



THE EFFECT OF A PANDEMIC

Margaret Loughran
NIPSA Health and safety committee

THE PANDEMIC AND OUR WORKPLACE

The pandemic has meant different ways of working for many employees:

- Working from home
- A mixture of working from home and in the workplace.
- Presenting to work with the requirement to adapt to stringent protocols to try to control the spread of the virus.
- Additional use of personal and protective equipment PPE.
- Changes in procedures, how we work, communicate and engage.
- Personal circumstances, susceptibility, disability and fear.



THE PANDEMIC AND YOU

- What has the pandemic meant to you?
- Has the pandemic changed you?
- Have you contracted Covid or do you fear contracting it?
- Has your employers approach to the pandemic made you feel safe?
- How do you feel about returning to the workplace?
- Has your mental health suffered? How?
- The bio-psychosocial impact of the pandemic.

THE ROLE OF THE REP

As health and safety reps we are there to ensure that management adhere to their statutory duty in respect of health and safety.

- Establish Health and safety committees.
- Raise issues as they arise.
- Advise on individual risk assessments.
- Carry out inspections, observe risk assessment process and challenge any inadequacies in proposed control measures.(preferably in writing)
- Make representations for eg on stress.

This list as many will know is not exhaustive.



Workplaces that have active
Health and safety reps are safer
places to work.