**The closure of the Cumbria Education Infection Prevention and Control service on 31 March 2024**

The Education Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) service was established in the Public Health Team at Cumbria County Council in 2020 to support education and childcare settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the team has continued to provide outbreak management advice across the County.

Having reviewed the service and level of need, the decision has been made to step down the service after 31 March 2024.

The team would like to thank you all for working with us throughout the challenging, formidable, and exceptional times the pandemic and subsequent years brought.

**Where to get advice and help from 1st April 2024:**

**UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**: In the event of an outbreak or a case of serious or unusual illness in the setting contact the Cumbria and Lancashire Health Protection Team (HPT) on 03442250562, option 2, or email cl.hpt@phe.gov.uk

* For further information to prevent the spread of infections by ensuring routine immunisation, high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly hand washing, and maintaining a clean environment visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources>

* **NHS:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/your-choices-in-the-nhs/>

* **Health Protection and Health Education resources:**

The ***One Minute Guides*** will continue to be available for all educational settings covering resources for Respiratory Infections (including COVID-19) for case and outbreak management; COVID-19 recovery measures; universal infection prevention measures; and wider Public Health advice.

These continue to be found on the Schools Website at Cumberland: <https://legacy.cumberland.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/ipcinformation.asp>

[At](https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/health-protection-and-health-education-resources) Westmorland and Furness: [Health protection and health education resources | Westmorland and Furness Council](https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/health-protection-and-health-education-resources)

Up until 31 March 2024, you can continue to contact the team by emailing EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk

Wishing you all the best for the future,

The Education IPC Team – Claire, Gillian, Kate, Louise and Viv