

Thursday, 26 November 2020

Key principles for HSC staff visiting educational settings

In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the overall intention remains to reduce footfall into any setting.

- Recognise the full range of COVID-19 symptoms – prompt recognition of cases of COVID-19 amongst healthcare staff is essential to limit the spread.
- Follow the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Trust guidance in relation to testing and tracing for COVID-19. If you work somewhere that can maintain social distancing and has added safety measures (for example, perspex screens and PPE), you can disable/pause the COVID-19 app while working.
- The DE **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Schools and Educational Settings in Northern Ireland** notes that face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep at 2m distance and are interacting with other adults, children or young people.

If a visitor (eg 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.

All HSC staff will be required to wear PPE as per the PHA advice, which is in line with the Public Health England **COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance**.

Reducing workforce movement

- Assess whether you need to undertake a face to face visit. Are there alternative options?
- Please ensure the school is aware of the purpose of your visit and when you plan to attend by liaising closely with the school Principal. If this is part of a required planned visit, 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.
- Timetable visits and treatment/therapy sessions to reduce movement between 'bubbles' and schools. Where possible try to align small groups of staff/teams to specific settings.
- Spend the least amount of time in the school/ bubble setting without compromising care outcomes.
- HSC staff who visit educational settings should always be guided by the PHA guidance, taking into consideration the specific arrangements in place for individual children and young people.

Enhancing personal protection

- Ensure your Infection **Control & Prevention (IPC)** training, including safe donning and doffing of PPE, is up to date.
- Adhere to PHA IPC guidance ensuring effective hand hygiene and use of PPE: don, doff and dispose of PPE safely, taking in to consideration specific arrangements that may be in place in each school setting.

Schools have been provided with guidance for education staff in schools/preschool/childcare settings for children/young people who require aerosol generating procedures.

- Prepare appropriately before entering the educational setting. Decontaminate hand surfaces: touch points, eg pen, phone, diary, car door handle, equipment etc. before and after each visit.
- Bring minimal equipment with you.
- Maintain social distancing where possible in all settings and follow IPC procedures.

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This document sets out key principles for HSC staff who need to visit schools or other educational settings, including school nurses, community children's nursing teams, health visitors, allied health professionals, RISE teams and social workers. It offers guidance on minimising workforce movement and enhancing personal protection to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in these settings.

Details

Format

1 page A4 factsheet

Target group

HSC staff working in educational settings

Downloads

Attachment	Size
Key principles for HSC staff visiting educational settings 1120	469.97 KB

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