

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 9 April 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
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Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office continues its temporary closure while 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 member communications to sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

ACEI Communications and Website

The ACEI Website has been amended to include a dedicated [Covid-19 banner](#) with news and information updated regularly from government, national and international perspectives. A member survey will be provided soon to capture the impact of the current crisis on firm turnover and staff. Collated data will be used to inform government and public bodies.

ACEI Rescheduled Events

Events planned for 2020 have been postponed to new dates outlined below. Venues remain the same, participants have been advised.

PSDP Course: 24/25 June 2020

Annual Conference: 22 September 2020

Awards Dinner: 19 November 2020

FIDIC Covid-19 Bulletin

The second issue of the [FIDIC COVID19 Update](#) is now available. This bulletin has been developed to keep FIDIC member associations, consulting engineering business leaders and wider stakeholders updated on FIDIC's actions to address Covid-19 challenges.

Helpful Resources from ACEI Member Firms

- A [Tobins Tips](#) has been provided by *Tobin* to share some software tips and an online resource regarding reviewing and commenting on drawings. Thanks to *Tobin* employee Debbie Shaw for compiling the presentation.
- A [Wellbeing Planner / Tracker](#) has been made available by *Metec*. Included are a number of helpful features: Automatic daily updating of date with new quote; bullet point squares for check boxes; mood squares with drop down emojis and template trackers. It is suggested that the planner is saved at the end of each week to track behaviours and moods.

Cyber-Crime Protection During Covid-19

The Covid-19 crisis and related shutdowns have forced many businesses to quickly introduce remote working protocols. In these kind of circumstances cyber-criminals can exploit a lack of training or preparation. A new [article by Beale & Co](#) provides information on some of the new types of cyber-attack being employed by cyber-criminals and what defences firms can put in place to ensure they are best protected.

Practical Recommendations for Consultants

The law firm *Caytons* has made some [practical recommendations for consultants](#) available to ACEI members. This document, developed in consultation with the RIAI, includes suggestions on a variety of important topics including contracts; communication; insurance; risk registers; supply chains and BC(A)R.

Coping With Coronavirus

Dr Brendan Kelly's new e-book, *Coping with Coronavirus: How to Stay Calm and Protect your Mental Health*, focuses on managing the anxiety and panic triggered by coronavirus around the world. Addressing these challenges involves people making changes to behaviours, managing information from the media, dealing with thoughts and emotions and addressing self-identification in a new and different world. Practical tools are provided to assist in navigating the current crisis and uncertain days ahead. The e-book is now [available for purchase](#) for 99c and royalties from sales will be donated to medical charities assisting with the coronavirus response.

New European Commission Work Scheme

The European Commission has introduced a new scheme for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency ([SURE](#)). This initiative is designed to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It will provide financial assistance in the form of loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to Member States, of up to €100 billion in total. These loans will assist EU member states to address sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment.

Recent Covid-19 Good News

- The Intel Foundation is donating [€500,000 to Irish charities](#) to support coronavirus relief and recovery efforts. The foundation is also matching donations made by employees to the Crumlin Children's Hospital, Alone and Jigsaw.
- *An Post* is launching a [new service](#) where family members can request that local postworkers check in on elderly or vulnerable people while they are cocooning. A free newspaper delivery service is also being provided.
- [Serosep](#), with headquarters in Limerick is a leading manufacturer of laboratory diagnostic products. Recently the firm developed a new molecular diagnostic testing product, which reduces by 25% the time needed to identify the virus.
- The Irish National Opera (INO) plans to collaborate with researchers from DCU's Science Foundation Ireland *Insight Centre for Data Analytics* to create an [operatic work using new immersive technologies](#). The project is part of a Europe-wide Horizon 2020 project.
- Currently it takes more than 60 minutes to clean a room with a CT scanner. Irish start-up firm [Akara Robotics](#) is working with Irish hospitals to cut this time down to less than 15 minutes. A new robot design has been developed to emit ultraviolet light clinically proven to rapidly kill viruses, bacteria and germs.
- Two essential builds are currently underway in Co. Limerick to make Covid-19 isolation step-down facilities that will ease the burden on Ireland's hospitals. 24 units are under construction and are due to be completed within 14 weeks.
- Distiller William Grant & Sons is supplying five million litres of ethanol for hand sanitiser production. The Scottish firm is being helped in this by colleagues at its plants in Girvan and [Tullamore](#). All profits made from the sale of ethanol will be re-invested into actions that will help to alleviate the spread and impact of the virus.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched [OpenWHO](#), a free, open-access learning platform for health emergencies. Courses are provided by public health experts about topics including Covid-19 and infection prevention.