

Wednesday 4 January 2023

# Parents reminded to keep unwell children off school

Ahead of the Spring Term, Public Health is reminding parents not to send their children to school if they are feeling unwell or have a fever.

Parents are being urged to look out for symptoms of seasonal illnesses including scarlet fever, flu, and COVID-19 and ensure their children only return to school when they are recovered. If positive for COVID-19, they should stay off school for a minimum of 5 days and be symptom free for an additional 48 hours before returning.

Islanders are being reminded to follow current Public Health guidance and spread warmth, not illness, by:

- Staying home if feeling unwell and getting a PCR test
- Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and Flu
- Keeping the air fresh by opening windows

Parents who think their child or themselves may have scarlet fever should:

- Contact their GP as soon as possible
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school, or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.
- Make sure their child takes the full course of any prescribed antibiotics

Director of Public Health, Professor Peter Bradley, said: "We have seen a rise in the number of seasonal illnesses this winter, so it is important that, as we head into a new school term, children who are feeling unwell or experiencing fevers stay off school to reduce the spread of illness.

"Winter is a season in which these illnesses thrive, so I urge anyone who hasn't yet had their flu or COVID-19 vaccines to book an appointment at [gov.je/vaccine](https://gov.je/vaccine). Let's spread warmth, not illness this winter."

- ends -

## Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact the press office on 01534 440430 or [pressoffice@gov.je](mailto:pressoffice@gov.je)