

**CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION LEAFLET
AND
CANDIDATE DECLARATION FORM
CONFIDENTIAL**

**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) WHO Situation Report – 37
(updated 10th March 2020)**

Following the recent outbreak of the 2019-nCoV (Coronavirus) and in accordance to current World Health Organisation, Public Health England, HSE.ie and Department of Health (including those in the Channel Islands) and Social Care guidance, all healthcare workers undergo additional screening prior to any placement. By healthcare worker (HCW), this refers to those who work in a healthcare setting within and outside the NHS who may come into contact with patients, including clinical administration staff, and care home staff. This also includes NHS staff where depletion of workforce as a result of a symptomatic case attending work would pose significant operational issues e.g. laboratory professionals.

WHAT IS 2019-nCoV (Coronavirus)?

The 2019 novel coronavirus is now named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) while the disease associated with it is referred to as COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2, was identified in China at the end of 2019 and is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Four new Member States (Algeria, Austria, Croatia, and Switzerland) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Algeria is the first Member State of the AFRO Region to report a case of COVID-19.
- For the first time, since the onset of symptoms of the first identified case of COVID-19 on 8 December 2019, there have been more new cases reported from countries outside of China than from China.
- The WHO Director-General provided opening remarks at the weekly Member State briefing on COVID-19 regarding ongoing and future WHO missions along with priorities for control of the outbreak.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE:

It is important that the HCW should not attend a healthcare setting if there is a risk, they could spread COVID-19. The three main ways through which HCW are at risk themselves are relevant travel, and healthcare or household exposures. Recommendations regarding return to work for HCW in these categories of potential exposure to COVID-19 are set out below.

Healthcare providers should use their communication systems to message all staff in their organisation, stating that if a HCW has travelled to or transited through a specified country or area and has returned to the UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND in the past 14 days, the HCW should:

- *notify their line manager and occupational health manager immediately if they have already returned to work*
- *if not already at work, notify their line manager and occupational health manager before returning to work*

The following table sets out the main ways a HCW may be exposed, and recommended actions:

Type of exposure		Asymptomatic HCW with exposure within the past 14 days	14-day work exclusion	Other actions
Travel	1	Travel to specified Category 1 countries/areas	Yes	Self-isolation at home for 14 days after return to the UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
	2	Travel to specified Category 2 countries/areas	No	Inform line manager and occupational health. No restrictions unless advised by occupational health, employers or local health protection team
	3	Contact with a confirmed case in any country	Yes	Self-isolation at home for 14 days after return to the UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Healthcare (in UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND and overseas)	4	Exposure to healthcare settings (eg working in healthcare, admission or visit to hospital) in specified Category 2 countries/areas	Yes (from last healthcare exposure)	No other restrictions unless advised by occupational health, employers or local health protection team
	5	Contact with a symptomatic possible case whilst wearing recommended PPE with no breaches	No	No restrictions
	6	Contact with a confirmed case whilst wearing recommended PPE with no breaches	No	No restrictions, but passive follow up for 14 days after last exposure
	7	Contact with a symptomatic possible case without wearing recommended PPE	No	Exclusion and self-isolation may be recommended in certain circumstances based on a risk assessment by occupational health, employers, or the local health protection team
	8	Contact with a confirmed case without wearing recommended PPE	Yes	Self-isolation at home for 14 days after last contact (HPT will advise on follow-up)
Household or other setting outside of work	9	Contact with a possible case	No	Exclusion and self-isolation may be recommended in certain circumstances based on a risk assessment by occupational health, employers, or the local health protection team
	10	Contact with a confirmed case	Yes	Self-isolation at home for 14 days after last contact (HPT will advise on follow-up)

This Document shall be updated as regularly as possible, however please always refer to the following links for full guidance and updates on the corona virus and current list of affected areas:

Important Links

Full guidance is available on:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-guidance-for-healthcare-providers-with-staff-who-have-travelled-to-china/guidance-for-healthcare-providers-healthcare-workers-who-have-travelled-to-china>

