


Monday, 16 September 2024

Health Protection

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings in Northern Ireland 

Prevent the spread of infections by ensuring routine immunisation, high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly handwashing, and maintaining a clean environment. Please contact the Public Health Agency, Health Protection Duty Team on 0800 800 9119 or visit www.publichealth.hsc.ni or www.gov.uk/government/organisations/northern-ireland-health-education agency if you need further advice or information, including the latest guidance. Children with severe allergic reactions should be vaccinated individually and assessed by their doctor.

Section and sub-section	Recommendation and key message	Comments
Baseline and other infections	Hand hygiene Children should be encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after using the toilet, and after playing outdoors. Hand sanitiser should be available in all settings, and children should be encouraged to use it when soap and water are not available.	Hand hygiene is a key measure to prevent the spread of infections. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after using the toilet, and after playing outdoors. Hand sanitiser should be available in all settings, and children should be encouraged to use it when soap and water are not available.
Respiratory infections	Cough and sneeze etiquette Children should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with their elbow or a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Tissues should be disposed of immediately, and hands should be washed with soap and water.	Cough and sneeze etiquette is a key measure to prevent the spread of respiratory infections. Children should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with their elbow or a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Tissues should be disposed of immediately, and hands should be washed with soap and water.
Food and drink	Food safety Children should be encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Food should be stored and prepared safely, and children should be encouraged to eat a healthy diet.	Food safety is a key measure to prevent the spread of foodborne infections. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Food should be stored and prepared safely, and children should be encouraged to eat a healthy diet.
Other	First aid Schools and childcare settings should have a first aid kit and a designated first aider. First aiders should be trained in first aid, and children should be encouraged to report any injuries.	First aid is a key measure to prevent the spread of infections. Schools and childcare settings should have a first aid kit and a designated first aider. First aiders should be trained in first aid, and children should be encouraged to report any injuries.

Childhood immunisation programme

Vaccine	Age	Notes
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	1 year	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	2 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	3 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	4 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	5 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	6 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	7 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	8 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	9 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	10 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	11 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
MM2 (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	12 years	Measles, Mumps, Rubella

The *Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings* poster contains information specific to Northern Ireland. COVID-19 is now included under respiratory infections.

The childhood immunisation schedule is changing in 2025-2026. Check [Childhood immunisation programme | nidirect](#) for the latest information.

Details

Format
PDF only
Target group
Schools

Downloads

Attachment	Size
A2 Schools poster to fold 2024 (updated).pdf	322.21 KB

Tags

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