



COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

We have been evaluating all programmes, meetings, gatherings and tours (events) at Mercy International Association in the light of the outbreak. There are many differing opinions available as to how we should respond:

1. At present, all events will go ahead. The World Health Organisation continues to advise against the application of travel or trade restrictions to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks. We are hopeful that the precautionary measures being undertaken by health authorities throughout the world will help to curb the spread of the virus and enable all events to proceed safely.
2. We will re-evaluate the delivery of each event, based on the current advice from the Irish or US health authorities, prior to each event.
3. If MIA needs to cancel an event, MIA will refund as much of the deposits received for programmes as possible, depending on the date of cancellation and expenses incurred.
4. MIA uses Zoom Video Conferencing and, where possible, will make arrangements for participants in events to link in if they are advised not to travel.
5. Staff at MIA have received information on preventing the spread of the virus and are making concerted efforts to protect guests and themselves.

Travel insurance

Most travel insurance options will not cover individuals for “change of mind”, therefore if participants decide not to attend an event at Mercy International Centre in Dublin or Mercy Global Action in New York, payments made for airline tickets, hotel bookings and other costs incurred will not be recoverable. For that reason, MIA will endeavour to ensure events will go ahead unless the health authorities advise us that it is not safe to proceed.

Hospital care in Ireland or the United States is not free. All overseas participants in events are encouraged to check that their travel insurance covers medical emergencies.