

NPHET Action

AIRPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL HSE SUPPORTS in COVID19 CONTAINMENT

As part of the audits undertaken on the 4th/5th March 2020 in all airports EHS staff were explicitly asked to engage with the airports on any supports they required from the HSE.

Donegal – No request for additional support.

Knock – No request for additional support.

Shannon- No request for additional support.

Kerry- No request for additional support.

Cork – No request of the EHS for additional support from EHS however this airport has requested a staff briefing from HSE Communications. This is being progressed via Communications.

Dublin Airport – Request for additional support by DAA was discussed at a teleconference with DAA and HSE representatives on March 4th 2020.

DAA welcomed and acknowledged the on-going and continuous engagement with HSE representatives in Environmental Health, Public Health, NAS and Emergency Management.

Their Occupational Health Department had availed of clinical advice from Public Health and environmental infection control advice from the Environmental Health Service.

DAA indicated that they are concerned about a possible shortage of hand sanitiser gel at which point they may wish to link with HSE procurement in order to supplement this supply. This has been flagged to HSE ND for Procurement who will link DAA with HSE supply chain if the situation arises.

The HSE representatives also noted the fulsome co-operation of the DAA in relation to the recent audit and in providing airside access passes and security escorts.

The CEO of the DAA attended a meeting with stakeholders at the Office of An Taoiseach recently. At that meeting a request was made for a trained medic to be available on-site in the Dublin Airport.

Further information was sought in relation to this request. DAA responded that this request was to facilitate the increased number of people presenting as possible COVID19 cases. With a trained medic onsite the case definition queries could be responded to more quickly so that the protocol could be implemented in a timely fashion if required. This could also potentially reduce the amount of call outs to Dublin Fire Brigade. DAA stated that its ambulance crew is heavily tasked and while fully committed to respond to every case in a timely manner this puts a risk on the cover that is typically in place at the airport, not allowing for any surge capacity in the event of a non COVID19 incident.

HSE response is that it does not have the capacity to provide this facility onsite at present and that the issues raised could be effectively addressed by advanced paramedics and ambulance crew in DAA.

Submitted by Ann Marie Part AND for Environmental Health