

**From:** HQ

**Date:** Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 14:06

**Subject:** VetALERT 10d/20 – COVID-19 – Update 18th March 2020

Dear Veterinary Ireland Member,

Further to the previous CORVID-19 Updates (VetALERTS 10/20, 10a/20 to 10c/20), the following may be useful to you in keeping up to date with the current COVID-19 emergency.

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 God bless

Peter Bishton  
Deputy Chief Executive

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### **COVID-19 Updates 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

(NB: Text below in [Blue](#) contains direct links to the relevant websites/documents.)

Ireland is now operating a **DELAY STRATEGY.**

**The current advice from the HSE is that if you have a fever and/or a cough that you should stay at home, regardless of your travel or contact history.**

**If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 (check [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)) you should restrict your movement for 14 days.**

**All Citizens are advised to:**

- ⇒ **Reduce** social interactions
- ⇒ **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- ⇒ **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible
- ⇒ **Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- ⇒ **Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- ⇒ **Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hand
- ⇒ **Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

In addition, and as advised by the Veterinary Ireland President in VetALERT 11/20, Veterinary practices should take all necessary steps to minimise contact with people. Many practices are taking the lead in this already. Examples include

- **Following HSE guidelines on handwashing**
- **Drawing up SOPs for staff in the event they feel unwell**
- **Only allowing one client into the shop or waiting room at a time**
- **Encouraging clients to phone ahead so orders are compiled in advance**

- Using nurses to restrain animals rather than the owner
- Minimising contact between ambulatory vets and practice-based staff
- Refraining from going into farmers houses for tea etc.
- Trying to maintain a 2 meter gap between clients and vets/nurses/admin staff
- Wearing of gloves, sanitising of surfaces

If you have any of the following **symptoms** visit [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) OR phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**:

It can take up to 14 days for symptoms of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to show. Look out for one, some or all of the main symptoms:

- **cough** - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- difficulty breathing
- **fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)** or chills

Other symptoms are fatigue, headaches, sore throat, aches and pains.

More information on the [symptoms and causes of COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#) is available from the HSE.

### **TAOISEACH'S ADDRESS**

At 9.00pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, made a St Patrick's Day address to Irish Nation.

The televised address can be found at:

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0317/1123774-taoiseach-to-broadcast-to-country-on-covid-19-at-9pm/>

The full text can be found at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/72f0d9-national-address-by-the-taoiseach-st-patricks-day/>

### **ADVICE AND GUIDELINES**

The latest updates on COVID-19 can be found on the following websites:

⇒ **Government Website (gov.ie):** [www.gov.ie/health-covid-19](http://www.gov.ie/health-covid-19)

Ireland's response to COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a02c5a-what-is-happening/>

Updated Measures to COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ea1c30-updated-measures-in-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Gov.ie Information for Employers: [COVID-19: Information for Employers](#)

⇒ **HSE Coronavirus:** <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

The new **HSE Covid posters** for your workplace can be downloaded [here](#).

⇒ **Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):** [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

HPSC has published [new guidelines for businesses and the retail sector](#) that remain open.

⇒ **Dept Business , Enterprise & Innovation (DBEI):** [www.dbei.gov.ie/en/](http://www.dbei.gov.ie/en/)

## DBEI: [Government supports for COVID-19 impacted businesses](#)

⇒ **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP):**  
DEASP: [Covid-19 Jobseekers Emergency Payments Guide](#)

⇒ **Revenue:** [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

Revenue: [Measures to assist businesses experiencing cash-flow difficulties](#)

Revenue: [key advice](#) for businesses

The main points are:

- **Application of Interest:** The application of interest on late payments is suspended for late payments of January/February 2020 VAT (due by 23 March 2020) & for both February and March 2020 Employer PAYE liabilities.
- **Debt Enforcement:** All debt enforcement activity is suspended until further notice.
- **Tax Clearance:** Current tax clearance status will remain in place for all businesses over the coming months.
- To avail of the benefits noted above it is critical that the returns are submitted to Revenue on time notwithstanding that the associated liabilities remain outstanding.

