

## Residents Alliance Group Public Health Measures

It is not the responsibility of residents around the NCH to identify the solutions to public health risks that will arise from the NCH site being re-opened, that is the responsibility of the public health authorities , the board of NPHDB , BAM and DCC.

It is the role of resident groups in the vicinity of the NCH to identify the risks to the local population that re opening the hospital will present to those living around the hospital.

At a minimum we would expect the issues raised by us to be addressed in a comprehensive way. In addition we want a transparent Risk Assessment of the impact of introducing X number of construction workers (1500??) back into a high risk area. The risk assessment should include a thorough analysis of the travel arrangements of staff and where are staff travelling from to get to work.

We recognise the pattern of the disease and the fact that we live in the centre of the outbreak and are conscious that most workers will be travelling into a more contaminated area than they live and the risk that poses for the general public as well as their families.



Figure 1 Total Confirmed by County 6th May 2020

We are also conscious of the incidences of the disease across the country.



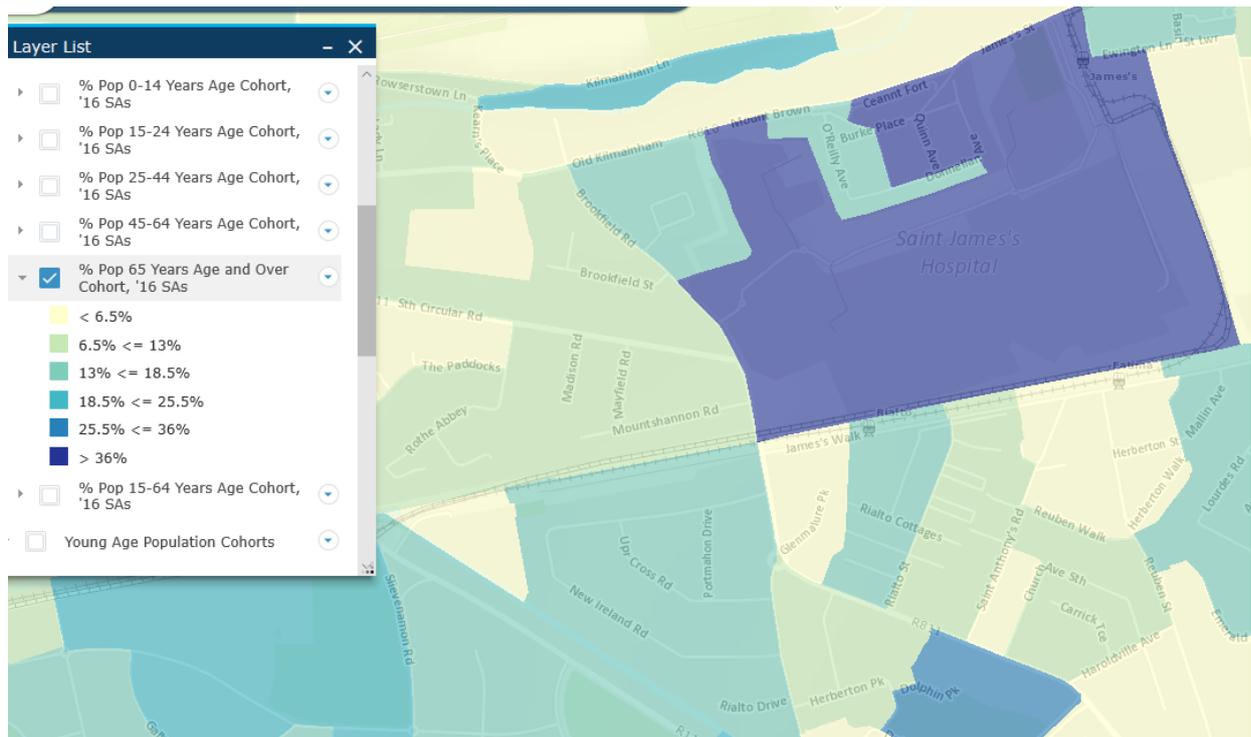


Figure 3 Census 2016 % over 65's by SAP

### CIF Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures

At the outset we want to recognise the comprehensive nature of the CIF response to the pandemic and as has been stated before, the Residents are not primarily concerned about what happens on site but what spills over from the site and impacts on them.

