



# St. Michael's House

*Services for people with intellectual disabilities*

Ballymun Road, Dublin 9.

Tel: 884 0200

Fax: 884 0211

Email: [info@smh.ie](mailto:info@smh.ie)

Website: [www.smh.ie](http://www.smh.ie)

March 2020

## Keeping Everyone Safe and Working Together. Coronavirus-COVID-19

Dear St. Michael's House Family Member and Friends,

I am honoured and privileged to be the new CEO of St. Michael's House, and I look forward to meeting as many service users and family members as possible in the near future.

As you are aware, there are national concerns in relation to the Corona Virus / Covid-19. The situation is unprecedented in Ireland and I wish to reassure you that our management teams are working to prepare and plan for any outbreak of CoronaVirus/ Covid - 19 in any of our 170 Units.

We are advised, and are in compliance with, all directions from the Department of Public Health and the HSE in respect of the control and management of the virus.

### Our immediate response

- ✓ We have established an Emergency Steering Committee of Management and Medical team members.
- ✓ We are keeping staff informed with weekly and daily updates.
- ✓ We have provided hand hygiene refresher information sessions to over 300 staff and service users as of 6/3/20. The work is continual.
- ✓ We have identified current stocks of protective clothing, and we continue to work with the HSE and suppliers.
- ✓ We are making contingency plans throughout the organisation. In the ultimate *worst case scenario* there may be temporary service closures, and the HSE have acknowledged that Residential services are a priority. We are doing everything possible to avoid this situation and ultimately decisions will be made with the HSE with regard to public health.
- ✓ We have completed Easy to Read guidelines for the people who use our services, have literacy issues or where English is not their first language. Please refer to the attached leaflet.
- ✓ We continue to provide regular updates on [www.smh.ie](http://www.smh.ie) and social media. We understand not everyone can get online information, but due to the constant change of this situation it is the timeliest form of communication. We would ask everyone to seek out, and ask for assistance, in relation to our updates and communication online.

### Working together

I am asking you to encourage your entire family to follow Covid-19 public health information on hand washing and safe coughing and sneezing. **Information** – [www2.HSE.ie](http://www2.HSE.ie) - **HSE LIVE** 1850 24 1850.

Please Inform St. Michael's House if your family member falls ill with the virus. We wish to protect your family and the services as much as we possibly can.

I acknowledge whole heartedly that family members are worried, and I hope we can work together in order to keep everyone safe.

Warmest Regards,

**Liz Reynolds**  
Chief Executive  
St Michael's House

A company limited by guarantee. **Registered Office:** Ballymun Road, Ballymun, Dublin 9.

**Chief Executive:** Ms. Liz Reynolds

**St. Michael's House:** Co. No. 27628. CHY5692.

**Chair:** Prof. A. Staines **Directors:** Mr. M. Lyes, Ms. N. Moran, Dr. A. Quinlan, Mr. P. Cullen, Mr. T. Casey, Mr. L. O'Donohoe, Mr. N. Beecher, Ms. D. Moran, Mr. M. MacAodha.

# St. Michael's House - Covid 19/Coronavirus



The Covid 19/Coronavirus is a new virus.



If you have a temperature or shortness of breath or a cough.



Tell someone that you are feeling sick.



Wash your hands very well.



Cough into your elbow



This Easy to Read Guide was produced in conjunction with ACT (Work Options) and Communications Department