

SEASONAL FLU VIRUS AND CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ARPIM GUIDELINES

At a time of global turmoil centered on growing health threats, Romanian authorities have taken a firm stand to follow the scenarios set at the European level for the spread of the coronavirus. As a major healthcare actor, ARPIM plays a crucial role in supporting efforts to minimize impact of the spread of the coronavirus in Romania, as well as setting the right tone, as imposed by such a situation. ARPIM reminds all MEMBERS that the spread of this virus can be significantly slowed through the implementation of robust and disciplined containment and control activities. We are taking care of our patients and our employees and partners. One of our highest priority is to have a healthy and safe environment and to help authorities in their fight against this epidemic:

*[The purpose of this document is to assist Company members in assessing the situation and implementing actions that are appropriate. This is not a directive for adherence, but rather a guide to help in making decisions. Below recommendation represents only a guidance and is not enforceable against ARPIM members. Each ARPIM member should make its own assessment on the matter and take any decision it considers appropriate to its interests. **No information on the decisions adopted or to be adopted internally by any company in respect of the matters herein should be exchanged.**]*

Background:

- Recently the World Health Organization increased its COVID-19 risk assessment *to very high*.
- On 6 March, the Department for Emergency Situations issued Decision no. 6/06.03.2020 which approved, among others, a measure which forbids any activities involving more than 1,000 people. The measure is to be applied until 31 March 2020 and may be extended, if necessary.
- On 8 March, the National Center for Supervision and Control of Transmissible Disease issued guidance regarding risk assessment and conditions for organizing events.
- On 9 March, the Minister of Internal Affairs mentioned that in addition to closing schools for a certain period of time the National Center for Supervision and Control of Transmissible Diseases will send letter to all public and private institutions to analyse possibility to ask part of their employees to work from home (teleworking), whenever possible”.



In this context, ARPIM is seeking to develop a common approach as regards to the events organized for HCPs:

Guidelines on HCPs events organized by individual ARPIM members



HCPs are regarded as a category of persons highly exposed to contamination due to the direct contact with the possibly infected persons. Also, the fact that national measures prohibit student internships in hospitals as well as the visits of patient's next-of-kin, also shows the high exposure of the HCPs to the infection and the high level of contagion.

Therefore, ARPIM encourage all members to:

CAREFULLY CONSIDER MEMBER-SPONSORED EVENTS

keeping in mind the best interest of participants and medical needs at a national and local level even if the number of HCPs invited to an event may not be very high (ie. 10- 15), considering the measures already imposed or recommended by the authorities.

EACH ARPIM MEMBER SHOULD MAKE AN ASSESSMENT

as regards the implications that the cancelling of the HCP events may have under their existing contracts. For instance, ARPIM members should assess how this action may be justified/may have a negative impact based on the contractual arrangements with travel agencies, HCPs, other providers.

Please note the official instructions related to organizing events:

- ✘ Events with over 100 participants in closed spaces cannot be held at this time. Rescheduling or cancelling should be considered as per official guidelines from national authorities.
- ✘ Events under this participation can be held if approved by local District Public Health Authorities (DSPs: Directii de Sanatate Publica).

Measures referring pharma promotional activities:



All employees should respect the rules imposed by local authorities (hospitals, DSPs) when visiting HCPs; be aware of visitor restrictions in place and empower medical reps to cancel a client visit if needed.



Adapt duration of the visits to HCPs to allow them focusing on their activity related to patients and all emergent cases they are facing.



Shift to virtual engagement (e.g. conducting client calls telephonically) for customers in locations where in-person visits are no longer allowed.

Measures for ARPIM member companies in relation with their employee safety



As we are currently in a situation where there is an increasing number of confirmed cases and some measures are already taken by authorities such as: schools' closures and cancellation of public gatherings,

We encourage company members to:

- ✓ Keep constant communication to staff with new information
- ✓ Prepare commute plan for essential staff (public transit, etc.) in case of next impact level – **we need to make sure public service obligation is met**
- ✓ Reinforce how to stay safe and prepare for elevated impact level
- ✗ Follow travel restriction per company plan
- ✓ Develop mitigation plan for critical processes
- ✓ Prepare for remote work, particularly for employees with a fragile health status (maternities, etc)
- ✗ Reduce/Limit face-to-face meetings/ large group gatherings
- ✓ Review site plan for visitor screening
- ✓ Procure personal protective equipment/ supplies

Useful source of info: The spread of coronavirus in Romania and official measures directed by authorities should be followed from official sources only, such as:

- <http://www.ms.ro/>
- <http://www.mae.ro/node/51759>
- <https://www.cnscbt.ro/>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

!!! Please also be aware of the spread of the seasonal flu viruses in Romania, at least as notable as the coronavirus.