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## CLINICAL ADVISORY

To:	All staff
From:	Clinical Director
Date:	November 29 <sup>th</sup> 2021
Subject:	<b>Omicron SARS CoV 2 Variant</b>

Dear Colleagues,

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has issued updated advice on the Omicron variant of the SARS CoV2 virus. Please note the following:

- A travel ban has been activated which applies to seven countries in southern Africa
  - South Africa
  - Botswana
  - Eswatini
  - Lesotho
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Zimbabwe
- Anyone who has travelled to or from any of these countries in the previous 14 days must home quarantine for 10 days and avail of 2 PCR tests. All members of their household must also quarantine for 10 days;
- A full travel history should be obtained for all patients encountered by NAS staff and enquiry should be made about travel to or from any of the 7 countries listed above;
- Any patient with a travel history to or from any of these countries in the past 14 days should be treated as follows:
  - Full PPE (gown/gloves/FFP2 or 3 mask/eye protection) should be worn irrespective of the patients presenting complaint (ie even if no Covid – 19 symptoms);
  - The patient should only be accompanied by a single NAS practitioner in the rear of the ambulance, other than in exceptional circumstances (eg a minor, or complex care requiring more than one NAS practitioner);
  - The receiving facility should be pre – alerted and details given of the patients travel history prior to arrival;
  - The vehicle should be cleaned after the call as per existing guidance.
- For all other patients, staff should continue to follow IPC Update v7 issued October 2021.

**Prof Cathal O'Donnell**  
Clinical Director

