

Wednesday 11<sup>h</sup> March 2020

### **FingerPrint Medical Company Statement**

Dear customers & partners,

As you are aware, Coronavirus [COVID-19] outbreak, has been classified as a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” by the World Health Organisation. The UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate.

Southern Ireland has advanced plans in place as part of its comprehensive preparedness to deal with public health emergencies such as COVID-19 (Coronavirus). These plans have helped Southern Ireland to respond to previous incidents such as pandemic influenza, SARS and MERS.

The National Public Health Emergency Team, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer Tony Holohan, meets weekly to assess the international data, receive guidance regarding the outbreak and to review Ireland’s ongoing preparedness in line with advice from the WHO and the ECDC.

HSE Public Health and HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre have been monitoring the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation since it was notified by the WHO.

The HSE High Consequences Infectious Diseases Planning and Coordination Group (HCID) has been working at a detailed level on this situation since early January and has put in place detailed plans and issued guidance and information in preparedness across the health service.

An Expert Advisory Group was established in early February. The group, chaired by Cillian De Gascun, Laboratory Director at the National Virus Reference Laboratory, will provide advice to the National Public Health Emergency Team, the HSE and others on an ongoing basis.

Southern Ireland will continue to monitor the global developments of this new virus and respond accordingly.

The deployment of these strategies is in sync with global strategies, guided by the [World Health Organization](#) and the [European Centre for Prevention and Disease Control](#) (ECDC).

FingerPrint Medical Limited are actively monitoring the information/advice published by PHE, NPHE, WHO and the Governments of both the UK & Southern Ireland. As a company we are taking as many precautionary measures as possible; increased awareness regarding hand sanitation has been communicated and measures are in place for individuals to work from home should they present with relevant symptoms.

These measures will ensure that there is no disruption to service.

Whilst we are adopting a 'business as usual' approach, in the interest of good practice, we are suggesting that non-urgent meetings and all reviews are hosted via video conference. In this way, onsite visits can be eliminated, reducing the spread of infection.

Should the above not be practical due to limited technology or where you would prefer to continue with on-site reviews, please email [enquiries@fingerprint.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fingerprint.co.uk) We do not wish to cause unnecessary inconvenience and hope that you understand and support this temporary action.

FingerPrint Medical is now in the process of requesting Coronavirus DR Plans from our suppliers & partners to ensure continuity of service. Updates will be provided to our clients in due course.

Thank you

FingerPrint Medical Limited