

Health Protection in Children and Young People Settings (including Education) Introduction

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published [health protection guidance for children and young people settings, including education](#). The impact of poor infection controls leading to illness among staff has been a long-term issue for UNISON members. While it is of course great that there is no longer a life-threatening pandemic, repeated infection with colds, flus and vomiting bugs does have a significant impact on members' health and well-being. It is vital that employers follow this guidance to reduce infection spread in settings. This will require sufficient cleaning staff in settings to ensure compliance.

Guidance

This new guidance covers a broad range of health protection issues and replaces the COVID-19 specific education settings guidance produced and maintained by Scottish government during the pandemic. This guidance has been produced through the Scottish Health Protection Network (SHPN) and is adapted from the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance.

[The SHPN](#) guidance provides advice on:

- Infections: transmission and those at higher risk
- Preventing and controlling infections
- Supporting immunisation programmes
- Managing specific infectious diseases (A to Z)
- Responding to outbreaks and incidents
- Additional health protection considerations for specific settings and population
- Posters for display in settings
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The guidance was produced with input from a wide range of partners. This included health protection professionals, education colleagues representing early years, primary and secondary, trade unions (**including UNISON Scotland**) and Scottish government.

Action for Branches

Branches should continue to work with employers to ensure that the guidance is being followed and that employers ensure that staff are aware of and have time to follow the guidance. Please share with your education reps and H&S officers.

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