

National Updates



Údaráis Áitiúla Éireann
Local Authorities Ireland



Your Community Call Forum

As you know, as part of the Irish Government's response to the COVID19 crisis, each local authority (council) has established a [COVID19 Community Call Forum](#) to provide supports or services to any vulnerable person who needs them. Local authorities (councils) across Ireland are working to record and respond to requests for help and expressions of interest in helping others. Each forum works with State agencies and community and voluntary groups to provide supports and services. To date there has been 36,106 calls received. Click [here](#) for more statistics (updated daily).



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Cabinet set to approve easing of restrictions

The Cabinet is expected to sign-off today on the first easing of Covid-19 restrictions as part of the Government's road map to reopen society and the economy. All indications point to the Cabinet giving the green light to begin the reopening of around 1,500 businesses on Monday. These include homeware stores, garden centres, farmers' markets, bicycle shops and motor garages, electrical and IT stores, as well as opticians. Construction workers and gardeners are also set to be able to return to work on Monday. As part of Phase One, people are advised to continue to stay at home as much as possible but can travel up to 5km from their home to exercise. Outdoor spaces and tourism sites, along with golf clubs and tennis courts, can re-open as long as social distancing is in place. Up to four people who do not live in the same household will be allowed to meet up outdoors, as long as they maintain a two-metre distance. Read more [here](#)



Taoiseach meets with Catholic leaders to discuss re-opening of churches

Religious leaders have met with the Taoiseach to discuss how places of worship across the country can be re-opened over the next few months. Leo Varadkar held talks with Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly yesterday. Read more [here](#)

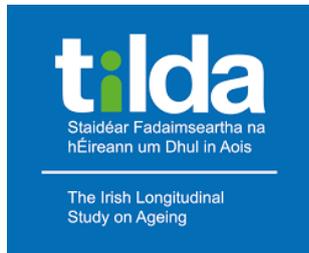


Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



HSE to use private hospitals to 'help clear NTPF lists'

The **Health Service Executive** will use private hospitals to "help clear the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) lists," its Chief Executive has said. Speaking on RTÉ's News at One, yesterday Paul Reid said the arrangement made with private hospitals at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic "was absolutely the right thing to do" to "help deal with the expected surge" of cases. He said: "Thankfully we haven't seen that huge surge, so that is good, but we are now focused on how we can maximise that arrangement to the best." Mr Reid was one year in his position at the HSE yesterday. He said he feels "privileged" to be in his role and is "inspired" by those he is working with and "proud" of Ireland's frontline workers. See the full story [here](#)



GAA and TILDA host 'How to Age Well' webinar featuring Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh

Those in the GAA missing the unmistakable tones and tales of **Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh** are in for a treat next Tuesday 19th of May 6.30-7.30pm when the broadcasting legend contributes to a special webinar on wellbeing on the topic of 'How to Age Well'. The live, supported by Irish Life, event will feature evidence and anecdotes revealing the secrets of a long and happy life. (see full press release [here](#))

You can join the Microsoft teams webinar by clicking [here](#)

For more information contact:

- Colin Regan, GAA Community & Health manager on colin.regan@gaa.ie
- Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Principal Investigator, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, Trinity College Dublin on rkenny@tcd.ie

For those who cannot attend on Tuesday you will be able to access the recording afterwards on GAA [YouTube](#) and GAA [Facebook](#)



Isolation Creations - Irish music in the time of Covid-19

2fm's Dan Hegarty has put together a radio documentary called 'Isolation Creations'. Over the four weeks of April, the radio documentary Isolation Creations came together.

It features **Daithí's** YouTube broadcasts which yielded his single [An Irish Goodbye](#), while **Sheena Madden** of Amplify PR gives a perspective on how the promotion of music has had to adapt. Ex Rollerskate Skinny vocalist **Ken Griffin's** recites verses from his Short Park Poem from the confines of Brooklyn, New York, while others like Hot Press' **Niall Stokes**, **Paul Noonan** of Bell X1, and musicians **Una Keane** and **Valerie Healy** feature too.

The documentary is in every sense of the word a snapshot of life as an Irish musician during this global pandemic. Check it out [here](#)
You can listen to The Alternative with Dan Hegarty on **2fm** from 10 pm to midnight, Sunday – Thursday, and on **2XM** from 11 am-1 pm, Monday – Friday.

