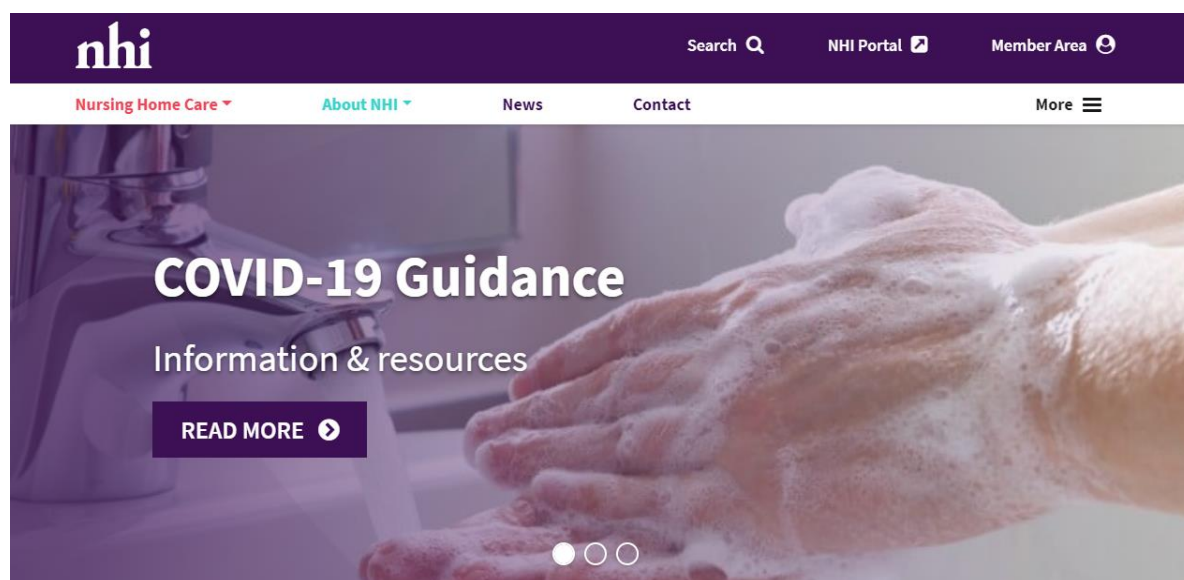


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## Reminder re key resources

Have you visited our dedicated Covid-19 section on the NHI Website? It contains a raft of resources and guidance specific to support nursing homes during Covid-19. The website is being updated on a continuous basis to guide nursing homes during this public health emergency.



## Key resources

Updated: 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 19<sup>th</sup> March](#)

[Healthcare Workers Covid-19 Guidance](#)

## **Representation to Government re sector requirements**

Further to ongoing representations, the Board of Directors will convene tomorrow to finalise *NHI Paper to Departments of Health and Finance re Covid 19 and the Private and Voluntary Nursing Home Sector*. The paper will principally outline the funding pressures that are and will present because of requirement for nursing homes to implement Covid-19 measures. We are pushing Government to introduce emergency funding to support the sector during this unprecedented national health emergency.

## **Updated: Preliminary Clinical and Infection Control Guidance for COVID-19 in nurse-led Residential Care Facilities**

You are alerted the HSE has updated its Preliminary Clinical and Infection Control Guidance for COVID-19 in nurse-led Residential Care Facilities (RCF). This guidance informs of:

- General Measures to reduce the risk of accidental introduction of Covid-19 into a Residential Care Facility
- General advice regarding care of residents infected during Covid-19
- Where resident presents as clinically suspect for Covid-19 status procedures to be applied
- Common symptoms and signs indicative of Covid-19 illness
- Decision algorithm in regard to escalation reflecting anticipatory guidance
- Guidance with regard to practice for scenarios presenting

[Download the guidance here.](#)

## **Department of Health & HSE Support Material & Training**

The Department of Health has new material that can be downloaded to support nursing homes in creating awareness regarding Covid-19 measures and also to providing best-practice training.

### **Partner Pack**

A digital partner pack continues to be updated and can be [downloaded here](#).

The digital partner pack contains:

- The most up to date posters on Coronavirus COVID-19 (please display and share these as widely as you can, and please replace any previous posters that you might have used with the updated version)
- Videos that you can share and display
- Leaflets, social media assets and more

## Key Updates

Here are further important additions and updates:

- There is now a video on social distancing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10-uuijhF4Q>
- Translated resources in 10 languages can be found at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/covid-19-translated-resources/>
- The HSE is currently utilising TV, radio and other forms of advertising for public health information on Coronavirus.
- Social distancing graphics for premises floors can be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/472f64-covid-19-coronavirus-guidance-and-advice/#social-distancing-graphics>
- Department of Rural and Community Development Covid-19 plan can be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/70be56-government-action-plan-for-community-response-to-covid-19/>

### PPE: Representations to HSE

We've advanced representations to the HSE again today regarding access to PPE. We reminded, as per our communication last Thursday, the HSE has informed NHI securing supplies is being ramped up; there is a need for nursing homes to be prudent in placing orders at this time and no requirement to stockpile at this time.

