UK Health Security Agency South East Region	**Respiratory Outbreaks** **This action card aims to explain the key actions for managing respiratory infections in an education or childcare setting. It is in line with the guidance** Health protection in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Transmission Route:	Person to person spread through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
Exclusion:	Guidance for children in educational settings included in People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) • Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to an education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough. • It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. • If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. • Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. • Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal. • Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.
Closures:	It is not necessary to close the school, unless there are operational reasons such as significant staff absence, which would be a decision for the school in conjunction with the relevant educational authority.
Recommended actions for limiting transmission	
Hand and respiratory hygiene:	• Children should be supervised and/or encouraged to wash their hand regularly • Hand washing with liquid soap and warm water preferred over alcohol gel • Paper towels should be used for drying hands and a wastepaper bin provided for disposal. • Encourage good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues) • e-Bug | England Home has arrange of educational resources for ages 3-16 to learn about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics and vaccination.
Cleaning and disinfection:	• Regular cleaning using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach is an important part of reducing transmission • Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches and work surfaces should be wiped down twice a day and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day. • Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.
Ventilation and use of outdoor space	• Consider use of outdoor spaces if possible • Ensure occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in. Further information: ○ Ventilating classrooms to reduce the spread of Covid 19 doesn't mean pupils need to be cold – here's why - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk) ○ COVID-19: ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Communications	• Consider communications to raise awareness among parents and guardians of the outbreak and reinforce key messages, including the use of hand and respiratory hygiene measures