

From: HQ

Date: Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 15:50

To: HQ

Subject: VetALERT 10b - COVID 19 Update - WSAVA - VCI Guidance Note - HPSC Videos - ICTU Campaign - COVID-19 and Data Protections - 11.3.20

Dear Veterinary Ireland Member,

While Veterinary Ireland continues to advise all members, employers and employees, **to act prudently, and to monitor official Irish Government advice, as well as updates from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**, the following **information and updates** may be useful to members in their practice and personal lives, in order to assist in preventing the further spread of COVID-19.

WSAVA

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) has updated its Guidance on **COVID-19 and Pets**.

The latest version is now on the WSAVA website, using the **following link**:

<https://wsava.org/news/highlighted-news/the-new-coronavirus-and-companion-animals-advice-for-wsava-members/>

Veterinary Council of Ireland

The VCI has today (11.3.20) issued a guidance note for registrants on COVID-19, available at:

<https://www.vci.ie/Utility/News/2020/VCI-Guidance-Note-for-registrants-on-Corona-Virus>

HPSC - Videos for GP Practices

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has put together videos on COVID-19 protections – while designed for **GP practices**, these may have some application for Vet practices in general application.

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

ICTU Campaign: Workers Be Aware – Wash Your Hands with Care

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) has launched a campaign to encourage all those in workplaces to ensure that proper, frequent handwashing hygiene is followed to assist in protecting workers and colleagues from COVID-19.

Regular handwashing is a key means of containment of this virus.

The following link opens a short video from the World Health Organisation (WHO) which demonstrates the **“fine art of handwashing”**.

<https://youtu.be/3PmVJQUCm4E>

ICTU are drawing particular attention to an article by Conor Pope in the Irish Times dated 10 March 2020, highlighting the pitfalls of poor handwashing.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/coronavirus-pitfalls-of-poor-hand-washing-revealed-by-uv-light-1.4197876>

As an Affiliate Organisation to ICTU, Veterinary Ireland has been asked to circulate this communication widely to all in veterinary workplaces, and to ask all Veterinary Ireland members and their veterinary practice colleagues to show solidarity by following these simple hand-washing guidelines, and continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Ireland.

Data Protection Commission – Data Protection and COVID-19

The following guidance has been issued from the Data Protection Commissioner in relation to the responsibilities of Data Controllers, especially with regards to suspected or confirmed cases in employees / clients in relation to COVID-19:

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

For all other relevant information, including useful **COVID-19 posters** for **COVID-19 Facts**, **Hand Hygiene** and **Respiratory Hygiene (Cover-Up)**, please refer to the **Essential Websites at the foot of this email**.

I am continuing to work on this topic and will endeavour to pass on any further information to Veterinary Ireland Members, as it becomes available to Veterinary Ireland Headquarters.

Take care and all the best

Peter Bishton
Deputy Chief Executive

ESSENTIAL COVID 19 WEBSITES

HSE - COVID-19 Updates:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/>

HSE - COVID-19 Advice:

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

HSE - COVID-19 Posters:

[COVID-19 poster \(PDF, 760KB, 1 page\)](#)

[Hand hygiene poster \(PDF, 129KB, 1 page\)](#)

Veterinary Council of Ireland Advice on COVID-19 (NEW 11.3.20)

<https://www.vci.ie/Utility/News/2020/VCI-Guidance-Note-for-registrants-on-Corona-Virus>

WSAVA (Updated 7.3.20)

<https://wsava.org/news/highlighted-news/the-new-coronavirus-and-companion-animals-advice-for-wsava-members/>

HSE's Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

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

HSE/HPSC Posters:

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

HPSC - Videos for GP Practices (NEW)

While designed for **GP practices**, these videos may have some application for Vet practices in general application.

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

HSE/HPSC Advice for Workers Dealing with the General Public:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/employersguidance/Guidance%20on%20COVID%2019%20for%20workers%20dealing%20with%20the%20general%20public%20v2.pdf>

ICTU Campaign: Workers Be Aware – Wash Your Hands with Care

WHO video on handwashing.

<https://youtu.be/3PmVJQUCm4E>

Irish Times article of 10.3.20 on handwashing.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/coronavirus-pitfalls-of-poor-hand-washing-revealed-by-uv-light-1.4197876>

Irish Government advice on COVID-19:

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

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

[ECDC - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

WHO general advice on COVID-19:

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

WHO advice to the public on COVID-19:

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

Data Protection Commission – Data Protection and COVID-19 (NEW)

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

Dept of Business – Continuity Advice for Business during COVID-19 outbreak:

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Business-Continuity-Planning-A-checklist-of-Preparatory-Actions-in-Responding-to-the-COVID-19-Outbreak.html>