

**Covid-19 | 12th Stakeholder Communiqué | 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Team-Member, Customer, Supplier, Contractor, Neighbor, and all other Stakeholders,

**Finally we have light at the end of the tunnel.** Several vaccines for Covid-19 have been shown to be effective and are advancing in their approval process. Hurrah !

We all know the next months will be challenging. Pharma companies will have to scale up production to supply billions of doses, national health authorities must study the data and rule “whether the evidence convincingly shows that the benefits of vaccination are greater than any potential risks of the vaccine” as Emer Cooke, head of EMA, said. Vaccination plans that work need to be developed so that can accommodate prioritized groups, different vaccines, uncertain quantities and different scenarios.

Still we face challenging months ahead. I know everyone is stressed, and fed up with working from home, fed up of not having contact with others, of not going out, of being confined and constrained. I am sorry but it is what it is. We should not expect vaccines to have a significant impact in how we all live our lives before the summer. Furthermore, we know the next few months of Winter will be difficult. The number of cases and deaths are at an all-time high, because of effective measures they seem to be dropping but if we become complacent, they will go back up.

**Hovione’s Response**

We have limited the access to our sites to those with critical functions. We are further taking a fresh look to further reduce the presence of Team Members to those strictly necessary to carry out our activity. Hovione sites in Macau, China, and Cork in Ireland have no new cases to report. In the US our New Jersey site reported 1 active case and in Portugal we have 26 active cases. All Team Members are recovering at home, monitored, and supported closely.

We continue to:

- follow strict cleaning protocols
- provide an extensive fast PCR testing system to Team Members and contractors and their families
- promote virtual tours that provide our customers vital information on our sites and capabilities
- transparently inform on our COVID-19 case data and impact on production
- strongly encourage our Team Members to maintain social distancing and interactions to a minimum, sharing best practices and recommendations on Covid-19 including what precautions to take when outside Hovione.

As an additional measure to combat the number of cases, we are implementing in the Portuguese site rapid antigen tests for Covid-19 to all Team Members working in Sete Casas and Lumiar on a weekly basis.

**The third wave**

Holidays are approaching and we cannot expect celebrations to happen as before. Scientists are advising that relaxing restrictions during Christmas is likely to generate a third wave of infections. We’ll have to be creative as family gatherings are key, they should happen but we all do need to take reasonable precautions.

We need to temper our vaccine expectations and be aware that we still do not know the length of immunity these vaccines will provide. Our individual actions continue to be the most powerful tool to fight the disease. We need to remain careful, wear face coverings, respect and encourage social distancing, keep a good hand hygiene and be aware of suspicious symptoms. We need to keep close contacts to a minimum. We know this works and that is all we have for now.

For all other on-going activities see our webpage [Covid-19/Coronavirus](#).

**Act safe!**

Guy Villax  
Chief Executive

[Click here for our previous External Stakeholder Communiqués](#)

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