



Covid-19

The Irish Defence Response

ONLINE SEMINAR ON MILITARY PERSONNEL'S RIGHT TO HEALTH

28TH MAY 2020

Outline

- ▶ Covid19 in Ireland
- ▶ Composition, Roles, Capabilities & Historical Context
- ▶ Current Tasks: Operation 'FORTITUDE'
- ▶ Protective Measures
- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Questions



Covid-19 in Ireland (27th May 2020)


- ▶ Total confirmed cases **24,803**
- ▶ Total deaths **1,631**
- ▶ <https://geohive.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/29dc1fec79164c179d18d8e53df82e96>

Composition, Capabilities & Historical Context

- ▶ Army, Air Corps, Naval Service & Reserve
 - ▶ Long standing 'Defence Crisis'
 - ▶ Limited military air lift and military medical capabilities
- ▶ Defence Roles
 - ▶ "To contribute to national resilience through the provision of specified defence aid to the civil authority (ATCA), supports to lead agencies in response to major emergencies, and in the maintenance of essential services"
- ▶ Aid to the Civil Authority
 - ▶ Supports to government agencies in the event of large scale national emergencies
- ▶ Aid to the Civil Power
 - ▶ Internal Security
 - ▶ Maximum security prison guards
 - ▶ Support to National Police
 - ▶ Explosive Ordnance Disposal
 - ▶ Counter Terrorism
 - ▶ Naval Service Diving Teams
 - ▶ Protection of National Parliament
 - ▶ Special tasks in relation to VIP protection (Air Defence, Specialist search)



Operation 'FORTITUDE'

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- ▶ Joint Task Force HQ established
 - ▶ Contact Tracing
 - ▶ Initially officer cadets located at Health Service HQ
 - ▶ Now military band members working remotely from military facilities
 - ▶ PPE delivery across the Health Service
 - ▶ Airlift of laboratory samples to Germany
 - ▶ Air Ambulance (Pre Covid Role)
 - ▶ Engineering and logistical support to the Health Service
 - ▶ Use of Naval Ships as test centres and logistics hubs in 3 cities
 - ▶ Construction and running of Community Test Centres
 - ▶ Construction of “field hospitals”
 - ▶ Military facilities for quarantine
 - ▶ Provision of labour and technical skills to private industry
 - ▶ Defence Medical Services
 - ▶ Provision of military ambulances and paramedics to National Ambulance Service
 - ▶ Military Medical Officers on rota at National Ambulance Service HQ for telephone triage
 - ▶ Military First Responders (non clinical personnel) trained to carry out community swab testing



Protective Measures

- ▶ Non essential training and operations cancelled/postponed
 - ▶ Non essential staff told to 'Stay at Home'
 - ▶ Non essential travel banned
- ▶ Social distancing & Hygiene measures
 - ▶ Enforcement of 2 metres social distance in all garrison locations
 - ▶ Out door and remote meetings and briefings
 - ▶ Example set by senior leaders
 - ▶ Clear and concise information communicated to all personnel using internal & external communications (Intranet, notice boards, YouTube, Podcasts)
 - ▶ Increased use of 'Hot Desking', 'Working from home' & 'Flexible hours'
- ▶ Mental Health & Psychological supports
 - ▶ Available through both the Defence Personnel Support System (Non clinical supports), the Defence Medical Services (Clinical supports) and referral available to civilian health service for specialist input
 - ▶ Chronically under resourced with acknowledged deficiencies in both the military and civilian health care systems
 - ▶ These supports were identified early to all service personnel via internal communications and also across external social media

