

National Updates



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



Department of Health and the HSE on Friday announced the publication of the Covid Tracker App Data Protection Impact Assessment and source code

On Friday last, the 26th June the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive published several important documents as part of their ongoing commitment to openness and transparency in the development of the Covid Tracker App for Ireland. The Data Protection Impact Assessment, the source code, the Product Explainer for the Covid Tracker App, and a series of app design and development reports are available on the HSE website [here](#)

Department of Health Podcast

Health of the Nation, the official Department of Health podcast, was launched on Saturday 20th June. The series provides a platform where health officials, healthcare workers and experts deliver clear and factual information on topical health issues. In support of the national public health communications campaign, the first episode was dedicated to the topic of face coverings; how, when and where to use them. In the coming weeks the podcast will continue to support messaging around COVID-19 and public health advice. The channel will evolve to focus on a variety of health issues into the future, including vaccines, key health trends and new health policy. If you want to know more about why we want people to wear face coverings, when you should wear them and how to put them on and take them off, you can listen to medical and nursing experts from the Department of Health on the following;

- [Apple](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Deezer](#)
- [Castbox](#)
- [Podcast Addict](#)
- [Podchaser](#)

Wellbeing “In This Together”

The joint DOH, HSE and Healthy Ireland campaign continues to give mental health and wellbeing advice across the country and local authorities through Healthy Ireland coordinators are now also rolling it

50808
CRISIS TEXT LINE |

out on a regional basis. New videos covering the following topics have been added in the last 2 week and include:

- 1.Staying Healthy and Keeping Well: Patrick Reilly, Traveller Mental Health Worker, Pavee Point
- 2.Your wellbeing (Romanian language): Rares-Mihai Nicula, Roma Project Officer, Dublin City Community Co-op

See videos here: [Healthy Ireland You Tube Channel](#)

Mental health policy and support line

The Department's new mental health policy, "[Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#)" was launched last week.

A new Crisis Text line – Text 50808 was also launched. The new text-based mental health service will provide support to anyone struggling with any issue, big or small for free and at any time of any day. The service is staffed by 300 trained crisis volunteers and people can access support by texting 50808.



The Irish Hospice Foundation
Care & Inform

Care & Inform



The Irish Hospice Foundation

The Irish Hospice Foundation
Caring for Others

Caring for Others



The Irish Hospice Foundation

Irish Hospice Foundation | Care & Inform Resources & Bereavement Support Line

The Irish Hospice Foundation wants to continue to keep you and the Age Friendly Ireland members informed and supported in matters relating to end-of-life and bereavement during these exceptional times. With the knowledge and experience they have gathered over many years they are responding to the emerging needs in this challenging period with their new resources on their 'Care & Inform' hub and through the Bereavement Support Line. They have developed a [flyer](#) to support the dissemination of these resources to people that cannot access online resources. This flyer details the resources from the 'Care & Inform' Information Hub with a focus on caring at home and for those with loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes. The 'Caring for Others' section of the hub contains new resources such as when someone you care about is dying in a nursing home - what to expect and caring for someone, nearing end of life, at home during the COVID-19 crisis. Please find links to these new resources below.

- [What can I do when I can't visit a loved one who is dying?](#)
- [Caring for someone at the end of life at home](#)
- [When someone you care about is dying in hospital: what to expect](#)
- [When someone you care about is dying in a nursing home: what to expect](#)
- [Palliative care: what is it and who is it for?](#)

In June, the Irish Hospice Foundation launched the new Bereavement Support Line, in conjunction with the HSE, to support those affected by bereavement during COVID-19. It is staffed by trained Irish Hospice Foundation personnel and volunteers. Call free phone **1800 80 70 77**, Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm. The new flyer can be printed for distribution or you can request hard copies by emailing info@hospicefoundation.ie with the number of hard copies required and they can arrange to get these delivered to you.



