

25 March 2020

Dear colleagues

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Environmental Health response

Over the last few weeks, CIEH has been working closely with government agencies to support and facilitate communication channels at this critical time of need.

Alongside this, we want to help channel the valuable skill sets of EHPs who, for a variety of reasons, now may find themselves not working and available to volunteer their services for the public good. This request has already gone out through some of our other communication channels, but we now want to reach out to the environmental health community in a more personal way.

If you would like to volunteer, please complete our online register here:

[www.cieh.org/coronavirus-volunteering](http://www.cieh.org/coronavirus-volunteering)

It's also important to state that this register is not just for CIEH Members. Rather it's for all those with environmental health skills, experience and qualifications. We will therefore be reaching out to wider networks and contacts and asking them to share this too.

### Our register of volunteers

We are working with governments, the private sector and the community and voluntary sectors to provide a register of volunteers to them. By completing our online form with your contact details, you are effectively consenting that you are willing for your details to be shared with them.

These roles could be many and varied across a wide range of potential settings and could include, for example:

- Assisting local authorities and port health authorities
- Manning local advice lines
- Assisting in community-led support schemes – for example, food or grocery deliveries
- Providing support and advice to businesses
- For those that have the necessary qualifications, providing meat inspection services in the event of workforce shortages

Why am I writing this letter? Because I am coordinating this national initiative on behalf of CIEH. It's not just for Northern Ireland – at this time of national emergency, it's all hands to the pump!

I know that EHPs have really valuable skills and expertise that can be of value in so many varied settings at this time. Please consider lending your assistance in whatever capacity is needed. I'm confident that our profession will play its part in rising to the challenges this crisis presents.

Yours sincerely

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