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Dr Tony Holohan  
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February 10th, 2020

Dear Tony

Many thanks for your letter dated February 5th, regarding the issue of self-isolation for asymptomatic individuals who have returned to Ireland from mainland China within the preceding 14 days.

The issue was discussed at length last Wednesday afternoon (February 5th) at the first meeting of the 2019-nCoV Expert Advisory Group. Notwithstanding the advice issued by our colleagues in the UK, the EAG advises against recommending self-isolation for the above individuals.

The Group concluded that the available evidence does not support imposing what it considers to be a disproportionate burden on the individual at this time. It also noted that this guidance is in keeping with that of the ECDC and the WHO.

That being said, we are also cognisant that this is a rapidly evolving situation, and we would be happy to consider the issue again in the future should the need arise.

Kind regards

**Cillian De Gascun**  
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