

Protecting Patients attending NRH Services during construction works

When major construction works are in progress on, or adjacent to, the grounds of the NRH, you will be informed of this at the time of receiving your Outpatient appointment.

If you are coming to the hospital for any reason and you have any of the conditions outlined in the 'at risk of Aspergillus' list overleaf, you should wear an **FFP2 facemask** for the **entire time** that you are on the hospital grounds.

Reasons for visiting the hospital may include:

- Clinic appointment
- Treatment or Therapy
- Procedures such as injection or scope
- Tests such as x-ray, scans or blood tests
- Patient and family meeting

Remember to wear your mask walking to and from the car park.

How can I contact a member of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team?

If you have any concerns about Aspergillus, or other infection prevention related questions, let the Doctor, Nurse or a member of your Rehabilitation Team know that you would like to speak to a member of the IPC Team.

Contact details:

(01) 235 5000

Reference:

National Guidelines for the prevention of Nosocomial Aspergillosis, HPSC



National Rehabilitation Hospital
Rochestown Avenue, Dún Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin, A96 RPN4
Telephone (01) 235 5000
www.nrh.ie



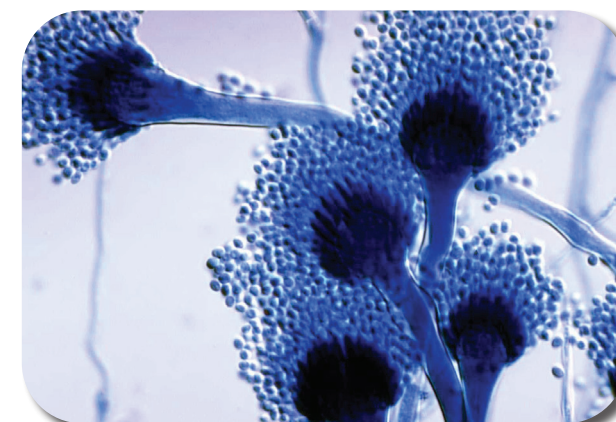
The [National Rehabilitation Hospital](http://www.nrh.ie) is accredited by CARF (Commission for accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for a range of services, confirming they meet recognized international standards



**National Rehabilitation
University Hospital**

An tOspidéal Náisiunta Athshlánuchain

Preventing Aspergillus Infection



**Information for Patients,
Families and Visitors**

This leaflet provides some introductory information on the risk of Aspergillus infection (Aspergillosis) during construction works; and the measures that can be taken to reduce or prevent the risk.

What is Aspergillus?

Aspergillus is a type of fungi that is not visible to the naked eye, but is commonly found in soil, plants, dust and building materials.

Many types of this fungi can be found in nature, but only a few types cause infection in humans.

Why is there a risk of Aspergillus infection during construction works?

Aspergillus spores may be released into the air during construction works and can be carried in the air over a considerable distance.

How does Aspergillus cause infection?

For most people, breathing in air containing Aspergillus won't be harmful. However, certain groups of patients may be at risk of developing a serious lung infection called Aspergillosis.

Who is at risk of Aspergillus infection?

Patients whose immune system is weakened as a result of illness or medication are at greater risk of getting Aspergillus infection.

These patients include:

- Cancer patients on chemotherapy
- Neutropenic patients
- Advanced COPD (GOLD stage III and IV)
- Prolonged courses of high dose steroid treatment
- TNF- α antagonist treatment
- Dialysis patients
- Transplant patients (solid organ or bone marrow)
- Aplastic anaemia
- People living with HIV or AIDS
- Chronic granulomatous disorder
- Ventilated patients
- Patients with extensive burns
- Children with severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome (SCIDS)
- People with Cystic Fibrosis

How can Aspergillus infection be prevented?

Aspergillus cannot be completely avoided but the risk of infection can be reduced by:

- Avoiding places where Aspergillus spores are abundant – forests, gardens, compost heaps, damp bark or wood chippings, grain stores, rotting vegetation, dead leaves and construction or renovation areas.
- Removing any potted and ornamental plants in the household. The household environment and furniture surfaces should be kept clean, dust-free and dry to minimise the accumulation of fungus and moulds.

Protecting at-risk patients admitted to hospital during construction works

Your doctor will assess your risk of Aspergillosis. If you are at increased risk, certain measures will be put in place to reduce the risk. These include:

- The windows in your room must be kept closed at **all** times so that air containing Aspergillus cannot get into the room.
- If you leave your room or unit to go to other parts of the hospital or outside, you should wear a special face mask (called an FFP2 mask). This will prevent you breathing in any air that may have Aspergillus spores.
- If you are at high risk, a portable HEPA filter will be placed in your room to remove aspergillus from the air.