

From: Byrne, Michael (Dr.)

Sent: Friday 14 February 2020 17:56

Subject: Covid-19 (novel Corona Virus) Update: Travel Advisory Notice: Advice for those travelling to Ireland from China; FAQs from UCC staff or students.

Dear All,

Update re SARS-CoV-2¹ COVID-19¹

The University continues to monitor the guidance and implement the recommendations disseminated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Department of Foreign Affairs in respect of the **SARS-CoV-2** (novel coronavirus outbreak) **COVID-19**.

As the situation is evolving and recommendations can change, you are advised to check the **latest information on the website of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre** (<https://www.hpsc.ie>).

This website is being updated daily at 13:00 hrs

The **UCC Student Health webpage** is reviewed and updated where required after the daily HPSC updates <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/>.

The importance of practising appropriate personal and community infection control measures including regular hand washing and good cough and respiratory etiquette is highlighted in the e-mail thread below and on the websites above. Please review both.

Travel Advisory Notice

Some staff members have enquired about **travel to South East Asia** in the current circumstances. The current guidance of the Department of Foreign Affairs is as follows (see www.dfa.ie):

Mainland China (other than Hong Kong and Macau) – “avoid non-essential travel”

Hong Kong and Macau – “high degree of caution”

Malaysia – “high degree of caution”

Singapore – “normal”

It is important to note that **travel insurance policies will generally not cover travel to a country where the Department of Foreign Affairs has a travel advisory of “avoid non-essential travel”** in force, such as it does for mainland China* at present.

Based on the guidance of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the University **advises against travel/booking travel to China at present** for academic visits, student exchanges, student recruitment activities etc.

Staff considering travel to Singapore, Malaysia or other countries in South East Asia should consider the necessity for their trip and should consult the latest Department of Foreign Affairs guidance before making travel bookings and again before departure.

It is also advisable to consult the guidance of the local authorities in the country to which travel is planned.

At present, the Singapore Government for example has classified its disease outbreak response as “*disease has not spread widely in Singapore and is being contained*”

<https://www.gov.sg/article/covid-19-resources> .

Advice for those travelling to Ireland, or who have already returned to Ireland, from China

There is clear guidance for those who are within 14 days of arriving in Ireland having departed from Mainland China*, or who will arrive in Ireland from Mainland China, on the <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage.

Staff and students who are known to be returning, or known to be planning to return, have been contacted and advised to consult the webpage and to follow the recommended actions described in Table 6.0 on <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage.

Staff or units of the university who are hosting an event where individuals may arrive from mainland China* are advised to direct these individuals or those invited, to consult the

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage and advise them to follow the recommended actions described in Table 6.0.

FAQs that have emerged in UCC over the past 2 weeks:

Q: I Have not been in Mainland China* and I have not been in contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19, and I have not attended a healthcare facility where a patient with COVID-19 was being treated. I am departing from Singapore (Malaysia or Other SE Asian country) and I am arriving in UCC. Do I need to isolate myself, or receive health clearance before I return.

A; No, no special measures are required. Please consult the <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage for further advice about general measures you may take to limit your risks of contracting an infectious disease whilst in Ireland.

Q: I am departing Mainland China* and I wish to attend an event in UCC. What should I do?. Do I have to isolate myself? Are there any special measures required once I arrive in Ireland?

A; Please consult your local Health Authorities in China prior to your considering your departure and follow their recommendations prior to your departure. Please consult the <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage. Please follow the recommendations contained in Table 6.0 on <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage on arrival in Ireland. You are advised to notify the Department of Public Health HSE on your arrival in Ireland. Contact details are available on the <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage.

Q: I arrived in Ireland from Mainland China* 18 days ago. Do I need to contact the HSE Dept. of Public Health today to inform them that I arrived 18 days ago.?

A; No. As you are over 14 days in Ireland the requirement to contact Public Health and advise them of your arrival 18 days ago no longer applies. Please consult the <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpage for further advice about general measures you may take to limit your risks of contracting an infectious disease whilst in Ireland.

Q: I have returned from Mainland China* within the last 14 days and I do not have, and have not had any symptoms suggestive of a respiratory illness as per Table 6.0 on <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> over the last 14 days. I have contacted Public Health HSE for further advice as recommended on Table 6 in <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/>. Am I required to obtain any medical certification to allow me to return to university, placement or work?

A; In the circumstances described, you are not required to obtain medical certification before returning to university, placement, or work. You are advised to watch out for symptoms of respiratory illness for the 14 days after you were last in Mainland China*. Proceed as per the **Feeling Unwell** column in Table 6 on <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> if symptoms of respiratory illness develop within 14 days of your leaving Mainland China*. Please continue to check <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> for further details.

If there are any matters in relation to COVID-19 which are unclear or not addressed on the www.hpsc.ie or <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/> webpages, or questions you would like answered, please forward these queries to Dr Michael Byrne m.byrne@ucc.ie

Regards,

Dr. Michael Byrne, Head of Student Health Services & Mr. Keith Burke, Deputy Corporate Secretary

**In matters relating to HPSC advice on COVID-19 Mainland China* excludes Hong Kong and Macau*

¹For information: Official name of the new Corona Virus and the disease it causes:

*The coronavirus study group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses announced that the name of the virus is **SARS-CoV-2** (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2).*

*Following WHO best practices for naming of new human infectious diseases, WHO has named the disease **COVID-19**, short for "coronavirus disease 2019."*

So SARS-CoV-2 causes COVID-19.