



SUBJECT: Basic Information in the Event of a Sickness Outbreak

RECIPIENTS: All Schools

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Basic Information in the Event of a Sickness Outbreak

Schools should implement an immediate **risk assessment**, taking into account the following advice:

- The decision regarding individual school closures is one made by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, based on their assessment of their control measures.
- A school can remain open and continue to operate if it undertakes an effective hand-washing regime using soap and water; frequent contact-surfaces cleaning; regular, effective chlorine-based wipe-down and clean of any potentially contaminated surfaces (children/staff who are sick on-site will often contaminate areas several metres around them).
- Manage infection control within your risk assessment to include hand hygiene for all occupants of school; it will be helpful to explain to the children why this is necessary and what washing your hands 'properly' means (inadequate compliance from the children is likely to be the weakest part of a school's attempts to control further outbreaks). Infection control will include cleaning all possible contactable surfaces, including door handles, door buzzers, communal phones etc., with chlorine-based cleaners (e.g. MILTON) several times a day.
- Hand cleansing gels to be made readily available in school.
- Staff and children who have been sick should not return for at least 48 hours.
- Review risk assessment daily following advice from above.
- Do communicate with parents and advise them of how they can help at home too, details can be found on the NHS Choices' website.

For information on Noro virus specifically, please follow the link:

<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2014/11November/Pages/Norovirus-returns-advice-is-to-stay-away-from-GP.aspx>

For general advice on infection control, please contact 01522 553729 or email HealthProtectionTeam@lincolnshire.gov.uk