

Thursday, 26 November 2020



Guidance for educational settings

Safe HSC staff* movement within and between settings including preschools, mainstream schools and special schools

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the overall intention remains to reduce footfall into any setting. However, there will still be a requirement for HSC staff (eg medical, nursing, allied health professionals, social work) to visit educational settings to provide necessary continuing input to achieve the best outcomes for children, including where there are statutory requirements in line with the child or young person's Statement of Special Educational Needs.

General principles

1. HSC staff will attend schools where it is necessary to deliver elements of care assessment/therapy/treatment which must be delivered on a face-to-face basis.
2. Where visits are essential, HSC staff will have had training in and adhere to Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) guidance and use of appropriate PPE, in line with PHA guidance and any local Trust policies.
3. Public Health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres will be adhered to as far as possible.
4. All HSC staff will be required to wear PPE in line with PHA guidance and any local Trust policies.
5. If the visit is part of HSC agreed seasonal support to the school to support children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the HSC Staff member will ensure the school is aware when they plan to attend by liaising closely with the school principal.
6. If it is part of a required planned visit, the HSC staff member will email or telephone the school in advance for advice, relating to the COVID-19 status of the environment, and any other environmental factors such as the format of the school including social bubbles.
7. HSC staff will timetable visits and treatment/therapy sessions to reduce movement between 'bubbles' and schools.
8. Where staff are required to move between bubbles or schools, IPC guidance will be followed. Good hand hygiene practices must be adhered to at all times and these are detailed on the PHA website.
9. Where possible small groups of staff/teams will be aligned to specific settings.
10. PPE should be disposed of within the school setting as per the local arrangements within the school.
11. Specific guidance has been developed in relation to considerations when aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are required.
12. Use of technology will be promoted to facilitate virtual contact where appropriate, eg for liaison and case discussions/telex meetings.
13. If an equipment rep is required to come into the school, in the best interests of the child, then this is appropriate and should be supported. It is however important that they adhere to public health guidance, work within the measures put in place by the school to manage the spread of COVID-19 and where necessary use the relevant level of PPE.
14. Recording of attendance and contact details of HSC staff, and where appropriate equipment reps, supporting children within the school environment will be helpful in managing staffing concerns in circumstances where a member of staff or a child should develop symptoms of the virus while in the school setting.

*HSC staff may include school nurses, community children's nursing teams including health visitors, allied health professionals (AHPs), RSE teams, paediatricians and social workers.

HSC Public Health Agency

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This document provides guidance for schools (including preschools, mainstream schools and special schools) on safe movement of HSC staff within and between educational settings. It outlines the general principles that will be applied to minimise workforce movement and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools.

Details

Format

1 page, A4 factsheet

Target group

Principals and staff in educational settings

Downloads

| Attachment | Size |
|---|-----------|
| Guidance for educational settings re HSC staff visiting final.pdf | 147.96 KB |

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