What is missing from the CIF SOPS and other guidelines is the “spill over”, the SOP broadly ignores the location of construction sites and the impact their recommendations will have on communities living adjacent to sites.

The following are excerpts from the CIF SOP with questions that residents want answered.

## 8 Travel to / from Work

Where a worker exhibits any signs of COVID-19 or has been exposed to a confirmed case, they should not travel to work.

Wherever possible, workers should travel to site alone using their company vehicle or their own means of transport.

Where public transport is the only option for workers, then regular toolbox talks outlining how to reduce the possibility of infection should be considered.

Site management must consider the following:

- ▶ Parking arrangements for additional cars / vans and bicycles.
- ▶ Providing hand cleaning facilities at entrances and exits. This should be soap and water wherever possible or hand sanitiser if water is not available.
- ▶ How someone taken ill would get home.

### Social Distancing in Vehicles

Social distancing is advised when travelling in vehicles to/from work and when in site vehicles and operating mobile plant..

Suggested arrangements are as follows:

- ▶ **Single occupancy of vehicles is preferable.**
- ▶ Sit as far apart as the vehicle allows.

### RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM ROAD VEHICLE OCCUPANCY



### Other Control Measures for Vehicle Use

**Workers should not enter a work vehicle with others if they have any symptoms or have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.**

General guidance for minimising the potential transmission of COVID-19 are:

- ▶ Employers should consider requesting personnel to use personal transport to reduce numbers travelling in work vehicles.
- ▶ It is advisable to limit the “churn” of people travelling together (i.e. try to ensure the same crew members travel and work together day after day after day).
- ▶ When entering (and leaving) all vehicles the driver should clean all common areas that are liable to be touched including the external door handles, keys and other internal furnishings.
- ▶ Keep windows at least partially open.
- ▶ Keep personal items (PPE, clothes, lunch boxes etc.) separate.
- ▶ Wiping/cleaning down of contact points should be done using antibacterial wipes or a wet cloth with soap application, or equivalent.
- ▶ Dispose of used wipes/cleaning materials in a designated bin/sealed bag and wash hands for at least 20 seconds.
- ▶ If availing of public transport, sit down to minimise contact with frequently touched surfaces, handles, roof straps, isolation bars etc.
- ▶ Carry hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) and use it regularly throughout your journey.

**Note:** It is noted that it is commonplace in the construction sector for family members to travel together or workers, who lodge together, to travel together (i.e. essentially a “family unit”).

## Questions

How is above to be monitored?

The CIF recommended travel to work will result in more cars in the area, the risk assessment should inform us of how many additional cars we can expect, what is that number?

What arrangements are being made for parking?

The parking situation is further exacerbated by the fact that so much of the surrounding neighbourhood continue to be under work-from-home advice and hence there is little daytime parking available bar front line workers no-one is going to work.