Local Updates



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Libraries | Leabharlanna

Issue 2 of 'B for Bealtaine'

Issue 2 of 'B for Bealtaine', an initiative of **Cork City Libraries** in collaboration with the **Cork City Age Friendly Programme** is now available. This newsletter is reaching out, promoting arts and creativity in place of the usual programme of personal gatherings during Bealtaine.

The 2nd newsletter is now available in hardcopy, [digital](#) and [audio](#) formats. It is also available on their [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#). If you would like to take part in a future issue – please forward articles, poetry, or anything you would like to see included to patricia_looney@corkcity.ie



Galway Film Fleadh to be reimagined as digital event

The Galway Film Fleadh is to be reimagined as a digital event for its 32nd edition. With cinemas not scheduled to open until August 10th the Fleadh, which runs from July 7th to July 12th, will offer virtual attendees the opportunity to view shorts, features and live presentations via a streaming application. The festival that premiered such domestic hits as John Carney's *Once* and Peter Foott's *The Young Offenders*, will, for one year only, transfer into the online sphere. Read more [here](#)



Fungie the dolphin 'lonely' in lockdown

A kind-hearted Kerry fisherman was so moved by the sight of Fungie the dolphin being lonely he now undertakes daily trips just to keep him company. **Jimmy Flannery**, from Dingle, Co Kerry, is a hugely experienced fisherman and helped found the local fishermen's group. However, he was taken aback by the realisation that Fungie, a famous solitary dolphin living off the west Kerry coast since 1983, had become lonely without any human interaction over the past two months because of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Check out the full story [here](#)



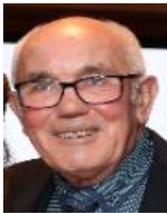
Woman (90) raises almost €13,000 for charity through dancing

Kathleen Lynch from Co Louth, who celebrated her 90th birthday last Friday has raised almost €13,000 for **Age Action** and the **Irish Red Cross** through the medium of dance. Kathleen called on the rest of Ireland to join her for a one-minute dance at the exact time of her birth. Paramedics from the Red Cross, Gardaí and even a couple of nuns answered the call and showed up at her home to lend their support over the course of the afternoon. Kathleen's aim was to raise €1,000 but shortly before 3pm on the day of the dance, the total was just under €13,000. Read the full story [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!



'A Little Ditty About Cocooning'

Many thanks to **Bob Gilbert**, Chair of Cavan Older People's Council for sending us in his wonderful ditty about cocooning. Have a read [here](#). This is really excellent Bob, well done, it really made us smile. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can all make a visit to the barbers and hairdressers!

International Updates



Amsterdam trials 'Covid-safe' restaurant

As countries in Europe start to emerge from lockdown, they're experimenting with ways to get people dining out again. An innovative solution in Amsterdam is currently being trialled and tested (see video [here](#)). It hopes it will provide a way to help people adjust from isolation to a degree of social contact. From the 1st June, Dutch bars can reopen their terraces with restrictions in place. Restaurants, bars, cinemas, theatres and museums will also start operating again, under strict conditions; only with reservations and people must maintain a 1.5m distance.



Hotels in Spain reopen with new Covid-19 measures – but no guests

As Spain eases out of quarantine, hotels are opening to a 'new normal' of strict health and safety protocols, even though travel between provinces is prohibited and borders remain closed. Keeping Spain's hotels secure has to start with testing foreign visitors at the point of origin. Coronavirus arrived in Spain with a German tourist flying into La Gomera and, appropriately, from July the Canary Islands will be the first destination in the world to require tourists to carry a digital health passport, developed by the islands' Laboratory Project with the support of the World Tourism Organization. If there are flights. Read more [here](#)

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.hse.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.hpsc.ie

Infected operating a confidential design
www.hpsc.ie/covid-19



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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
Dublin City Council
DLR County Council
Fingal County Council
Galway City Council
Galway County Council
Kerry County Council
Kildare County Council
Kilkenny County Council
Laois County Council
Leitrim County Council
Limerick City and County Council
Longford County Council
Louth County Council
Mayo County Council
Meath County Council
Monaghan County Council
Offaly County Council

Community Response Number

1800 814 300
1800 300 404
1800 203 600
1800 222 226
1800 805 819
1800 928 982
01 222 8555
1800 804 535
1800 459 059
1800 400 150
1800 928 894
1800 807 009
1800 300 174
1800 500 000
1800 832 010
1800 852 389
1800 832 005
1800 300 122
1800 805 817
094 906 4660
1800 808 809
1800 804 158
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