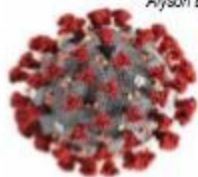


Quality News

Quality and Patient Safety Department
Galway Clinic, Doughiska, Galway Co. Ireland

GALWAY CLINIC PREPAREDNESS ON COVID-19

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Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV
is now officially called
COVID-19
CO - Corona
VI - Virus
D - Disease

Know how it spreads. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Testing. Only people who have symptoms of coronavirus will be tested for the virus. If you develop symptoms you will need to self-isolate until you can be tested. The people in your household will need to restrict their movements. You will either have your test at a community test centre or in your home.
Treatment. To help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) you may need to either restrict your movements or self-isolate. Public health emergencies, such as the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), are stressful times for people and communities. Fear and anxiety about a disease can lead to social stigma (1) toward people, places, or things.

The new coronavirus, now known as Covid-19, was first encountered in November 2019, and has gone on to affect over 350,000 people in over 150 countries around the globe, causing more than 15,000 deaths. The virus can cause pneumonia-like symptoms. Those who have fallen ill are reported to suffer coughs, fever and breathing difficulties. In severe cases there can be organ failure. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics are of no use. Like other coronaviruses, it originated in animals and then migrated to humans. In this case it appears to have originated in the city of Wuhan in China.

353,692 15,129 100,113



As of March 22, 2020, Ireland is 26th among countries, areas or territories with 785 confirmed covid-19 cases. Live Dashboard of Novel Covid-19 situation is available in this link: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648fba5beeee1b9125cd>. Galway City rank 3rd among counties in Ireland having 4% (n=25) confirmed cases. *All statistics measured at midnight on Friday, 20 March from Gov.ie. The National Public Health Emergency Team has done an analysis of the cases notified as at midnight Friday, 20 March 2020: The data reveals:

- 55% are male and 44% are female, with 35 clusters involving 190 cases.
- Median age of confirmed cases is 44 years
- 211 cases (30%) have been hospitalized
- Of those hospitalised, 17 cases have been admitted to ICU
- 22% are associated with healthcare workers
- Travel abroad accounts for 33%
- Community transmission accounts for 44%
- Close contact accounts for 23%



CDC provided steps Healthcare Facilities can take now to prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019: **Be Prepared, Communicate with staff and patients, Protect your workforce & Protect your patients.** Also, according to HSE, if you develop symptoms you will need to self-isolate and phone your GP. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. The GP will assess you over the phone. If they think you need to be tested for coronavirus, they will arrange a test. To help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) you may need to either restrict your movements or self-isolate. Restricted movements means avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible. You will need to do this if you are a close contact of a confirmed case of coronavirus and you are still well. Self-isolation means staying indoors and completely avoiding contact with other people.

COVID-19 Coordinating Committee with the support of Executive Leadership, made efforts to prepare such outbreaks. Emergency preparedness plan in line with National Guidelines are being implemented. Strict implementation and compliance to social distancing in specific workplace. Use of appropriate PPE's, adhering to hand hygiene and obedience to infection prevention & control protocols are on its best practice. Galway Clinic is closed for Visitors. GC Emergency Department is not a COVID-19 receiving hospital and therefore, will not be managing any known or at risk COVID-19 patients. Any staff member returning from high risk areas must, as per Public Health advice, self-isolate for 14 days. The list of high-risk areas is likely to change at any time. Please contact your manager prior to returning to work if you have been travelling Staff with these symptoms should not attend work and must contact their manager who will arrange referral to Medmark. Fast-track swabbing is now available for healthcare workers.



"To all who lost their love ones to this virus, we are with you. To all those living the shadows of what is to come, we are with you. Virus will pay no attention to borders, race, nationality or gender. They are the shared enemy of all humanity"

- Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