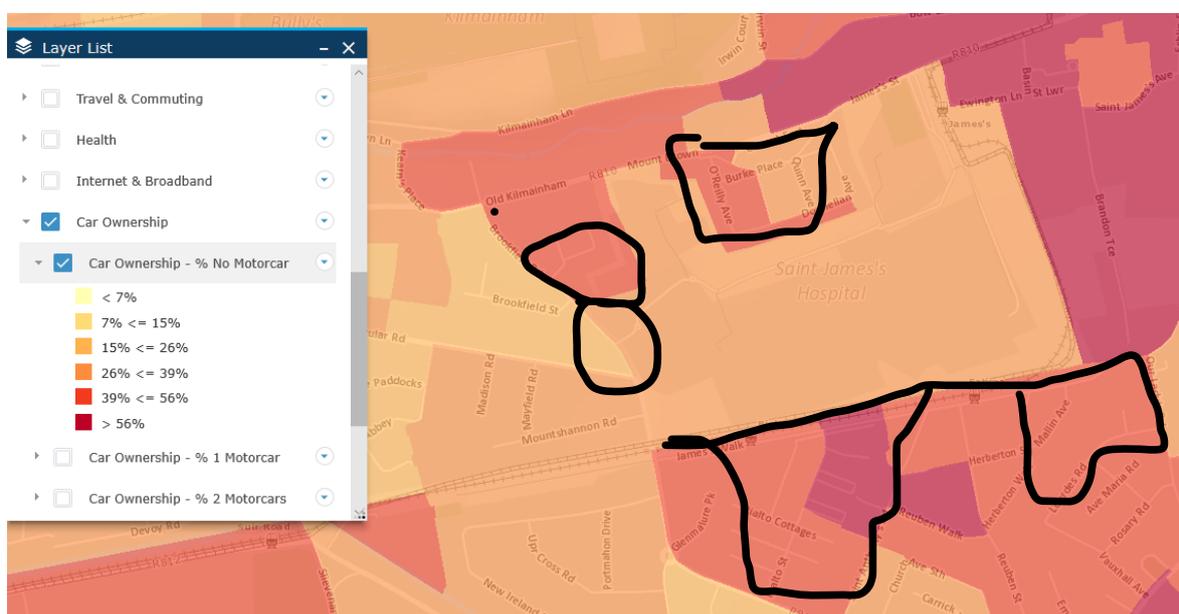


Figure 4 % No Motor Car/Parking Hot Spots

The map above shows that areas where there should be potential parking (the darker the colour the lower the cars ownership) but as we know from earlier meetings Parking is an issue, particularly along the south side of the site on James's Walk and adjacent streets but it has been a constant issue around Cameron Square and Ceant Fort.

### Recommended Control Measures

The following are recommended controls measures at access points to all construction sites:

- Turnstiles to be by-passed with open door access to site
- Stagger site start times/ finishing times to reduce queues
- Multiple entry points depending on site numbers
- On access routes throughout site, one-way systems should be implemented where possible, barrier gates should be wedged open, and touch points should be cleaned regularly.

## Questions

How many staff are due back on site when site re-opens?

Are staff numbers being scaled up and if so in what numbers by what time schedule?

What are the intended access points for staff ?

We are strongly of the view that the “New Entrance” on James’s Walk should not become operational due to space restrictions and indeed all Linear Park entrances should be temporarily closed as social distancing cannot be maintained between staff and staff and general public.

Stagger time, if it is being proposed by BAM, we will need to see the detail of any proposals.

Projects must assess how many C-19 Compliance Officers are required depending on size, environment, number of personnel and the work activity to be monitored. C-19 Compliance Officer’s duties should be shared among all contracting companies on a project

- Ensure site personnel are adhering to staggered break time schedules and limiting numbers in canteens, drying rooms and smoking areas cognisant of the 2-metre social distancing guideline.
- Ensure site personnel leaving site at designated breaks remove their site PPE and continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines

It should be noted that some of the residents’ concerns stems from the very evident failure of BAM staff to observe social distancing, both on and offsite, when it was the advice in the days prior to the site shut down. As such, there is nervousness as to whether those same staff will comply on their return when presumably under the same State and employer advice as they were when failing to comply previously.



### **Canteens and Eating Arrangements**

The following is suggested to ensure a social distancing of 2m.

- ▶ **Whilst there is a requirement for construction sites to provide a means of heating food and making hot drinks, a pandemic is an exceptional circumstance and workers attending site canteens should be advised where possible to bring a packed lunch and flask to help eliminate transmission points on microwaves and water pour points etc.**
- ▶ Break times should always be staggered to reduce congestion and contact.

### **Questions**

We are concerned that the closing of self managed food and drink points (microwave and kettles) will force staff to leave site for catering.

How will staff leaving site be managed and monitored at the start and finish of shifts and during the day?

## **13 Site Walkways and General Access**

To assist with social distancing, consider the following:

- ▶ A one-way system on access routes throughout the site where possible. Increasing access points can help establish a one-way system. (e.g. An additional HAKI stair to allow for one-way traffic up and down).
- ▶ Where a one-way system is not possible consider widening pedestrian routes so social distancing can be maintained on main site walkways.
- ▶ Marked up walkways can help give an indication of what 2-metre spacing looks like.

### **Questions**

What are the planned access points to the site for staff?

What are the planned access points to site for deliveries ?

How are these to be monitored to ensure social distancing is maintained?

**More general questions;**

What is the planned schedule of work for the remainder of the Summer?