



25th February 2020

To: All Schools (State and Non-State) and Educational Institutions

Ref No.: DES 11/2020

Subject: Corona Virus

With reference to circular DES 08/2020 issued on the 5th February 2020 (attached), the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) in collaboration with and following instructions from the Ministry for Health (MfH) and according to the press release issued by the MfH (see attached), please note that anyone (staff or learners) who has visited these countries during the past days:

- China
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- South Korea
- Iran
- Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, Piedmont, Veneto, ie. all the north of Italy above Tuscany),

must stay at home for 14 days and if they develop symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, they need to phone the Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU) within the Superintendence of Public Health, Ministry for Health on Tel. no 21324086 and the unit will guide them accordingly.

It is also being advised that individuals who need help or clarification should **phone** their family doctor (GP). In addition, it is being instructed that the general public **should not to go** to Health centres or Casualty or visit their private GP but they **should call** their GP if they notice any symptoms mentioned above.

Employees that travelled to these countries are requested to advise their line manager regarding the need to stay at home according the stipulated days mentioned. Employees will be considered as excused on presentaton of travel evidence when individual returns back to work.

It is also recommended that travellers should avoid non-essential travel to the above countries which are countries with presumed ongoing transmission of COVID-19 based on scientific evidence available provided by ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control).

In the meantime, the Ministry for Education and Employment will continue to keep schools and educational institutions adjourned with directions given from time to time by the MfH.

Therefore, your cooperation is highly solicited.

Ms Maria Mc Namara
Director General
Educational Services