



Reminder re key resources	2
NHI.ie Covid-19 guidance.....	2
Healthcare Worker Covid-19 Guidance.....	2
Garda Vetting.....	3
Funeral Guidance.....	3
Respiratory Management Guidance	3
Watch RTE report promoting nursing homes interactive engagement	4
Employment Guidance.....	4
Hand Hygiene course	4
PPE Equipment – Private Provider	5
Reminder: Mother’s Day 2020	5
Reminder: Present the positivity of nursing home life during Covid-19	5

Reminder re key resources

Measures to prevent risk & also to take if Covid-19 case presenting: [Preliminary Clinical and Infection Control Guidance for COVID-19 in nurse-led Residential Care Facilities \(RCF\)](#)

[Telephone Risk Assessment and testing pathway for patients who phone general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals](#)

PPE: Contact your local Community Healthcare Office to request equipment. [Relevant contact details within this email](#). Further detail re accessing equipment in [this email issued 19th March](#)

[Healthcare Workers Covid-19 Guidance](#)

NHI.ie Covid-19 guidance

We know the information is coming at you on a constant basis. We're dealing with a constantly evolving national health emergency and on a daily basis pushing the relevant authorities for help, guidance and support. After receiving we are dispersing to nursing homes in a timely manner to try ensure you are up-to-date on knowledge you require.

We now alert we have gone live with a dedicated section on the NHI website that provides guidance and advice specific to nursing homes. The advice is filtered according to specific topics. Please be advised the guidance is subject to updating and we are endeavouring to ensure it is continuously up-to-date.

[Visit the Covid-19 online resources here.](#)

Healthcare Worker Covid-19 Guidance

The HSE has shared with NHI [Interim Guidance for Coronavirus - Healthcare Worker Management By Occupational Health](#). This document aims to outline the role of Occupational Health (OH) in preparing for and managing potential coronavirus exposures. It presents interim guidelines, which will be updated as new evidence-based information becomes available.

While specific for HSE workers, the guidance is also applicable for private and voluntary nursing homes. It provides guidance regarding and tools to support:

- Fitness for work concerns
- Management of HCW Contacts Exposure in the Workplace

- Management of HCW Close Contacts (Workplace Contact)
- Management of Casual Contacts
- Health care workers returning from any International Travel
- HCW on Self Quarantine Returning to Work Due to Essential Service Needs
- Management of Symptomatic Contacts
- Close Contact Symptom Monitoring Chart
- Template for recording Important Contact Details
- Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Close Contact Information Leaflet

Garda Vetting

NHI advanced representations to the National Vetting Bureau that applications from the nursing home sector should take precedence during this public health emergency. We are happy to inform the Bureau has informed it took a decision last week that NHI applications will be prioritised, referencing our close working relationship over a period of years.

Vetting is being processed remotely but it is business as usual. You can send queries to vetting@nhi.ie.

Funeral Guidance

Guidance has been issued by the HSE to nursing homes with regard to funeral arrangements for Covid-19 RIPs in nursing homes. [Click here to download the guidance.](#)

Respiratory Management Guidance

Healthcare Direct wishes to circulate the following guidance to all nursing homes:

[Respiratory Management Guidance: What you and your staff can do to support effective respiratory management](#)

This provides guidance regarding:

- Positioning
- Hydration
- Swallow function
- Observation
- Mobilisation
- Inhalers/Nebulisers

It has also provided a copy of this presentation: [Effective Respiratory Management - For staff in residential care.](#)

Watch RTE report promoting nursing homes interactive engagement

[Click to watch RTE report broadcast yesterday, 19th March, promoting the facetime engagement that is now commonplace between residents in nursing homes and their loved ones.](#) Ailbhe Connelly, RTE's Social Affairs Correspondent, visited Betty Colbert in her home as she engages with her husband John who is a resident of Belmont House Nursing Home via video-call.

Furthermore, Ailbhe's report informs of the NHI recruitment drive, with private and voluntary nursing homes across the country encouraging applications from people who now find themselves unemployed. "Staffing needs will arise for nursing homes in meeting the care needs of older people, with the disciplines in nursing homes being wide-ranging," NHI informs. "Roles on a temporary basis that may interest people could include those of healthcare professionals including nurses and physios, healthcare assistants, catering, activities, ancillary or administrative support." [Read further re the recruitment drive here](#), with a dedicated online portal coming in the days ahead.

Employment Guidance

[A comprehensive list of supports for employers and employees affected by Covid 19 can be downloaded here.](#) Guidance is provided with regard to:

- COVID-19 Employer Refund Scheme
- COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment
- Self-Isolated
- Workers whose employers do not supplement/top-up the State Illness Benefit payment
- Workers who are requested to stay at home by their employer (COVID-19)
- Workers who need to take time off work to care for a person affected by COVID-19

Advice is also provided with regard to Revenue, banking and housing.

Hand Hygiene course

The Health Management Institute of Ireland has informed its learning and development partner, The Learning Rooms, is making their Hand Hygiene eLearning course available for free to all healthcare organisations worldwide. Use of the course is unlimited. Healthcare organisations can host the course on their staff training portal or Learning Management System (LMS). [Click here to access.](#)

PPE Equipment – Private Provider

The Noel Group has informed it has received a consignment of masks and antiseptic wipes. If anyone wishes to engage with regard to sourcing you can contact Monica McKeon, Healthcare Regional Operations Manager at 086 1001444 or email monica.mckeon@noel.ie.

Reminder: 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 or send them direct to our Facebook page.

Reminder: 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