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Ref:JH/BJ

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Dear Headteacher

Preventing the spread of infection in schools

The NHS in Norfolk is offering schools a 'communications toolkit' to help reduce the spread of common infections such as flu, tummy bugs, sickness and diarrhoea. These will help you relay difficult messages about keeping children off school because they come from myself, as Director of Public Health.

You can find these resources easily online at www.norfolk.nhs.uk/germbusters or at www.gywpct.nhs.uk There is a wide range of leaflets, films and posters and also a section called "Resources For Schools" which contains:

- **A draft letter to parents to print and send home**
- **Text for you to simply cut and paste into newsletters and school websites**
- **A web link which offers very useful and useable lesson plans, resources for primary and secondary classes, posters and games.** We know that by engaging children in activities we generate more impact.

We are particularly keen to remind parents of children who fall ill with tummy bugs to ensure their children do not return to school until 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea. We understand entirely how difficult this can be for families, with work and childcare to manage. However it is probably right to say that a child who is sick might well have caught the illness from someone who was sent back to school before the infectious period had passed. Our aim, with this advice, is to prevent illness spreading within schools and causing more families distress.

NHS Norfolk and Waveney represents Norfolk Primary Care Trust and Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust

Chair: Sheila Childerhouse
Chief Executive: Andrew Morgan

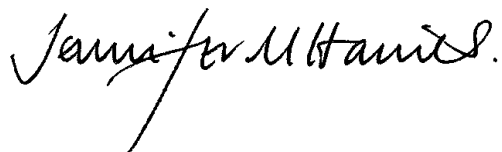


www.norfolk.nhs.uk
www.gywpct.nhs.uk

With your help - and with the help of members of your community - we can keep infections such as norovirus and flu at bay and keep more of us well.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer M. Harries". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'J' and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

Dr Jenny Harries
Director of Public Health
NHS Norfolk & Waveney And Norfolk County Council