



Health & Safety Update – April 2021

Verrucas, COVID-19: Transportation to Fixtures & Using Indoor Spaces

For the April H&S newsletter, we have selected some questions asked by members following the re-opening of schools on 8th March.

We are using the hall for gymnastics and dance and asking pupils to work in bare feet. A parent wants their child to wear footwear because they have a verruca. Do they need to wear them?

Verrucas, like most warts, are due to a viral infection. They are commonly picked up in damp, wet conditions. The virus can lie dormant for up to 18 months before they may be noticed. This may help to dispel the myth of the student who has a verruca “as result of attending school swimming the previous week”.

A verruca can die without treatment but this can take up to three years after it has stopped growing.

afPE has sought medical advice and the NHS, including Podiatrists, offer the following guidance:

Parents and carers should:

- Check feet regularly
- Treat early and don't wait until the verruca becomes painful.
- Keep covered if they are likely to get knocked or get infected.
- Change socks daily if you have a verruca

Schools are advised to use their employers advice on verrucas where there are students working in bare feet during dance and gymnastics lessons.

As they are commonly picked up in damp, wet conditions afPE, following medical advice, advise on wearing a verruca sock when taking part in school swimming. Students should not be excluded from swimming lessons.

Can we use the minibus to visit other schools and play sports matches?

From 29th March, outdoor competition between different schools can take place.

Any decision on visiting another school for a sporting fixture and using the minibus to transport students will be an individual school decision. The Covid -19 school opening arrangements risk assessment should include transport to fixtures, i.e. under the list of significant hazards and existing controls worked through.

The school approach to transporting students to fixtures must be aligned as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in school and where possible takes into account how pupils are grouped together at school.

Are we able to use a small indoor space for PE?

When indoor sport is unavoidable a large indoor space is used, maximising natural ventilation flows through opening windows and doors or using air conditioning systems wherever possible, distancing between pupils and scrupulous attention is given to cleaning and hygiene.

Specialist curriculum risk assessments will be put in place for indoor & outdoor P.E taking into account the specific guidance available.