
The following points have been provided by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) to assist in the re-establishment of our face to face service.

When scheduling appointments, communicate with clients that they need to stay at home if they have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, that clients should not attend clinic/group if they have been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, that they should not attend if anyone in their household is suspected or confirmed with covid-19.

Before resuming service

- Undertake a risk assessment in relation to the facility in terms of availability of natural ventilation (windows) and size.
 - If delivering a group, determine the number of clients that can attend and maintain an adequate social distance from other clients and staff in accordance with Public Health Guidelines.
 - Arrange seating to facilitate social distancing.
 - Clients should be advised in advance of the measures being taken and the reason for these measures during this time.
 - Provide adequate supplies of alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) and detergent wipes. Ensure ABHR are located in strategic positions at the entrance to the clinic room and inside.
 - Schedule appointments to avoid overcrowding.
 - Consider staggering the arrival of clients by allocating arrival times.
 - Consider issues such as use of toilet facilities and refreshments.
 - Clients should be encouraged to clean their hands regularly.
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Consultation room

- Utilise a room that is well ventilated for example leave windows open or doors if there are no privacy issues.
 - Adequate social distancing should be maintained in accordance with Public Health guidance.
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Face covering

- As from the 9th of July NPHET recommends that visitors and outpatients to hospitals, residential settings and community health services (for example General practice, dental practice, pharmacy service) should wear a form of face covering to reduce the likelihood of spread of infection from the wearer.
This does not remove the need for other combinations of protective measures (for example social distancing and hand hygiene) to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Surgical masks should be worn by healthcare workers when providing care to patients within 2m of a patient, regardless of the COVID-19 status of the patient.
- Surgical masks should be worn by all healthcare workers for all encounters, of 15 minutes or more, with other healthcare workers in the workplace where a distance of 2m cannot be maintained.

On the day of clinic/group

- Symptom check –you may ask clients to check their temperature before arrival to clinic and request they do not attend if they are unwell or displaying symptoms of Covid. Always do a symptom check with clients before allowing them entry.
- Hand washing, the client must clean hands before entering the clinic – hand gel must be available for this in the absence of hand washing facilities.
- If a client is wearing gloves, advise them to remove them and clean their - using alcohol based hand rub or wash their hands with soap and water and dry as the virus is more likely to survive on gloved hands than clean hands.
- Actively promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Information on Carbon Monoxide Breath Testing can be found on TFI/GN-1 Carbon Monoxide Breath Test & Covid Key Points for Infection Prevention & Control.

Please note:

1. This purpose of this note is to provide information, please adapt for your own service.
2. For the most up to date information please visit [HPSC.ie](https://www.hpsc.ie)