

Monday, October 12, 2020

OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF DUBLIN

A Chara,

After working very hard earlier this year to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we now find ourselves once again in a battle against this potentially deadly disease which has already taken the lives and jobs of some of our fellow citizens.

We thank those citizens who are already complying with the Public Health advice and guidance and taking personal responsibility for their actions. However, Dublin remains at Level 3 on the Government's National Framework for Living with COVID-19. We are now appealing to everyone across our four local authority areas to redouble their efforts against this dangerous enemy which is causing so much damage to our health, our economy and the way we live.

Our frontline workers are doing everything they can in the fight against COVID-19 and we thank them, on your behalf, for the incredible job they have done so far. But they need more than platitudes if they are to win the fight against COVID-19. They need us, the citizens of Dublin, to take effective action to dramatically slow the rate at which the COVID-19 virus is spreading.

All we, the citizens of Dublin, need to do to make a difference is follow the HSE Public Health advice and guidance and do four things:

- **Wash our hands regularly.**
- **Observe social distancing of two metres.**
- **Wear a face mask when it is not possible to observe social distancing or when requested to do so.**
- **Reduce our social contacts.**

If we have symptoms of COVID-19 it is important that we contact our GP and follow their advice. If our GP or Public Health advise us to isolate or restrict our movements it is important, in order to break the chain of transmission, that we follow their advice.

We already know that this disease shows no respect for your age, gender, for who you are, or where you live. We have got to view it as a dangerous enemy and work together to stop it sweeping through our communities and affecting the lives of our loved-ones, neighbours, colleagues and friends.

We are calling on you, whether you are a citizen of Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, or South Dublin, to recognise the work we must now do, as both individuals and communities, to reduce our case numbers, to decrease our rate of infection and to lower the numbers being admitted to hospital.

Take personal responsibility for your actions, follow the HSE guidance at all times, and let's continue to work together to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

Stay safe.

Cllr Hazel Chu
Lord Mayor of Dublin,

Cllr Una Power
Cathaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown

Cllr David Healy
Mayor of Fingal

Cllr Ed O'Brien
Mayor of South Dublin

Dr Deirdre Mulholland
Director of Public Health,
HSE East

Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman
Roads Policing & Community Engagement,
An Garda Síochána