

Cases of COVID-19 are notified to the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) under the Infectious Disease regulations 1981. These come to the attention of the Department of Public Health from a range of sources including the Computerised Infectious Diseases Reporting (CIDR) system, the Contact Management Programme (CMP) and local hospital laboratories.

Relevant agencies informed by DPH

DPH conducts preliminary Public Health risk assessment

DPH convenes Outbreak Control Team (OCT)*

Urgent Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and other measures implemented

Investigation into outbreak origin, nature and characteristics, including epidemiological and laboratory analysis

Monitoring and management of outbreak

Ongoing and additional IPC measures as deemed necessary to contain outbreak

Testing of close contacts and symptomatic casual contacts

Once off mass testing of employees is sometimes indicated to determine size / scope of problem

Positive cases self isolate for 10 days. Close contacts identified and advised re restricted movements for 14 days with Day 0 and Day 10 test. If Day 10 test result 'Not Detected' and asymptomatic, can end restricted movements

Outbreak is declared over when no further cases of new infection identified for a period of 28 days

*Example of OCT membership

- Public Health
- HPSC
- Microbiology
- Management
- Leader Worker Representatives
- Environmental Health
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland
- DAFM
- Occupational Health
- Health and Safety Authority

Please note in the context of a pandemic, resources may not reach to an OCT for every individual outbreak

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

CONTROL MEASURES