



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

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To All Schools & Nurseries in SE Region

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear colleagues,

RE: Increase in common childhood infections

The Health Protection Team have seen a recent increase in concerns regarding common childhood infections. Infections are being seen in larger numbers than previously and also among a wider age range – from infant through to adult. Whilst this increase is unusual, due to the restrictions in place during autumn and winter of 2020/2021 and the reduction in social mixing, people may now be more susceptible to illnesses this year, including many commonly encountered infections.

We are writing to reassure that whilst there is an increase in cases, the management of these infections remains the same. Please see the following guidance for advice on signs and symptoms, treatment options and exclusion periods:

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> (Chapter 9 for disease specific information) for the UKHSA guidance.

Please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/> for more information about a range of health issues, including infections

Please see <http://www.e-bug.eu/> for hand hygiene resources for nurseries and schools.

In nurseries and schools, it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff, and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. Therefore, I wanted to highlight a few key general hygiene points:

- Hand hygiene – use liquid soap and water followed by method of drying, preferably paper towels
- Increase frequency and enhanced cleaning of key areas, especially bathrooms and all-touch surfaces
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (Catch It Bin It, Kill It.)
- Exclude the unwell child or member of staff

If you require further information please contact the duty team by emailing [SE.AcuteResponse@phe.gov.uk](mailto:SE.AcuteResponse@phe.gov.uk)

Kind regards,

South East Health Protection Team