New Webpage for Community and Voluntary Sector

In response to requests and queries from many sectors including the community and voluntary sector, Pobal, working with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has prepared a detailed webpage providing an overview of the available guidance on how to re-open safely, based on the current recommendations of the Government of Ireland, the Health & Safety Authority (HSA), the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other representative bodies. Useful resources, information and links to official Government and Public Health websites and a breakdown of steps which can be applied in relevant settings are available on this webpage which can be found by visiting www.pobal.ie. Please be advised the information and guidance detailed on this webpage has been prepared as a support for the Community & Voluntary sector as organisations prepare to reopen essential community services and facilities. However, it should be noted that there is a need for individuals and organisations to exercise personal responsibility and good judgement in their activities. This is especially important given the varied nature of the activities being undertaken.



Riverside Drama Circle is delighted to announce its next performance - this time using Zoom technology!

'Thin Ice', a radio play by Denis Byrne, directed by Declan Cahill.
 Thursday, 30th July at 19.30
 To book your place for the event, please send an email to info@riversidedrama.ie please include your name and contact number and insert 'Thin Ice' in the subject line. Very shortly after receipt of your mail, you will receive an email with confirmation of your booking and details of how to connect.
 There will be no charge for this performance.



Webinar - Older People and Public Policy in the Age of Covid-19

The COVID19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of older people across the globe. It has also given rise to a series of critical policy questions surrounding how we view older adults, and how we should support and engage heterogenous ageing populations into the future. Hosted by the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the Centre for Economic and Social Research on Dementia, as part of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society Webinar Series, this webinar will explore the implications of the pandemic for major public policy topics on ageing and older people. The webinar will focus on the themes of; inequalities and inclusion, care and carers & rights and representation. It will bring together international experts on ageing, from research, policy and civil society, who will examine immediate and longer-term outcomes for the lives of older people. The discussion will assess to what degree COVID19 creates new challenges, reinforces existing entrenched issues or, possibly, unearth new solutions within these themes.

Date & Time: Thursday, July 2nd 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 Watch live on [Facebook @NUIGalway](https://www.facebook.com/NUIGalway)

Local Updates



An Taoiseach Joins Mayor of South Dublin County to Launch New Initiative

The then Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, joined Vicki Casserly, the Mayor of South Dublin County, in Lucan on the 25th June to launch a new campaign – South Dublin Together - which aims to give advice and motivation to vulnerable and at-risk people living in the community in relation to COVID-19. The initiative provides information on areas such as making masks and using face coverings while providing activities to keep active at home. Letters of support from children of Divine Mercy Senior School, Lucan to people who have been cocooning are also included. South Dublin County Council will deliver 500 of the South Dublin Together care package to people as part of the South Dublin Community Response Forum to COVID-19.

Vicki Casserly, Mayor of South Dublin County, said, “I am delighted to launch the ‘South Dublin Together’ Mayor’s Initiative today with An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. COVID-19 is still having a major impact on our County and our country. But the way in which citizens in our County have come together as we have had to stay apart is a source of great encouragement for us all. I wanted to end my term as Mayor by giving back to those who have sacrificed so much to help us get to a place where we can look forward in hope.”





Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



'Let's Stay Together': Fingal Arts Office connecting people and ideas during Covid-19

Over the last few months Fingal Arts Office as part of its "Let's Stay Together campaign" have present several projects online through its digital media platforms including ongoing clinics with Artists and Communities, alongside a schedule of live and recorded elements announced weekly. The Programme Launch Event took place on Thursday, April 23rd and was streamed through their social media platforms. Fingal Arts have collaborated with the Covid-19 Community Support Helpline on a 7-days-a-week basis, while continuing to work on their objectives as set out in their recently published Arts Strategy 2019 – 2025: Connecting People and Ideas and Bringing Fingal to Life Through the Arts. Read more [here](#)

For last week's Let's Stay Together series they wanted to connect with colleagues in Draíocht who have faced a very challenging time with closure in mid-March and now face a new set of challenges as we enter the reopening phase post Covid -19. They have added another short film to their series, this time featuring Sarah O' Neill, Deputy Arts Officer Fingal County Council and Emer McGowan Director of Draíocht in conversation discussing the employment crisis in the Arts and Cultural Sector and how social distancing measures with reduced capacity will impact the Autumn programme. All eight videos in the Let's Stay Together series and can be found [here](#)

Your Voice



We've heard about so much good work going on all around the country, please let us know what's happening in your area so we can share those innovative ideas with everyone. Please email us your news to Rachel at rleavy@meathcoco.ie Information is one thing we can share right now!



