

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



Department of

Education

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To Principals

You will have received correspondence from my Department in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

This is just to reassure all schools that the Public Health Agency (PHA) to date has recorded no cases of COVID-19 in Northern Ireland.

I wish to re-emphasise the need for schools to follow PHA advice which is being updated on a regular basis on the PHA website:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

This advice will be updated as the situation develops and schools should note that the guidance may change. Therefore it is important that you monitor the website.

Schools should follow the guidance, in particular, the need to practise good hand hygiene among staff and pupils. As referred to in the PHA guidance, like seasonal flu, if you cough or sneeze, use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose, throw it away carefully after use, and wash your hands.

PHA has indicated they are available to speak to individual schools which have any specific concerns in relation to COVID-19.

Enclosed is Advice from the Chief Medical Officer on COVID-19

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Weir'.

PETER WEIR MLA
Minister of Education