

Preventing the spread of infection in schools

Here are some communications tools to help reduce the spread of common infections such as flu, tummy bugs, sickness and diarrhoea. The NHS can understand that relaying these vital messages, including keeping children off school, can be really difficult, so we hope this will assist you in this matter.

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 that have to balance childcare with work and other responsibilities.

However it is probably right to say that a child who is still infectious may well pass the illness on to another child if they return to school too soon. Our aim, with this advice, is to prevent illness spreading within schools and causing more families distress.

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.

Dr Lucy Macleod
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