For citizens and HCWs in Republic of Ireland:

- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/472f64-covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-and-advice/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/472f64-covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-and-advice/#travel-advice>

For citizens and HCWs based in the Channel Islands:

- <https://www.gov.je/Health/IllnessVaccine/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- <https://www.gov.gg/coronavirus>

List of current specified country or areas is available on the following link:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

Contacts with a confirmed case in the UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

All contacts with a confirmed case in the UK OR REPUBLIC OF IRELAND will be risk assessed by the health protection team who will advise on exclusions and follow up of those HCWs in line with separate contact tracing guidance. Examples given above are listed as a general rule before such detailed contact tracing can be performed.

Any HCW with relevant exposure history and compatible symptoms requires clinical assessment, and must notify NHS 111, or NHS direct in Wales, HSELive (RoI), NHS 24 in Scotland, Channel Islands Helpline or Out of Hours GP service in Northern Ireland before notifying their employer.

The '14- day work exclusion' relates to work within healthcare premises, and for many staff there could be opportunities for home working that healthcare provider organisations may wish to explore.

Self- isolation at home

Refer to the full guidance for link to the advice sheet for home isolation and advice sheet for people who live in the same accommodation as the patient.

Occupational health advice

HCWs whose possible exposure does not require exclusion from work should be advised:

- that they can continue to practice or work as normal while asymptomatic*
- that they need to monitor their own health and make phone contact with the healthcare service using standard routes such as NHS 111, NHS direct in Wales, HSELive (RoI), Channel Islands helpline, NHS 24 in Scotland (as detailed above) if they become unwell
- they need to inform occupational health and their line manager if they become symptomatic and need be excluded from work

The HCW may use standard routes such as NHS 111, NHS direct in Wales, NHS 24 in Scotland, HSELive (RoI), Channel Islands Helpline or Out of Hours GP service in Northern Ireland if they become unwell, or providers may choose to provide a direct point of contact.

Occupational health or senior managers may need to reassure work colleagues if they have been in contact with the HCW in work setting.

*Exclusion and self-isolation may be recommended in certain circumstances based on a risk assessment by occupational health or the local health protection team.

Return to work for HCWs who have been excluded from work

HCWs can return to work after 14 days if they have never had symptoms, or have had symptoms, tested negative, and their symptoms have resolved. If they are still symptomatic at the end of 14 days, they should be assessed on a case by case basis. Public Health England (PHE), Department of Health in Ireland (or other local Health Boards) can be contacted for individual advice by their occupational health department.

HCWs who initially were not excluded from work, but who subsequently developed symptoms and tested negative, can return to work once these symptoms have resolved. If they develop new symptoms and are within 14 days of their exposure, they need to be reassessed.

Signs and Symptoms		
Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed, 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset
The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis. For severely ill individuals, testing can be considered when exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure, or no known exposure) and another aetiology has not been identified		

Declaration

- I have read and fully understand my professional/ ethical obligation where I owe a duty of care to the people I support, my colleagues, my employer, myself and the public interest.
- I declare that the answers I have provided are indeed accurate and correct at the time of completion. In the event that should I have any contact with a known case of novel coronavirus and/ or begin to experience cough, fever or shortness of breath that I will self- isolate at home and will notify NHS 111, or NHS direct in Wales, or NHS 24 in Scotland, HSE Live for those in Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands Helpline or Out of Hours GP service in Northern Ireland.
- If I have travelled to or transited through a specified country or area and have returned to the UK, the Channel Islands or Republic of Ireland in the past 14 days, I will:
 - notify NHS 111, NHS direct in Wales, NHS 24 in Scotland, HSELive (RoI), Channel Islands Helpline (0) 1534 445566 or Out of Hours GP service in Northern Ireland of my travels
 - not return to work until I have been notified by my line manager/ responsible recruitment consultant and their Occupational Health provider that I have deemed me fit to return to work

Name

Signature

Date