
	<h1>Operating Protocol</h1>				
Ref: OP:08:02	COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Healthcare Workers Moving to a Different Service				
Issue date:	14 th July 2020	Revised Date:	31 st July 2020	Review date:	TBD
Author(s):	Workplace Health & Wellbeing Unit				
Consultation With:	Occupational Health Clinical Advisory Group				
Responsibility for Implementation:	Healthcare Services Management				

Updates in version 2:	
2.4	Clarified the changing situation may change a risk level in a service
2.4 Appendix 1	Changed requirement for all HCWs coming from a Residential Care Facility to request testing due to low levels of cases detected during the recent 4 week screening programme.
Appendix 1	Included requirement that HCW with protected contact (casual contact) with a confirmed or probable case should be tested.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In the context of COVID-19, and in line with NPHET advice, all Healthcare Workers (HCWs) moving to new posts or moving from one healthcare service to another (including as contract or agency workers) should complete a COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Relocation Self Risk Assessment (see Appendix 1) and may require testing prior to moving. Testing consists of SARS-CoV2 PCR (swabbing). Additional local arrangements may apply, which require HCWs to be tested in advance of commencing employment as part of the Hospital Group/CHO management of COVID-19 in the workplace.

2. Process

- 2.1. The self-risk assessment can be sent by Human Resources (HR) to relevant HCWs with instruction to complete it the week prior to their move to another healthcare service.
- 2.2. All HCWs moving to new posts or moving from one healthcare service to another should complete the self-risk assessment. This does not need to be submitted to HR or Occupational Health, but the HCW should store it for at least 3 weeks following start date (4 weeks from completion).
- 2.3. HCWs should follow the guidance at the end of the self-risk assessment.
- 2.4. HCWs will require testing if they:
 - Had recent possible exposure.
 - Moving from an area of higher COVID-19 endemicity to an area of lower endemicity. Areas of higher endemicity currently include CHO 6, 7 and 9 and all Dublin Hospitals, but this is a changing situation so HCW must consider this in the context of their current workplace.
 - Moving from a healthcare service area or unit where there is one or more confirmed cases within the past 14 days, to another service.
- 2.5. HCWs, who fit the criteria set out for testing, should contact their existing Occupational Health Service (OHS) approximately one week prior to commencing in their new role, to request testing. If they have no OHS in their existing role, they can request testing from their new Occupational Health Service.
- 2.6. HCWs with any further queries following completion of the self-risk assessment should contact their existing OHS.
- 2.7. HCWs who test positive for COVID-19 will be advised to self-isolate and should contact their new Occupational Health Service by phone to inform them of this result.

Contact details for existing Occupational Health Services can be found at: workwell.ie/contact-list/contact-your-local-occupational-health-service/ or by emailing hr.wellbeing@hse.ie.

Appendix 1: COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Relocation Self Risk Assessment

Name (print): _____ Current Job title: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Mobile phone no: _____

Moving from: _____ Moving to: _____

	Please Tick	
	Yes	No
1. Symptoms - within the past 14 days, have you experienced:		
• Fever/Chills/Sweating		
• Shortness of breath		
• New/Worsening cough		
• Sore throat		
• Malaise/Aches		
• Loss/distortion of taste or smell		
• Vomiting/Diarrhoea		
2. Recent possible exposure (within past 14 days) - workplace or other		
• Unprotected or protected contact with a confirmed or probable case		
• Advised to restrict your movement in the past 14 days		
• Advised to self-isolate in the past 14 days		
• Working under derogation in the past 14 days		
3. Travel/Relocation		
• Travel within 14 days from outside the island of Ireland, excluding 'Green List Countries'		
• Relocation from another region of the country		
• Moving from a healthcare service unit where there is one or more confirmed cases within the past 14 days, to another service		
<p>1. If you have any of the symptoms listed in Section 1, please self-isolate and contact your existing Occupational Health Service or your GP for assessment and possible testing.</p> <p>2. If you had contact (with or without appropriate Personal Protective Equipment) with a confirmed or probable case within 14 days before your start date please request testing. If you are restricting movement, self-isolating or working under a derogation please advise your new Occupational Health Service.</p> <p>3. If you have travelled from countries outside the island of Ireland within 14 days before your start date, you must restrict movement for 14 days from the date of entry. Testing is not required unless you develop symptoms. Please advise HR of your travel and the requirement to restrict movement. Travel from 'Green List Countries' is excluded from this requirement. See https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html.</p> <p>If you are moving from an area of higher COVID-19 endemicity to an area of lower endemicity, or from a healthcare service area or unit where there is one or more confirmed cases within the past 14 days, to another service you should be tested before you move. Areas of higher endemicity currently include CHO 6, 7 and 9 and all Dublin Hospitals, but this is a changing situation so HCW must consider this in the context of their current workplace.</p> <p>Please contact your existing Occupational Health Service to request a test 1 week prior to moving. Please contact your new Occupational Health Service by phone to inform them of any positive results.</p> <p>Please note: If you have tested positive within the previous 3 months and <u>are asymptomatic</u>, you can be considered immune for 3 months from onset of symptoms (in original infection). However, if you become symptomatic you must self-isolate and report to your Occupational Health Service.</p> <p>You can find contact details for your local Occupational Health Service at workwell.ie/contact-list/contact-your-local-occupational-health-service/ or by emailing hr.wellbeing@hse.ie. *testing consists of SARS-CoV2 PCR (swabbing)</p>		
<p>Healthcare Worker Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>		