



18th March 2020

Good morning Member

Hope you are staying safe in these challenging times.

(Recipients of this email: Key contacts only in your business.)

We have a question today under our Members Question Time relating to COVID-19. We will however handle this one differently given the circumstances.

- Our question relates to manufacturing companies and their proposed response to the COVID situation. Much of the publicly available information relates to situations where remote working is a possibility. We also contacted the HSE for a response and that's included below.
- We do appreciate this is an evolving situation, so our aim is to gather a 'point in time' view so as to allow members assist each other in planning.
- We are very conscious that communications with your employees, suppliers and customers is a priority for you, and that this is a changing picture. Therefore, we give our assurances that no company will be named or identified in our final report. We would however request that you include your employee numbers (in a range) and sector of industry in your reply as it will help people make relatable comparisons.

A report will be issued tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon to all who reply, with a follow up early next week if there are is additional information.

QUESTION: "A manufacturing company is looking to understand other companies' policies in relation to Covid-19".

Specific questions:

1. What preventative measures are manufacturing companies putting in place beyond hand washing and good hygiene practices?
2. Scenario 1: A production employee rings in with symptoms. What is your approach in relation to (a) employee with symptoms (b) other production employees and (c) production plant?
3. Scenario 2: A production employee is confirmed to have Covid-19 virus. What is your approach in relation to (a) employee with Covid-19 (b) other production employees and (c) production plant"?
4. How many employees do you have? What sector of industry do you operate in?

For reference [Enterprise Ireland have issued this document](#) which might be useful to you.

The HSE replied to us with the following information on Monday 16th March 2020.

- There is guidance in a document entitled [Guidance for the Business & Retail Sector](#) on the Health Protection Surveillance Centre website - www.hpsc.ie - for businesses and all people on how to deal with symptoms.
- Food industry will be dealt with by EHOs, and the Food Safety Authority has advice for food workers and businesses. <https://www.fsai.ie/faq/coronavirus.html>
- The advice is that the incidents described in the two scenarios presented above are dealt in the same way any infectious disease is dealt with by interviewing the case and determining contacts close or casual.

We'd be grateful to hear from you.

Many thanks,
Mary

What is Members Question Time?

If your business has an issue or query about which other members may have experience, ideas and/or expertise, you can email us and we will circulate that to the members on an anonymous basis. We will collate the feedback and create a final report for the company involved. Copies of any report are also available to other IRDG members on request. The list of recent MQTs is available [on this link](#).

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