



By email only

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### MEMO

<b>TO:</b>	Hospital Group CEOs
<b>CC:</b>	Prof Colm Bergin, Clinical Lead for Infectious Diseases.
<b>FROM:</b>	Dr Vida Hamilton, National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Acute Operations.
<b>RE:</b>	HSE Interim Position Statement on the Use of Pharmacological Prophylactic Therapy in Healthcare Workers or Contacts of Cases of COVID-19
<b>DATE:</b>	21 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Pharmacological prophylactic therapy for healthcare workers or contacts of cases of COVID-19 is only recommended in the setting of an ethically approved clinical trial. Use outside of the clinical trial setting is not recommended at this time due to a lack of evidence. This recommendation is based on the findings of a Rapid Evidence Review published by the COVID-19 Evidence Review Group (ERG).

The current COVID-19 pandemic represents a significant risk of infection for healthcare workers with regular patient contact and for close contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19. HSE Infection Prevention and Control recommendations, including the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment, should be followed at all times to minimise the risk of infection.

There is currently no robust evidence to support the use of either pre- or post-exposure pharmacological prophylactic therapy in healthcare workers or those in contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19. There are a number of clinical trials on-going examining the use of a number of pharmacological agents as prophylactic therapies in COVID-19 and these will help inform future recommendations.

- For National HSE Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance please refer to: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- For National HSE guidance on the use of antivirals in hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19 please refer to: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute->

[hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/specific-antiviral-therapy-in-the-clinical-management-of-acute-respiratory-infection-with-sars-cov-2-covid-19-.pdf](https://www.hse.ie/eng/our-services/hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/specific-antiviral-therapy-in-the-clinical-management-of-acute-respiratory-infection-with-sars-cov-2-covid-19-.pdf)

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Vida Hamilton  
**National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead – Acute Hospitals**

