

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 2 April 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI continues to encourage members to access the updated materials and information on the [HSE](#) and the [Institute of Public Health](#) websites and also the [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#) [Revenue](#) and the [Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government](#)

Other Online Resources

- [The Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre \(HPSC\)](#) The HPSC provides advice for the general public and for specific groups and settings, including employers, healthcare professionals, education settings and religious settings
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) provides travel advice.

ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office continues its temporary closure and the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is being monitored at info@acei.ie. ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes communications to sarah.ingle@acei.ie. The ACEI Executive is meeting online every few days to regularly address key issues for ACEI members.

ACEI Communications and Website

A phone call campaign to support all member firms is currently in progress as well as follow-up emails. Firms who have not yet been contacted are asked to send a mobile phone number and name to projects@acei.ie. The ACEI Website has also been amended to include a dedicated [Covid-19 banner](#) with news and information updated regularly.

ACEI View on Essential Service Providers

In relation to the [Government's notice](#), on essential service providers, the only site/inspection/field work that ACEI member firms should attend is for projects that are directly related to the Covid-19 effort or projects that are part of an essential supply chain. Also, ACEI member firms and their employees should only attend building or infrastructure construction sites to carry out site supervision, inspection and related work where the client, has provided a clear instruction that the site is included in the list above. If this instruction has not been provided, then the site is considered not essential for the purposes of public health.

COVID Engineering Alliance Supporting HSE

A COVID Engineering Alliance has been formed to support the HSE with the re-configuration and expansion of its utility systems. The Alliance, which includes ACEI member firms Arup and RPS, has been set up to address increases in patient numbers with respiratory needs in the coming weeks. ACEI has written to all member firms to request assistance with this call for support. The specifics of the request in relation to both equipment needs and professional expertise can be obtained from info@acei.ie.

CPD Opportunity: BIM for Project Managers

Ralph Montague from Arcdox has kindly made available to ACEI members a two hour lecture: ["BIM for Project Managers"](#). The lecture, delivered in non-technical language, is aimed at project managers and business leaders. Hosted on *YouTube* it should be useful to view while working remotely.

FIDIC Advice for Consulting Engineers

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), of which ACEI is a member, has published a [Coronavirus FIDIC Guidance Document](#) to provide advice and assistance on cashflow, management and other areas to FIDIC member associations and consulting engineering firms. FIDIC is also developing a series of webinars to provide an opportunity for industry leaders and stakeholders to discuss how they are addressing the Covid-19 crisis. Further details to follow.

Enterprise Ireland Business Support

Enterprise Ireland has a number of supports available to help businesses mitigate the impact of Covid-19. A summary of [Government and Enterprise Ireland supports](#) are available for review by Enterprise Ireland clients and other firms. Enterprise Ireland is working with all government stakeholders to ensure that businesses are prepared and informed on the most up-to-date advice and supports available. Tom Cusack, Head of international sales and partnering at Enterprise Ireland suggests that during this difficult period, [firms focus on what they can control](#), as well as keep in touch with clients.

European Commission Actions

The European Commission has undertaken a number of measures to address the Covid-19 crisis. Health measures include increasing the production of personal protective equipment; the continuous flow of goods is being addressed by creating 'green lanes'; one economic measure adopted is the application of maximum flexibility to budgetary rules; and, in relation to promoting research, up to €140 million is being provided to develop vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests. Very importantly, the Commission is also actively [fighting disinformation](#).

Medtronic Open Source Ventilator Design

Medtronic, a multinational medical technology manufacturer employing 4000 people in Ireland, has made a ventilator design publicly available. The designs of its PB 560 artificial respirator, already sold in 35 countries, will now be 'open source' so any firm can access them by registering on [Medtronic's website](#).

Virtual Art and Culture

Although art galleries and museums cannot be visited at the moment, it is still possible to undertake [Virtual Tours](#) of many world renowned cultural venues. There are many platforms to choose from and a lot of them allow viewers to get closer to the art than they could do in real life.

Recent Covid-19 Good News

- A 101-year-old man from Rimini in Italy, is back at home with his family having recovered from the Covid-19 illness. The man was born during the Spanish flu epidemic in 1919.
- **The European Environment Agency (EEA)** has confirmed large decreases in air pollutant concentrations, of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations in particular. The reduction is mainly due to reduced traffic and other activities.
- **GoCar**, the first car-sharing service in Ireland, has made 100 cars free nationwide to frontline health workers all over Ireland. The cars are available for collection in 20 locations around the country.
- **O'Neills**, an Irish international sports firm has begun the manufacture of scrubs for front line workers at its Walkinstown site in Dublin. The fabric will first be dyed at the site, and then treated to ensure it has anti-viral properties.
- Staff across the **Technological University Dublin**, have been collecting PPE gear in recent days to donate to hospitals and care facilities. Other Irish institutions and firms including Flynn and Intel are undertaking similar, very welcome initiatives.
- **Calt Dynamics**, an Irish tech company has designed a 3D printable protective visor that could help to bridge the global shortfall of PPE during the crisis. The firm has already offered the prototype to a Dublin hospital and is now sharing its design with a major US manufacturer.
- **Dyson** has joined forces with another firm to design and build a ventilator based on Dyson's digital motor. The new product, known as the **CoVent** can be manufactured quickly, efficiently and at volume. It was designed to address the specific needs of Covid-19 patients and is suitable for a variety of clinical settings.