency of preventive measures and programmes, and in planning of preventive activities in future;
- creation of supporting environment by realization of some reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes for parents, the programmes on the principle 'from equal to equal', involving of public organizations, mass media in HIV/AIDS preventive education;
- strengthening interaction between bodies and institutions of the system of the Ministry of Education of Russia with bodies and institutions of the system Ministry of Public Health and Social Development of Russia (the regional centers of AIDS preventive measures and struggle against the disease, bodies of social protection of the community, etc.), Russian Sporting Committee – Rossport, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, other departments, international and public organizations together with other agencies coordinating HIV/AIDS preventive activities.

9. Glossary

The following basic notions are used in the Concept:

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – the virus that destroys the immune system cells.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) – a complex of secondary symptoms caused by HIV and that are characterized by consecutive infection and development of multiple organ failure.

Psychoactive substances (PAS) – chemical and pharmacological remedies, which impact on the physical and mental state, causing a pathological addiction; among them are: drugs, tranquilizers, alcohol, nicotine and others.

Drugs – PAS put in to the official list of narcotics and psychotropics.

PAS abuse – use of PAS without prescriptions resulting in medical and social consequences.

HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in the School

Environment – a complex of social, education, medical-and-psychological measures to detect and eliminate reasons and consequences causing HIV infection, to prevent and eliminate negative personal, social and medical consequences of HIV infection.

Gender – a set of cultural and specific features, which determine social behavior of woman and man and their interrelations.

**The project sponsored
by UNESCO**