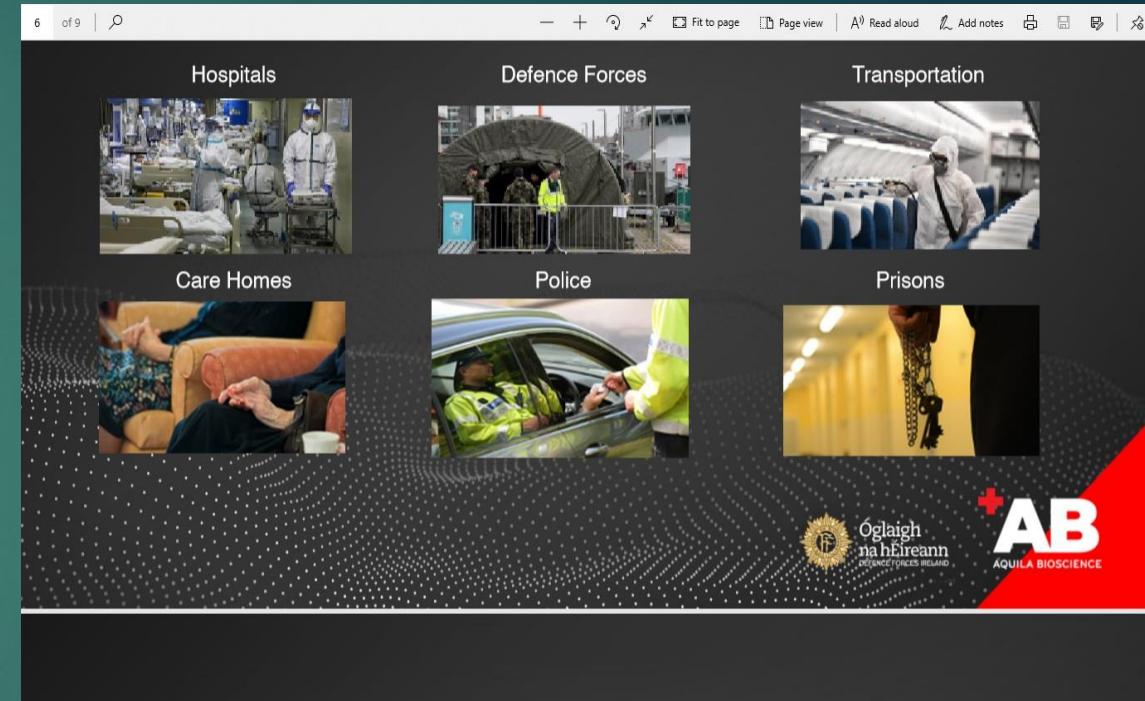
Protective Measures

- ▶ Physical Health
 - ▶ Encouraging 'sick staff' to stay at home
 - ▶ Key messages from senior leaders
 - ▶ Contrary to military ethos
 - ▶ Military Primary Care Services are temporarily changed
 - ▶ Telephone triage
 - ▶ Telephone consultations
 - ▶ Increased direct referral to the civilian health service
 - ▶ Military Occupational Medical Services (E.g. Pre Deployment health checks)
 - ▶ Only essential tasks being performed
- ▶ Personal Protective Equipment, Personal Hygiene & Sanitation
 - ▶ Limited stockpiles available prior to Covid-19
 - ▶ Rapid procurement authorised early
 - ▶ Currently no known shortages
- ▶ Mandatory quarantines
 - ▶ Pre deployment
 - ▶ Post deployment

Innovative Protective Measures

▶ ABwipe™

- ▶ A non toxic solution for removal of biological threats
- ▶ 83% Cellulose Fibre 17% Synthetic Fibre
- ▶ Remove over 90% of known pathogens
- ▶ Personal and equipment decontamination
- ▶ Supported by European Defence Agency
- ▶ Joint development (Pre Covid)
 - ▶ National University of Ireland (Galway)
 - ▶ Czech University of Defence
 - ▶ Irish Defence Forces
 - ▶ Production accelerated
- ▶ In frontline use by Irish Defence Forces, Irish Ambulance Service, Irish Postal Service and Sainsbury's Supermarket Group UK
- ▶ Undergoing assessment by Irish National Police





About Aquila Bioscience

THE COMPANY

Aquila Bioscience is an Irish life science company set up by Professor Lokesh Joshi in Galway in 2012. It was spun out of The National University of Galway incubator program. The company's area of expertise is in the fight against chronic and infectious diseases, primarily using cell stress and glycoscience. Aquila has developed a number of biochemical technologies, one of which has been applied in a proprietary product called ABwipes. Aquila has worked with a number of key partners in developing this technology.

PARTNERS



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND



Questions?



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Photo Credits & References

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