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## Dr Gabriel Scally: North and South must work together to fight coronavirus

By [Vivienne Clarke](#)

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Public health expert Dr Gabriel Scally has warned that the coronavirus “will not recognise the border” and said that this is the time for integration of services north and south.

“There need to be substantial cross border cooperation, sharing of resources, harmonisation,” he told RTÉ’s *Morning Ireland*.

“No health system in the world could cope with a full blown outbreak of the virus,” said Dr Scally.

Testing is extremely important, he added. The way testing is carried out is also important so that judgment calls can be made about the closure of schools etc.

### **Coronavirus: Main points**

- 10 new Covid-19 cases confirmed in Ireland yesterday. 34 cases in total
- There are now 50 cases on the island of Ireland - 34 here, 16 in the North
- Department of Education says schools [will not close](#)
- Two members of staff at [Ervia in Cork test positive](#); One member of staff [at Apple in Cork tests positive](#)
- Irish Cancer Society [cancels all Daffodil Day street collections](#)
- Republic of Ireland's Euro 2020 play-off [to be played behind closed doors](#)
- Ryanair and Aer Lingus cancel flights to Italy
- Trinity to deliver online lectures for the rest of the semester

The public health system in the Republic is “not that strong” he said, based on his experience of examining the cervical cancer service.

The level of awareness and guidelines to date seem to be “entirely appropriate”, he said. “It is really, really important that background planning goes on and that changes are being made in the hospital service and preparations are being made in the hospital service and also preparations right across the country when the situation changes.”