

## Follow on information from Covid-19 OSH webinar 180320

**Dr. Michael Ryan, Chief Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme**

<https://twitter.com/SkyNews/status/1238504143104421888>

"be fast, have no regrets you must be the first mover. If you need to be right before you move, you will never win. Speed trumps perfection. The greatest error is not to move, the greatest error is to be paralysed by the fear of failure"

**Global Cases by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University**

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

By examining cases in different regions one can see the impact that social distancing has had.

**How will country-based mitigation measures influence the course of the COVID-19 epidemic?**

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30567-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30567-5/fulltext)

This paper, published on 9<sup>th</sup> March, outlines how "Individual behaviour will be crucial to control the spread of COVID-19. Personal, rather than government action, in western democracies might be the most important issue. Early self-isolation, seeking medical advice remotely unless symptoms are severe, and social distancing are key"

**HSE Guidance for businesses**

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/businessguidance/Guidance%20for%20Business%20Sector%20COVID19%20v1.0.pdf>

This covers issues such as

- what to do if an employee or a member of the public becomes unwell and believe they have been exposed to COVID-19
- When individuals in the workplace have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and
- Cleaning offices and public spaces where there are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-1

**One the subject of cleaning.....**

This video from the HSE, though developed for cleaning a doctor's surgery, is still the best that we have seen (if anyone has anything better, please send it to me and we'll share it)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=14&v=PwTHtWa-vdU&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=PwTHtWa-vdU&feature=emb_logo)

Indeed the HPSC has some excellent videos, though again, they are all prepared for healthcare professionals <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/videoresources/>

### **Patient information sheet for self-isolation at home**

Very helpful information on <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/selfisolationathome/Patient%20information%20sheet%20for%20self-%20isolation%20%20V2.1.pdf>

### **Contact tracing & testing**

This guidance is for healthcare workers so bear this in mind. Nonetheless it is very useful for companies that are doing their own from a staffing perspective.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/contacttracingguidance/National%20Interim%20Guidance%20for%20contact%20tracing%20V.6.pdf>

The HSE is quite clear that the objective of contact tracing is a public health objective. There are many stories of people waiting a long period of time on their symptoms becoming worse – this is a clinical issue and is to be pursued via the GP service.

A test will only be sanctioned if it is clinically required. Employers should not require employees to get tested in order to show up for work

### **Reputable sources of information**

There has so much damaging fake news circulating on social media and WhatsApp groups in particular. This is creating fear and anxiety for and is undermining confidence in the health services professionals that are dealing with this. Here is a list of reputable sources of information:

#### **Health & Safety Executive**

<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

#### **Health Protection Surveillance Centre**

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/frequentlyaskedquestions/FAQs%2012.7.pdf>

#### **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>

#### **World Health Organisation**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

#### **Ibec Covid-19 homepage**

<https://www.ibec.ie/employer-hub/covid-19>

## **Minding your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak**

Some great information again on the HSE website

<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

For employers that have colleagues in isolation, communications is so important. Even if you are working remotely, schedule a virtual cup of tea

## **Ibec Remote Working Information**

This guide is a summary of Remote Work requirements which any organisation can adapt and use.

[https://www.ibec.ie/-/media/documents/employer-hub/covid-19/ibec\\_remote-working-covid19\\_11032020.pdf](https://www.ibec.ie/-/media/documents/employer-hub/covid-19/ibec_remote-working-covid19_11032020.pdf)

## **Data Protection Commission Guidance**

The DPC have recognised that sensitive personal data will need to be processed and provide guidance on how this should be managed.

<https://dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/blogs/data-protection-and-covid-19>

It is good to talk so encourage friends and colleagues to share their problems. A problem shared is a problem halved!!!

#flattenthecurve

Ibec OSH Services

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020