

Date: 8th July 2022

Dear Education setting/Early Years Provider

As we see rates of COVID-19 infection in Barnsley and across the country increasing we are sharing this letter to provide an update for the reporting of any outbreaks of notifiable infectious diseases including COVID-19 in your setting.

This is also a reminder that by keeping your setting clean reduces the risk of infection and it is advised to step up cleaning measures when you are experiencing high levels of people with respiratory symptoms in your setting. Please see [here](#) for further information.

Please see [attached](#) the list of notifiable infectious diseases and for further information about health protection in education and childcare settings please see [here](#).

Following the 1st of April 2022 Government announcement, we have entered a new phase of living with COVID-19. We are now responding to COVID-19 in a similar way to other existing respiratory illnesses and further guidance on this can be found [here](#).

Guidance has also been updated to support settings in responding to a range of emergencies including managing infectious disease outbreaks. Please see [here](#) for the latest COVID-19 guidance for emergency planning in education settings and early years providers.

Moving forward

There is still an expectation to report any outbreaks of notifiable infectious diseases to UKHSA. Your first point of contact for all infectious disease reporting and guidance is UKHSA. Please contact your Health Protection team on 0113 3860300 or email YorkshireHumberHPT@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Regarding the reporting of respiratory illnesses (including COVID-19) the latest government [guidance](#) advises that you should contact your UKSHA Health Protection team if there is a:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection
- evidence of severe disease due to respiratory infection, for example if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital

For further local advice or support please contact BMBC Health Protection team via healthprotectionteam@barnsley.gov.uk. The inbox is monitored Monday to Friday within working hours. The Health Protection team inbox will replace the existing Covid-19 Children and Education reporting inbox.

From the 9th of June 2022 the current BMBC COVID-19 inbox covid19childrenandeducationreporting@barnsley.gov.uk will be closed.

The DofE incident line will remain open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and can be accessed by calling 0800 046 8687. This helpline is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education, childcare settings and children's social care. You can also use it for support with any national incidents and emergencies.

Final thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise all your hard work and support in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate that this has been a difficult time and again want to thank you for your continued reporting and patience.

Kind regards,



Julia Burrows

Nina Sleight