



Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation
Working Together

Latest COVID-19 Update for INMO Members

Date : 8th March 2020 – 8:30pm

Members may have heard through the media that certain measures had been proposed and/or agreed in relation to avenues to maintain staffing in the context of staff being exposed and having to self-isolate.

The INMO are in constant contact with the HSE, including throughout today, Sunday, and we have spoken with senior officials in the HSE by conference call a short while ago.

In terms of redeployment, proposals have been made by management in relation to redeployment options in the event of a deterioration in the situation. We have made substantial changes to the management document, which is not agreed, and we are awaiting feedback on the necessary changes. Therefore, there is no agreement currently in relation to redeployment arrangements.

Insofar as it was suggested yesterday that healthcare workers, including nurses and midwives, who are close contacts with an infected person and currently on self-isolation would be required to attend work. We have reiterated the WHO guidelines in this regard and currently, there is no change to the arrangement which has existed, which is self-isolation will continue. We have reiterated today the absolute importance of full PPE protection for all nurses and midwives, including enhanced protections as standard measures where there is any potential for the virus to be aerosolised arising from the type of care provided, irrespective of whether there is a diagnosis in any area where aerosolised transmission is a possibility.

We will maintain constant contact with the HSE to ensure the protection of our members through a staged, considered and proportionate response which maximises the protection of vulnerable patients and our members, and we will update you with any developments as they occur.

Phil Ni Sheaghdha
General Secretary