



### Covid-19 - IWA Guidance - 25 March 2020

New information is becoming available every day as doctors and scientists study the virus and how it affects people. The situation is evolving and therefore so is advice and guidance.

The Department of Health is leading the government response in Ireland to COVID-19 and are providing up to date information and advice on it's website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-health>

Additional resources for information and advice include:

*Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)* at [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

The HPSC provide advice for the general public and for specific groups and settings.

Firstly, we advise all members to heed the advice from the relevant authorities. Pay particular attention to correct hand hygiene, cleaning of surfaces, cough/sneeze etiquette and physical distancing (social distancing) – keeping 2m between yourself and anyone not living in the same house / flat / boat as you.

If you are feeling unwell, with a fever and/or cough, stay at home and phone your GP. Do not go to the doctor or local hospital, unless advised to do so following the telephone call. Your GP will arrange for you to be tested if you meet the new testing criteria, which may take up to 7 days. In the meantime, you must self-isolate at home.

Face-to-face meetings, such as branch meetings, **must be postponed**. Where Branch committees wish to continue to perform their duties, if possible this should be done using technology to manage meetings rather than face-to-face. For example; skype meetings, conference calls, email discussions, WhatsApp discussions. All planned indoor gatherings **must be postponed**.

All outdoor gatherings of more than 2 or 4 people, depending on jurisdiction are banned therefore all cruises in company, rallies and work parties **must be postponed**.

Personal use of your vessel, accompanied only by members of your household, has to be guided by the advice of the government in the jurisdiction where you reside. Executive strongly recommend that all non-essential travel be avoided.

Executive will update this guidance as the situation develops but it is essential that members keep themselves informed using the information at the links above.

**#stayathome**