Thank you from Ireland's Older People's Councils

Mary Cronin, Chairperson of the National Network of Older People's Councils on behalf of all the Older People's Councils in Ireland would like to extend her sincere thanks to all frontline staff, Government Departments, the Local Authority community response teams, community and voluntary organisations, An Post, An Garda Síochána, the GAA and indeed to each and every volunteer who has given their time over the last few months, and continues to do so, ensuring older people in Ireland feel valued, safe and informed in the face of the COVID19 pandemic. Now as we enter phase 3 on the road to recovery it is important that older people continue to feel supported and thanks to the enormous community efforts around the country, the future is looking bright.

International Updates



International Federation on Ageing



IFA Virtual Town Hall | COVID-19 and Older People: The Future of Volunteers

COVID-19 has brought with it many unprecedented challenges, particularly regarding the impacts on older people. This town hall will explore interdisciplinary strategies and practices that respect and protect the rights of older people as communities and societies begin to transition out of crisis mode and into a "new normal."

Friday 3rd July 2020 from 12noon. You can register to attend [here](#).

Please note that this town hall will be recorded and streamed live on Facebook. If you are unable to participate live, the recording and relevant resources will be shared on [IFA's website](#)

For any questions or concerns please contact astancu@ifa.ngo.

Important Tips

Always have your **Eircode** close by in case of emergency. You can find your Eircode [here](#)

Perhaps keep a **daily diary** to record the people you are in contact with every day, so if you develop symptoms it will be easier to trace them

Coronavirus COVID-19



If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movement for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on www.dfa.ie

All people are advised to:

- > **Reduce** social interactions
- > **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- > **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit hse.ie O8 phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

How to Prevent



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination

Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue

Avoid

touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and your face

Stop

shaking hands or hugging when leaving hotels or queues where people might be unwell

Distance

from ill or keep 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Symptoms

> Fever (High temperature) > A Cough > Shortness of Breath > Breathing Difficulties

For daily updates visit

www.gov.ie/health/covid-19
www.hse.ie

Irish government's coronavirus response www.hse.ie/coronavirus



Useful Contacts

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service Office T: 046 9097413 E: rleavy@meathcoco.ie

HSE Advice Line: Callsave 1850 24 1850

Call from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday

The following is the list of each **Local Authority's Helpline** phone numbers

Local Authority

Carlow County Council
Cavan County Council
Clare County Council
Cork City Council
Cork County Council
Donegal County Council

Community Response Number

1800 814 300
1800 300 404
1800 203 600
1800 222 226
1800 805 819
1800 928 982

Dublin City Council	01 222 8555
DLR County Council	1800 804 535
Fingal County Council	1800 459 059
Galway City Council	1800 400 150
Galway County Council	1800 928 894
Kerry County Council	1800 807 009
Kildare County Council	1800 300 174
Kilkenny County Council	1800 500 000
Laois County Council	1800 832 010
Leitrim County Council	1800 852 389
Limerick City and County Council	1800 832 005
Longford County Council	1800 300 122
Louth County Council	1800 805 817
Mayo County Council	094 906 4660
Meath County Council	1800 808 809
Monaghan County Council	1800 804 158
Offaly County Council	1800 818 181
Roscommon County Council	1800 200 727
Sligo County Council	1800 292 765
South Dublin County Council	1800 240519
Tipperary County Council	076 106 5000
Waterford City and County Council	1800 250 185
Westmeath County Council	1800 805 816
Wexford County Council	053 919 6000
Wicklow County Council	1800 868 399