



Public Health
England

Cumbria & Lancashire
Health Protection Team
1st Floor, York House
Ackhurst Business Park
Foxhole Road, Chorley
Lancs. PR7 1NY

T +44 (0)844 225 0602
F +44 (0)1257 246451

www.gov.uk/phe
chlpt@phe.gov.uk

TO: All Nurseries in Cumbria & Lancashire

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Dear Colleague

NOROVIRUS SEASON

We are writing to highlight the approaching norovirus season. In recent years we have seen an increasing number of norovirus outbreaks and these cause considerable difficulties throughout the 'healthcare community'. We are therefore writing to ask for your assistance and to remind you of the importance of being vigilant for diarrhoea and vomiting (D&V) episodes/outbreaks.

We need your help with controlling outbreaks in Nurseries

Early recognition of diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreaks in Nurseries is vital so that effective control measures can be put in place. If you think you have recognised an outbreak of D&V then report it promptly to Public Health England's Health Protection Team, so that support and guidance about infection control will be provided.

Thorough handwashing with liquid soap and water, environmental cleaning and prompt exclusion of affected children or staff, are vital infection control measures during an outbreak of D&V within a Nursery. Children or staff with D&V should be **excluded** from the Nursery until they have been **symptom free for 48 hours**.

An information leaflet about Norovirus is enclosed with this letter. If you have any queries, or need to report a diarrhoea and/or vomiting outbreak, please do not hesitate to call the Cumbria & Lancashire Health Protection Team on 0844 225 0602.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kenneth Lamden
Consultant in Health Protection