⇒ **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM):**

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/coronaviruscovid-19/>

*“A range of supports for businesses have already been announced by the Government and is available at <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/>, including the SBCI Covid-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme, which is co-funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This loan scheme will make working capital available to impacted SMEs, including food businesses. The Minister has written to Commissioner Wojciechowski, following the announcement from President von der Leyen of a very significant economic package to respond to the crisis, seeking to ensure that the full range of market supports available under the Common Market Organisation Regulation are available for deployment in response to any emerging market disturbance.*

*Farmers and fishermen, along with other workers who are required to self-isolate, or are diagnosed with Covid-19, will be eligible for social welfare support.*

See: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/973806-covid-19-coronavirus-information-for-employers-and-employees/>”.

### **SFA Information - Government supports/updates**

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) have published a new [Covid-19 Jobseekers Emergency Payments Guide](#) together with information on a simplified unemployment payments process. Details of this guide include the following:

Where employers, who have to cease trading temporarily because of the impact of social distancing, continue to pay workers they will be able to claim refunds from the

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. A temporary refund scheme is being established for this purpose.

This refund will be for €203 per worker per week. This means that workers retain their link with employers and there is no need for them personally to submit a job-seekers' claim.

However, the refund scheme will take some time to set up which means that businesses will need to see if their cash-flow will allow them to advance this.

## **ESSENTIAL COVID 19 WEBSITES**

### **Taoiseach's Address**

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0317/1123774-taoiseach-to-broadcast-to-country-on-covid-19-at-9pm/>

**Government Website (gov.ie):** [www.gov.ie/health-covid-19](http://www.gov.ie/health-covid-19)

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

Ireland's response to COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a02c5a-what-is-happening/>

Updated Measures to COVID-19: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ea1c30-updated-measures-in-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Gov.ie Information for Employers: [COVID-19: Information for Employers](#)

**HSE Coronavirus:** <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

New **HSE Covid posters** for your workplace can be downloaded [here](#).

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: [symptoms and causes of COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

**Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):** [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

HSPC: [New guidelines for businesses and the retail sector](#)

**Dept Health - Updated Website on Measures in Response to COVID 19**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ea1c30-updated-measures-in-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus/>

**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>

**Department of Foreign Affairs (Travel Advice)**

[www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

**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-](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/primarycareguidance/)

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

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

**Dept. of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI): [www.dbei.gov.ie/en/](http://www.dbei.gov.ie/en/)**

DBEI: 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>

**Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP):**

DEASP: [Covid-19 Jobseekers Emergency Payments Guide](#)

**Revenue:** [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

Revenue: [Measures to assist businesses experiencing cash-flow difficulties](#)

Revenue: [key advice](#) for businesses

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM):**

DAFM: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/coronaviruscovid-19/>  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/973806-covid-19-coronavirus-information-for-employers-and-employees/>".

**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>

**European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**

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

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

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

**Closure of Schools, Colleges and Child-Care Facilities**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/speech/5a280b-statement-by-an-taoiseach-on-measures-to-tackle-covid-19-washington/>

**Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) - Short Term Work Support (via local Intreo Office)**

[gov.ie/en/service/c20e1b-short-time-work-support](https://www.gov.ie/en/service/c20e1b-short-time-work-support).

**Dept Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP) - Income Support Schemes**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-employment-affairs-and-social-protection/>

**Illness Benefit:**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/ddf6e3-illness-benefit/>

**Supplementary Welfare Allowance:**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/36e514-supplementary-welfare-allowance/>

**Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) Working Capital scheme**

<https://sbc.gov.ie/>

**Enterprise Ireland**

<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>

**MicroFinance Ireland**

<https://microfinanceireland.ie/>

**Local Enterprise Office (LEO)**

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Find-Your-Local-Enterprise-Office/>