Within today's correspondence we state: "Members are reporting at this stage most if not all supplies are exhausted. The issue for nursing homes is that pretty much all suppliers (existing and new) have informed NHI and individual members that all supplies are being directed to the HSE. I can confirm that we will advise nursing homes again of the need accordingly, to manage their request carefully, and that they should only seek it in the event of a suspected or actual outbreak."

### Comfort Words: A national initiative launched by NHI

NHI has today launched Comfort Words, a national initiative encouraging children to reach out to older people in nursing homes during Covid-19. Comfort Words is encouraging children to support older people during this difficult time by writing to them. With almost 30,000 people across the country are in nursing home care. NHI believes children can fulfil an important role in promoting positivity amongst residents and maintaining contacts in the weeks ahead by connecting with them. [Further detail is available here](#) and we encourage Members to promote this positive initiative on your own channels. We'd love to hear feedback from nursing homes and you can provide such by emailing [michael@nhi.ie](mailto:michael@nhi.ie). The hashtag for use on your social media channels is #ComfortWords

## **Covid-19 Emergency Management Education Programme**

LHP Skillnet is collaborating with HCI Ireland to deliver a Covid-19 Emergency Management Education Programme. This will entail a two-session webinar:

- Webinar Session 1 – Preparing and Planning (90 minutes)
- Webinar Session 2 – Manage, Control and Evaluate (90 minutes)

[An overview regarding the management course is available here.](#)

The webinars will be hosted Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March and price (including resources pack) = €1,225. The LHP Skillnet Subsidised Price is €70 per person for the webinar programme + €550 per nursing home site for the comprehensive resource pack. Please note the resource pack is optional, but highly recommended.

For further details and booking email [office@lhpskillnet.ie](mailto:office@lhpskillnet.ie). Booking closes at 1pm on Wednesday 25th March 2020. Payment will be required in advance of the course.

## **A message from the Irish Association of Funeral Directors**

“At this unprecedented time, the Irish Association of Funeral Directors has been inundated with calls from anxious bereaved families asking for advice about the burial and cremation of their loved ones and, more distressingly, the fitting goodbye which they feel their loved one is entitled to, irrespective of the current crisis. The Association is acutely aware of the worry people are feeling regarding the attendance and direction of funerals.

Members of the Irish Association of Funeral Directors handle almost 80% of funerals across the country every year and have a reputation for being trusted and for treating grieving families with the utmost professionalism and respect.

Whilst the Association members have been doing their best to allay fears for families, the reality is that the Association must adhere to guidance from the authorities in how to handle a funeral in what is uncharted territory for us all.

Guidance from Health Service Executive (HSE) advises that funerals can be held privately behind closed doors with family and close friends can be present. There should be no public advertisement of funeral arrangements – in print or online – but death notices can be placed without arrangements. Families can advise friends and relations privately of funeral arrangements. There should be no provision for condolence book and pen at the funeral and public reposing must be discouraged as should funeral home gatherings. Family gatherings should be by invite only and attendance restricted to below 100. Social distancing must be maintained with no handshaking or hugging. Mourners can express their condolence online at [www.rip.ie](http://www.rip.ie) and send condolence or Mass cards by post

Speaking on behalf of Irish Association of Funeral Directors, Colm Kieran said: “We appreciate that we are in the midst of the most complex situation that the Irish people and our Association has ever faced and the protection of bereaved families, the public and our staff is our greatest concern.

“At this time we are bound to conduct funerals to the extent advised by the government and HSE until directed otherwise. We do not wish to alarm the public or add to the trauma that grieving families may be suffering nor does this mean that the standard of our care or quality of our service is diminished. We are more mindful and sensitive than ever to the pain of bereaved families who are trying to grieve and say goodbye under these restricted circumstances and we are working tirelessly to comfort those in their anguish.”

As the situation is changing daily, IAFD member firms throughout Ireland are continuing to care for bereaved families and ensure that funeral arrangements are carried out with dignity and to the highest standards. For further information, please visit: [www.iafd.ie](http://www.iafd.ie).”

**We previously informed of guidance 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](#).**

### **BDO Advice**

BDO has contacted NHI to inform its advisory team remains at your disposal to assist and advise on urgent business decisions. It has asked we circulate [this booklet](#) and further information is [available here](#).

Our booklet on relevant information and things you should do is attached.