

Foreword

Infectious diseases are a major cause of illness among school going children.

Hand washing is the single most important part of infection control. Hence the importance of adequate hand washing facilities in all schools.

Teaching children the skills of hand washing and cough etiquette is essential in breaking the chain of infection, regardless of the cause.

Appropriate vaccination of children, in line with the National Immunisation Guidelines, has resulted in fewer childhood illnesses. Schools are to be complimented for facilitating the Schools Immunisation Programme.

Appropriate control measures in schools will minimise transmission both within the school, but also to the wider community.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Public Health Medicine Communicable Disease Sub-Group in producing this document. I am confident that it will be of great assistance to school personnel as they continue to play their role in controlling infectious diseases.

From time to time, there will be additions and links to other resources that relate to the management of infectious diseases in schools. This material will be made available on the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) website at <http://www.hpsc.ie>

It is planned to formally review this document in 2016.

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