

National Updates



Great news for those people with private health insurance. The country's three largest health insurers (**VHI, Laya Healthcare & Irish Life Health**) have announced a series of refunds and rebates for customers following the Government's effective takeover of 19 private hospitals. The takeover means private hospitals will deal exclusively with public patients during the current Covid-19 crisis. For further info click [here](#)



Many thanks again to **Fiona Foley** from **Dementia Understand Together** for sending us the following information. The outbreak of Covid-19 may cause additional challenges for older people who may already be vulnerable and particularly those who struggle with health conditions, loneliness, and isolation. The **Alzheimer Society of Ireland** have put together some tip sheets, including tips for nursing home restrictions, to help support people with dementia and their families in a challenging and rapidly changing situation. For more information click [here](#)



We are blown away by the number of applicants for the **Be On Call for Ireland** initiative. Approximately **72,000** have registered to work on the frontline during COVID19. The Health Service Executive said this figure includes nursing, medical, dental, support, health and social care professionals and ambulance personnel. A high number of volunteers and non-healthcare experienced people also registered to support the health service during the crisis. We should all be very proud of our little country and how we have responded during this time.



The **Dogs Trust** charity has launched a new initiative offering **temporary foster care** for the dogs of frontline healthcare workers during the Covid-19 crisis. The initiative is aimed at helping healthcare workers who may be worried about their dog should their hours or workload increase, or if they become ill, they can avail of the foster programme for a period of at least two weeks. Learn more [here](#)



More than **1,000** additional beds have been created for emergency accommodation in Dublin during the Covid-19 crisis according to a **Dublin City Council** report. These include 400 bedrooms in eight hotels, which are being used for cocooning of vulnerable homeless people since the collapse of tourist bookings. A report sent to city councillors by DCC Deputy Chief Executive Brendan Kenny and Eileen Gleeson, Director of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, states that they hope to secure another 100 self-contained apartments for families. For more see [here](#)



Many thanks to **Patricia Cassidy** from **Flexibus** for sending us on information on the **Crime Victims Helpline (CVH)**. The Crime Victims Helpline is a national charity providing support to all victims of crime in Ireland. They listen, provide information and answer questions about the criminal justice system and direct victims to local and specialist victim support services. CVH can be reached at **freephone 116 006**, by email at info@crimevictishelpline.ie, and via **text 085 133 7711** (standard rates apply). We hope that no one would need the services of the Crime Victims Helpline in these already challenging times, however, they are there if you do.



The President of the **Irish Countrywomen's Association** has put out a national call to their members for expressions of interest to **sew scrubs for Ireland**. A package will be sent out to each member individually who has expressed an interest and it will be delivered to their door. To answer this call and to express your interest in this project, please write the word Scrubs in the subject bar and email to manager@ica.ie For full details click [here](#)

Local Updates



Community Action on Dementia Mayo (CADM) is issuing Dementia travel passes that allow the primary carer living with a person with dementia, to take their loved one for a short spin. As long as neither passenger gets out of the vehicle or has any direct contact with any other person, they will not be breaking the Covid-19 social distancing and/or cocooning restrictions currently in place, according to the organisation. For more see [here](#)



Limerick City and County Council is to launch a business programme aimed at supporting retail in the city and county through the Covid-19 shutdown and its aftermath. In partnership with the **Limerick Local Enterprise Office** and **Limerick Chamber**, the local authority is to offer a range of initiatives, including a 'Shop Limerick' online listing of Limerick businesses open for trading and help for those that don't already have e-commerce retail capabilities. Retailers are now being asked to declare their interest in the FREE Shop Limerick platform on www.limerick.ie, which will be launched shortly and supported by a marketing campaign. See more [here](#)



Marymount University Hospice in Cork say they are overwhelmed by the response to an appeal last week for iPads and tablets to help patients and their families keep in touch. Such was the positive response from the public who sent in new and second-hand tablets for patient-use, it was decided to see if they could fundraise to provide iPads for all of their residents, both those undergoing palliative care, and those in residential care. A Go Fund Me account set up last Friday has already raised over €33,000 towards the provision of the technology. See the full story [here](#)



An inclusive innovative communication stream has been put in place by **Kerry Public Participation Network** and **Catherine White**. Catherine, a sign language interpreter consultant is giving her time to translating official notifications into sign language. The messages are then circulated through the Kerry PPN Facebook page and Kerry County Council also circulates them through the KCC Twitter account. What an excellent example of ensuring that as many people as possible receive Covid 19 updates. Well done to all who have made this possible and thanks to our Age Friendly Programme Manager Siobhan Griffin for sending this on to us.

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!

International Updates



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

The **Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, has thanked Ireland's **Tánaiste Simon Coveney** for pledging to increase Ireland's contribution to the WHO. Tánaiste Coveney said that Ireland will donate **€9.5 million** to help with the global response to Covid19.

Tánaiste Coveney also congratulated the **Department of Foreign Affairs** who have assisted over 5,000 Irish citizens to return to Ireland in the past month through both commercial flights & repatriation flights.

The British Museum

In the **UK** virtual tours of the **British Museum** in London are pulling in the crowds as visitors can browse more than **60 galleries** full of world-famous objects. Its **YouTube Channel** has also just reached 300,000 subscribers. The museum's **Google street view tour** is also very popular. Why not give it a visit to pass some time?

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.doh.ie

How to Prevent



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 or phone HSE Live 1850 24 1850

Symptoms

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

For daily updates visit

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

Infographic developed by the Department of Health



Riailteas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
County and City Management Association

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	Community Response Number
Carlow County Council	1800 814 300
Cavan County Council	1800 300 404
Clare County Council	1800 203 600
Cork City Council	1800 222 226
Cork County Council	1800 805 819
Donegal County Council	1800 928 982
Dublin City Council	01 222 8555
DLR County Council	1800 804 535
Fingal County Council	01 890 5000
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