

[**UKHSA Guidance: Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fever-in-children/)

This guidance provides advice on:

* preventing the spread of infections
* which diseases to vaccinate for
* how long to keep children away from school
* managing infectious diseases
* cleaning the environment.

The aim is to provide information for school staff about managing a range of common and important childhood infections in settings, including schools and nurseries, and is not intended to be used as a tool for diagnosing infectious disease, but to help and direct where and when to seek further advice.

If schools are notified of a case of infectious disease in a pupil or staff member, please manage by following the advice provided in [Chapter 3](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-action-in-the-event-of-an-outbreak-or-incident) and ensuring children, young people and staff follow the recommended exclusion periods.

You may consider seeking specialist advice from the UKHSA EOE HPT if you are concerned and have seen unusual illness. [Chapter 4](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-action-in-the-event-of-an-outbreak-or-incident) outlines when you may consider making contact.

Our Regional UKHSA East of England Health Protection Team can be contacted via email [EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-what-to-do-if-you-suspect-an-outbreak-of-infection) or telephone 0300 303 8537, option 1.

EOE Regional Health Protection team can also give you additional advice and support as needed. Please use encrypted email for sending personally identifiable information (PII).

The diagram below sets out a simple process you can follow if or when being notified of an infection:

* [**Notifiable\***](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus#list-of-notifiable-diseases)**:** [List of notifiable diseases under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report#list-of-notifiable-diseases)
* [**Outbreak\*\***](https://www.e-bug.eu/eng/home)**:** An outbreak or incident may be defined as: an incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place OR a greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for the place and time where the outbreak has occurred. For more information [click](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report)
* **Prevention & Control, Public Health Exclusion\*\*\***: Prompt exclusion is essential to preventing the spread of infection in childhood settings. See [exclusion table](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) attachment. Implement appropriate Public health actions. See the [guidance for more information](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-4-what-to-do-if-you-suspect-an-outbreak-of-infection) OR contact UKHSA EOE HPT
* **^Contact UKHSA HPT** via EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk or Phone: 0300 303 8537 option 1
* **^^When to seek UKHSA HPT expert advice:** [**link**](mailto:EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk)
* **Reference:** [Guidance for Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/11/ventilating-classrooms-to-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19-doesnt-mean-pupils-need-to-be-cold-heres-why/). A practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in schools and other childcare settings.

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| UK Health Security Agency logo | **Respiratory Infections in Educational settings**  (Prepared by UKHSA South East SE and adopted by UKHSA EoE)  **Suggested key actions for managing respiratory infections in an education or childcare setting. It is in line with the guidance** [Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) |
| **Transmission Route:** | Person to person spread through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces. |
| **Exclusion:** | Guidance for children in educational settings included in [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)   * Children and young people who are unwell and have a [high temperature](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-public-health-management-of-specific-infectious-diseases) should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to an education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough. * It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. * If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. * Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. * Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal. * Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting. |
| **Closures:** | It is not necessary to close the school, unless there are operational reasons such as significant staff absence, which would be a decision for the school in conjunction with the relevant educational authority. |
|  | **Recommended actions for limiting transmission** |
| Hand and respiratory hygiene: | * Children should be supervised and/or encouraged to wash their hand regularly * Hand washing with liquid soap and warm water preferred over alcohol gel * Paper towels should be used for drying hands and a wastepaper bin provided for disposal. * Encourage good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues) * [e-Bug | England Home](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-prevention-and-control) has arrange of educational resources for ages 3-16 to learn about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics and vaccination. |
| Cleaning and disinfection: | * Regular cleaning using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach is an important part of reducing transmission * Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches and work surfaces should be wiped down twice a day and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. * Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens. |
| Ventilation and use of outdoor space | * Consider use of outdoor spaces if possible * Ensure occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in. Further information:   + [Ventilating classrooms to reduce the spread of Covid 19 doesn’t mean pupils need to be cold – here’s why - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities)   + [COVID-19: ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-prevention-and-control) |
| Communications | * Consider communications to raise awareness among parents and guardians of the outbreak and reinforce key messages, including the use of hand and respiratory hygiene measures |