



LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICE

Title:	2020/06 – Suspected/Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at Work
What Happened / Impact?	
A few confirmed cases for COVID-19 were reported for construction in July/August 2020. The CIF engaged with the Health Services Executive (HSE) and others to ascertain any shared learnings for the broader sector.	
Immediate Learnings / Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers must reinforce the messaging for all persons not to attend work if displaying COVID-19 Symptoms and to ensure workers are aware that the GP consultation and test are free of charge. • Largest contributor to COVID-19 cases has involved persons living together. Where possible, try to keep workers living together in same working groups. • Discourage car-pooling if workers are not living together. • It is suggested to consider ‘COVID-19 Champions’ for different nationalities. Ensure signage / information on COVID-19 protective measures is provided in languages appropriate to the workers, using resources provided: HSE's COVID-19 translated resources • Refer to the HSE Public Health Advice for Construction Sector in the event of a suspected or confirmed case for COVID-19. • Undertake a practice / simulation exercise of actions required in the event of a COVID-19 case. This way, all personnel are aware of what to do in the event of a real case arising. • Employers should promote the HSE’s COVID Tracker app: for Apple / for Android and request workers to download. • All shared IT and other equipment (e.g. mouse, keyboard, phones, remote controls, tables etc.) to be cleaned after each use. • The HSE indicated a preference for use of public testing facilities, advising that they may not support self-testing for COVID-19. • Current HSE advice, (which may be case specific), is for those displaying symptoms/tested positive to self-isolate at home for 14-days but that all other persons should remain at work. Confirmed cases to be tested again after 7-days but to remain in self-isolation for 14-days. 	
What To Do - Confirmed Case for COVID-19?	
<p>If a line manager is informed that a worker has tested positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassure workers that all close contacts will be contacted by Public Health officials. • If any workers at the site are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they should be advised to self-isolate and to contact their GP to arrange testing. However testing of asymptomatic co-workers is not required unless they have been identified as close contacts by Public Health. • It is not necessary to close a site or part of a site in response to an isolated case of COVID-19 unless it is not possible to continue operating or if directed by Public Health. • The line manager should expect to receive a call from the Public Health contact tracing team if their work place is deemed to have been exposed to the case during their infectious period. 	
For Further Information	https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/algorithms/COVID-19%20Telephone%20Assessment%20and%20testing%20pathway%20for%20patients%20who%20phone%20GP.pdf