

To: Head teachers all Lothian schools:
via Directors of Education and SCIS

Date 27/01/2020
Our Ref HPT/ SF/LW
Enquiries to Health Protection
Email: health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

cc School nurses, CVT, independent school nurses

Dear Head

Wuhan coronavirus

You will be aware of the evolving outbreak of respiratory illness in China, centred around Wuhan in Hubei province, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus.

No cases of this illness have been confirmed in the UK and the risk to people in this country is low. As it is winter, most respiratory illnesses in the UK and China are due to the common cold and other viruses including influenza.

Information for the general public is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Health information is at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Some schools have half term and other trips planned to China. Half term falls just at the end of the Chinese lunar New Year celebrations on 8 February.

Current travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is to avoid all but essential travel to Hubei province. The Chinese authorities have placed travel restrictions on some other cities.

This is a rapidly evolving situation so advice is likely to change and schools must visit the FCO website regularly and may wish to risk assess any trips or exchanges.

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

Specific health advice on travel is on the [Fit for Travel](#) website.

Any pupils who travelled to affected areas for Chinese New Year celebrations and who develop fever, difficulty breathing or a cough within 14 days of return, should stay at home and contact their general practice or NHS 111 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Yours faithfully,





Dr Lorna Willocks, Consultant in Public Health Medicine