

## STAFF

- Do your staff have what they need to keep themselves safe?
- Do they have the correct PPE and handwashing facilities?
- Are staff health records up-to-date?
- Do you know for certain the technician isn't in a high-risk group?
- Do staff understand your risk assessments and know how to put them in place?
- Do staff understand the new safe working procedures and know how to put them in place?
- Are you and your staff up-to date with current government and sector guidance, and can you demonstrate this?

## PPE

- You should not substitute frequent hand washing for PPE – continue to practice good hygiene, even if you have been wearing gloves.
- Single-use PPE should be disposed of as soon as finished.
- Reusable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned and stored and should not be shared with multiple users.
- In between carrying out pest control jobs, you may feel it is useful to wear a face covering. It is worth remembering that these are marginally beneficial as a precautionary measure, to protect others if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms.
- Wearing a face covering in public is optional and is not required by the law. If you choose to wear one, it is important to use it properly, and wash your hands before putting it on and after taking it off.

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

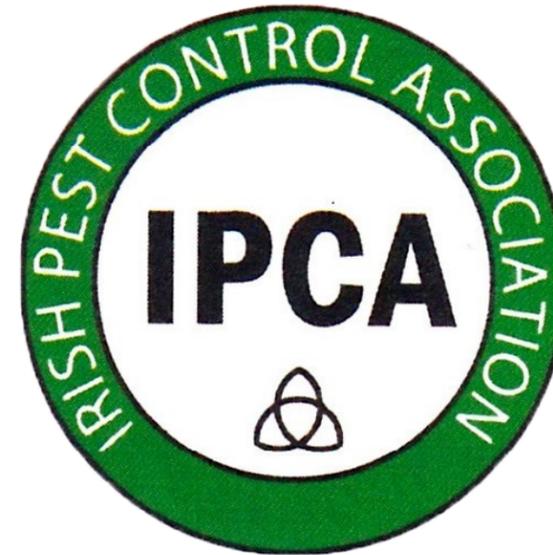
**HSE**— [www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/](http://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/)

**Government**— [www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/](http://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/)

**HSA** — [www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/](http://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/)

**Business**— [www.dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/](http://www.dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/)

**Mental Health**— [www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/covid-19/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html](http://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/covid-19/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html)



The Irish Pest Control Association



### Prevention



**Wash**  
your hands well and often to avoid contamination



**Cover**  
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



**Avoid**  
touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



**Clean**  
and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



# Covid 19 Guidance for Pest Management

# Covid 19 in Ireland

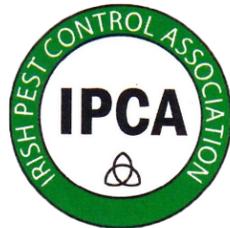
What can we do?

## Dear Members,

Covid 19 will be with us for the foreseeable future and has had an effect on our country and globally that we have not seen before in our lifetimes. We are essential workers and we must abide by the Public Health Guidance that has been provided. This short booklet is designed to reinforce the HSE and Government advice and try to identify how we can help as Pest Management Professionals to assist other businesses to maintain Public Health for their Staff and Customers. We must also be conscious of our own employees and provide them with the knowledge and tools to work safely in these unprecedented times. The Board of the IPCA would like to thank you all for your continued effort as essential workers.



Philip Cranley  
IPCA Chairman  
May 2020



## OUT AND ABOUT

Although it is not compulsory, consider wearing a face-covering while out and about. Try to be more aware of your surroundings, including any floor markings or notices regarding social distancing.

Bring a packed lunch and flask to avoid stopping at shops and garages. Eat outside if possible.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

It's been advised that a Covid-19 risk assessment must be done for all businesses. Risk assessments are a vital tool to justify your decisions and actions as a business, should the need arise.

The ways that the virus could be transmitted from and to clients.

Risk assessments need to be discussed with employees to ensure that they are fully aware of all control measures.

Risk assessments must be approved by the nominated person for health and safety before being issued as a live document.

Risk assessments must be reviewed regularly as per Government guidance.

Once you've filled in your risk assessment, it should be made available for all employees to read and sign to acknowledge their understanding.

A Risk Assessment Template was sent to members in the our correspondence. Please use it or use it for guidance for your own.

## EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Employees must not return to work for 14 days if they have begun showing symptoms of Covid-19 or if they are living with someone who has shown symptoms.

Before returning to work, all employees should complete a screening questionnaire to address any possible exposure to the virus.

Above all, you must ensure that those employees who cannot work from home can instead observe social distancing measures wherever possible.

Employers should be mindful of the stress that returning to work during this time may put on employees, and support staff with this transition as much as possible.

## ON-SITE

Minimise visits to clients where possible.

Can pest awareness training over the phone or via video conference be sufficient to protect a site for the short term?

Can routine visits be missed if on-site employees are trained to do basic monitoring?

Can any part of the work be done remotely by video call?

Can your survey be done remotely with a trusted employee already on-site?

Can you confirm infestations of domestic properties with photographs from the client?

Think about finding digital or remote alternatives to physical, in-home work where possible, such as video or phone consultations.

Have you checked who is on site and if they're well? Are you sure no-one is currently self-isolating in the premises?

Have you asked your client if everyone is well on-site?

Is anyone on-site a clinically vulnerable person?

Call your client in advance and check all the above.

No work should be carried out in a household where:

Someone is isolating

Where someone has symptoms

## WHERE PHYSICAL FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT IS NECESSARY

Maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible, including on a client's site.

Discuss with your client ahead of a visit to ask that a 2m distance is kept from those working and advise that if this is not adhered to, technicians reserve the right to leave the premises for their own safety

Ask clients to leave all internal doors open to minimise contact with door handles

Identify busy areas across the site where people travel to, from or through, for example, stairs and corridors, and minimising movement within these areas

Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

Wash your hands before and after visiting a client's site

Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

Do not consume food and drink on the client's site, and take your own food and drink which you can consume outside

Take any breaks outside

Do not share pens with your client

Send paperwork digitally wherever possible

Communicate with your client over the phone, even if you're on the same site, if possible

If you must speak with a client face-to-face, do this outside or in a well ventilated room while maintaining social distancing

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze

Put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards

Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Pay particular attention to situations where you are undertaking actions where items may have passed through many hands, eg cash handling

Keeping the activity time involved as short as possible

Work on your own wherever possible (or work back-to-back if this isn't possible)

Reduce the number of people you have contact with by using 'fixed teams or partnering' (so each person works with only a few others).

## VEHICLES

Consider limiting pest technicians to one per van wherever possible.

Drivers should still take hygiene precautions:

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before leaving your home and when you return

Wipe down your vehicle door handles and, particularly if you share the vehicle with others, wipe down the steering wheels, gear stick etc. before and after using the van.

Give the vehicle a thorough clean more regularly, including the seatbelts, mirrors or any surface that may have been touched.

When refuelling, use disposable gloves and pay at the pump and/or use contactless payments where possible. stay 2m away from other motorists at all times.

Use hand sanitiser upon returning to your vehicle.

Check your breakdown cover is still up-to-date. In the event of a flat tyre, if you feel capable, you should to replace it yourself instead of calling out a vehicle repair or breakdown service. It may be worth investing in a set of jump leads, which could help you get back on the road quickly if you can find a friendly motorist (while maintaining social distancing) to charge your battery.