

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

FAO School Headteachers **Re: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

You may be aware that cases of COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus) have now been confirmed in Sheffield. The city is well prepared for cases of the virus and this letter is to confirm that there has been no change in Public Health England's advice.

Wherever cases of the virus are confirmed, Public Health England will continue to contact people who have had close contact with them. Close contacts are being given specific health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after contact with the confirmed cases. This tried and tested method will ensure any risk to them and the wider public is minimised.

At the time of writing, there are currently no wider implications for any schools in Sheffield following recent cases here. However, we would like to assure you that if any cases of the virus are confirmed in school children or staff, PHE will be in contact with any affected schools to advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken, based on an assessment of each childcare or education setting.

Schools should continue to follow advice from PHE and the Department for Education at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We would particularly encourage and recommend that schools continue to promote hand washing with soap and hot water for 20 seconds or more.

The Department for Education has also launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AG Fell'.

Greg Fell

Director of Public Health

Sheffield City Council