



Dear Member,

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## Accessing PPE – HSE contacts

Further to our [email this morning](#) regarding access to PPE, we are now providing the contact details for people seeking to access such from each of the HSE Community Healthcare Organisations. Please be aware these are the relevant contacts within the HSE for you to contact at local level.

CHO 1: ( Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, Cavan/Monaghan): John.hayes@hse.ie – 071 983 4000

CHO 2: (Galway, Roscommon, Mayo) cho.west@hse.ie (Breda Crehan-Roche)– 091 775404

CHO 3: (Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary/East Limerick ): cho.midwest@hse.ie )Maria Bridgeman) – 061 464445

CHO 4: (Kerry, North Cork, North Lee, South Lee, West Cork) – ger.reaney@hse.ie – 021 492 8540

CHO 5 (South Tipperary, Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford) – co.sech@hse.ie & SECH.COVID19@hse.ie (Kate Killeen White) – 056 7784121

CHO 6 (Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East) – martina.queally@hse.ie – 01 2744151

CHO 7 (Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West) – cho7@hse.ie (Ann O’Shea) – 045 882 597

CHO 8 (Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath, Louth, Meath) – cho8@hse.ie (Pat Bennett) – 057 93 59787

CHO 9 (Dublin North Central, Dublin North West) – cho.dncc@hse.ie (Mellany McLoone) – 01 890 8759

## Representation re Funding Support

We recognise huge funding pressures are and will be presented to Members by Covid-19. This week NHI has:

- Written to a senior official in the Department of Health that we have continuous engagement with surrounding Covid-19. We have informed the Covid-19 challenges present huge manpower and logistical challenges beyond the day-to-day norm for nursing homes or as ever contemplated under the Fair Deal Scheme. We are pressing enhanced engagement regarding cost issues and requesting a review assessing cost implications should be undertaken in a timely manner.
- Engaged with other senior officials in the Department of Health and HSE to inform nursing homes are facing considerable increases in costs because of Covid-19

containment and, if arising, treatment measures. The engagement is continuing, with a level of recognition within both that there is requirement to consider measures to recognise such.

- Requested an urgent meeting with Minister Harris to discuss very important issues arising because of Covid-19, which will include the issue of funding support.

Our representations are ongoing and we will update Members accordingly.

### **Tune into Six One – RTE promotes nursing home engagement during Covid-19**

NHI engaged with RTE to inform nursing homes are focussed upon ensuring engagement is facilitated between residents and their loved ones during this period of suspended or restricted visits. RTE subsequently filmed the engagement being undertaken between husband and wife John and Betty. John is a resident of Belmont House, Co Dublin. Jane Connaughton, Social Policy Co-Ordinator at Belmont House, spoke to RTE about the role it is fulfilling in keeping residents connected with loved ones outside its doors and the efforts being undertaken by nursing homes to engage residents during these difficult times. The report will be broadcast on tonight's Six One news, RTE One, and [you can read online about the engagement here](#).

### **Dedicated recruitment portal arriving in coming days – we need your HR emails!**

As per our Update the morning of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, we've received a phenomenal response to the recruitment drive we launched St Patrick's Day. NHI is rolling out a dedicated recruitment portal in the coming days. This will allow applicants upload their CVs online and identify with the nursing homes in their locality. It will support you in receiving applications from candidates and we hope it will support you in filling roles. Please note, Members have informed they are adopting flexible approaches towards recruitment during Covid-19, training existing staff to fill roles they would not traditionally occupy and recruiting candidates for the roles that become vacant. [We now need the relevant HR contact for each nursing home and ask you one minute to complete this survey](#).

### **Representation to HIQA re vetting**

NHI has written to HIQA to inform of "extremely challenging" issues that are arising for nursing homes with regard to staffing. NHI presents this will become exacerbated in the coming weeks as Covid-19 cases likely present and more staff require isolation. We have asked HIQA:

- Allow the recruitment of individuals once they have commenced the Garda vetting process. This is being advanced as a temporary measure.

- Individuals who have Garda vetting from other organisations would be permitted to commence employment until their disclosure is issued.

A preliminary reply from HIQA has informed it has raised the issue with Department of Health with regard to vetting during Covid-19.

### **HCI access to Covid-19 documents**

HCI (Health Care Informed) wishes to provide members with free access to a collated database of up-to-date Covid-19 related information from specific evidence-based sources. HCI informs the information will be updated, daily. The sources shall include:

- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Centres for Disease Control and Protection (CDC)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Department of Health (DoH)
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)

This database is accessible for all via [www.hciresources.care](http://www.hciresources.care) , and will be updated daily by the HCI Best Practice Team.

### **HSE training: Register now**

The HSE has encouraged nursing homes to log on [hseland.ie](http://hseland.ie). It contains over 170 eLearning programmes, resources, assessment and planning tools for healthcare professionals. The HSE has advised healthcare professionals upskill where required during Covid-19. [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie)

### **Covid-19 online training – Altura Learning**

Altura Learning is an Australian education body that specialises in providing online training for residential or home care providers. It has created a free online resource to support staff in nursing homes during Covid-19. The resource explains the virus and symptoms of the disease, and what precautions nursing homes and their staff need to take to keep themselves and those in their care safe. It provides practical demonstrations for hand hygiene (both with alcohol hand rub and hand washing) and the application and removal of PPE. [You will need to register to avail of the free video and you can access it here.](#)

### **Health Management Institute – Free resource hand hygiene training**

The Health Management Institute has contacted NHI to inform of an online hand hygiene course that could prove of particular interest at this given time. [Further detail is within this document](#) and nursing homes are asked to leave an email address for people to contact so that the relevant files can be provided to them.

## Homecare Medical Update

Homecare Medical informs it is committed to supplying and its nursing home customers, with contingency plans in place to keep supply and external sales managers and internal staff available to assist with any queries. [Read their message to Members here.](#)

## Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Bill 2020

The Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Bill 2020 is making its way through the Oireachtas. Members are alerted it provides the Minister for Health with the authority to compel:

*“the resources of the health services including numbers of health care workers available at a given time, the capacity of those workers to undertake measures, the necessity to take such measures to test persons for Covid-19 and to provide care and treatment to persons infected with Covid-19 as are appropriate to protect health care workers from infection from Covid-19, and the capacity of hospitals or other institutions to accommodate and facilitate the provisions of treatment to infected persons”*

## Mother’s Day 2020

It will be a very different Mother’s Day 2020 for mother’s living in our nursing homes and their sons, daughters, grandchildren. We encourage you to facilitate engagement via face-to-face technology as best you can. If you are planning particular celebrations you can notify us and we can promote on our Facebook and Twitter pages to present the positivity and resilience of our nursing homes during this unprecedented health emergency. Email any pictures to [michael@nhi.ie](mailto:michael@nhi.ie) or send them direct to our Facebook page.

## Present the positivity of nursing home life during Covid-19

Similar to the above, amidst the adversity presented by Covid-19, it provides opportunity for the positive spirit and caring ethos within our nursing homes to be presented to the wider public. We’re encouraging nursing homes to share pictures and videos with us depicting the positivity of nursing home care during Covid-19. Some considerations in this regard:

- Pictures / videos of celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, sing-songs
- Special activities that are being hosted and are engaging with residents during this difficult time
- Stories of connection between nursing home residents and their relatives and friends outside the home
- Projects being undertaken within nursing homes during Covid-19

- A video message of goodwill from a nursing home resident