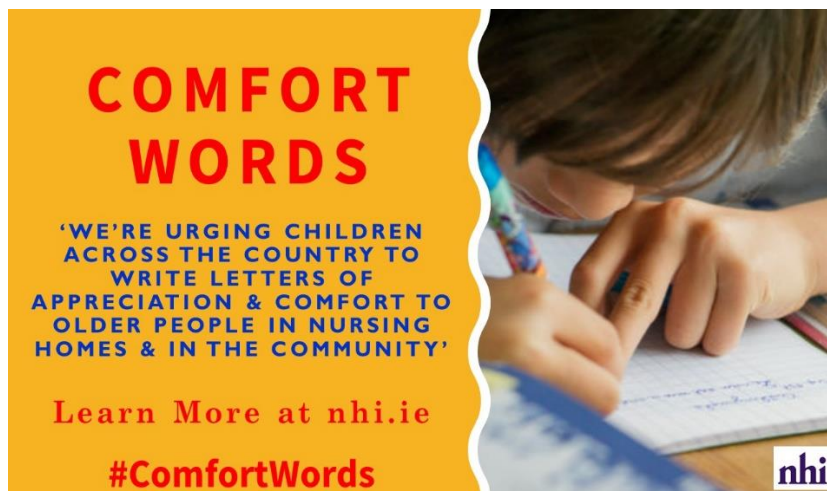
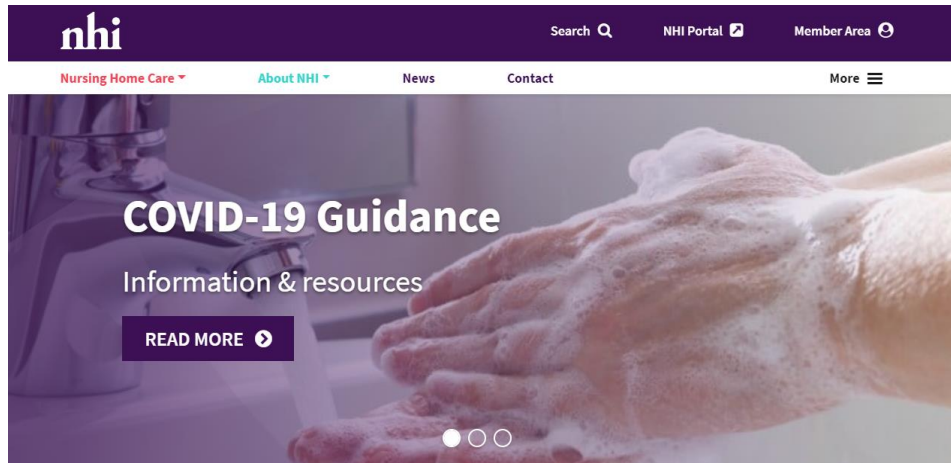


## NHI.IE – Your online resource for Covid-19 guidance

Visit the dedicated Covid-19 section of the NHI website for a raft of resources and guidance specific to support nursing homes. The website is being updated on a continuous basis to guide nursing homes during this public health emergency.



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## **NEPHT meeting today to discuss nursing home measures**

Yesterday evening we provided Members with an update arising from our meeting with Minister for Health Simon Harris ([click to read](#)). As per our communication: “Minister Harris outlined the Department's public health team are discussing further enhanced measures to be presented for decision at NPHEM [National Public Health Emergency Team] tomorrow. Any such measures will go through due process such as a cabinet briefing and the Department will brief NHI in tandem with this process.

“The Minister and his officials confirmed that they are currently working out the details of a proposed COVID-19 related financial support scheme for the nursing home sector and committed to revert to NHI by the end of this week. Any such financial support scheme will be for a defined time period. There is also a commitment from the Minister to resource the sector appropriately with products/ equipment and staffing.”

We will brief Members accordingly and engaging with NPHEM.

## **HSE Guidance re Cocooning**

The HSE has provided the following guidance with regard to cocooning and how it is applicable for nursing homes. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) issued [this guidance](#) and the following reference and information was provided by the HSE to SM Consulting by way of clarity:

“4.3.1.2 Other Residents and Visitors Group activities that involved close contact should be suspended if possible. If this is not possible given the overall welfare of residents activities may be conducted with small groups of residents with maintain of social distance as much as possible. (for example unaffected residents may be able to access communal areas or go outside in small groups on a rota basis with avoidance of direct contact or close contact) If not already suspended, visiting should be suspended

“I have raised this guidance issue for updating in line with new PH advice on cocooning for older persons. Therefore, residents should remain in their rooms if possible and if any deviation to this advice I am providing emerges I will revert”.

## **HCA Recruitment & Induction Programme with Department of Employment for Jobseekers**

NHI are pleased with the initiative taken by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) and LHP Skillnet in collaboration with NHI. DEASP are running an intensive HCA recruitment and induction programme for jobseekers (in excess of 5,000) on the live register. For suitable applicants, training will take three weeks and successful applicants will be available to enter the workforce immediately. The recruitment drive commenced yesterday and the DEASP have already received 103 emails and 17 phone calls from applicants. Indeed, some already have qualifications so they will be ready to go straight to work in nursing homes. All applications are submitted directly to DEASP. NHI

are cognisant of the strain our members are under with staffing and want to re-assure you that efforts are being made on all fronts to help alleviate your staffing needs.

## Media Engagement

Media engagement was extensive yesterday as we met Minister for Health Simon Harris.

Today's newspapers inform of our meeting with the Minister and our ask of him. Post meeting, we issued a statement to brief media with regard to the meeting and this can be [read here](#). Coverage within today's newspapers:

Irish Times, 31<sup>st</sup> March: [Concerns over nursing home clusters](#)

Irish Examiner, 31<sup>st</sup> March: [Nursing homes to get extra funding](#)

Irish Independent, 31<sup>st</sup> March: [Nursing homes insist Minister has pledged Covid-19 bailout](#)

Irish Independent, 31<sup>st</sup> March, comment: [Clusters have struck in an area that warned it could be at grave risk of infection](#)

Journal.ie: [Nursing Homes Ireland says Covid-19 testing for staff 'isn't happening quick enough'](#)

Newstalk yesterday reported: [New recommendations for nursing homes to be issued tomorrow](#)

Yesterday morning on *Morning Ireland*, RTE Radio One, Denis McElligott, Windmill Healthcare, spoke about the challenges faced by providers at local level. Denis was then followed by CEO Tadhg Daly who informed of asks being presented by NHI ahead of the meeting with Minister Harris. [Listen back to both interviews here](#). Thank you Denis for undertaking the interview.

[Newstalk Breakfast also featured an interview with Tadhg which you can listen to here.](#)

That evening, post meeting with Minister, Tadhg undertook interviews with Drivetime on RTE Radio One ([listen here](#)) and The Last Word on Today FM ([listen here](#)).

RTE's Six One featured comments from Tadhg stating every nursing home should be provided with minimum three days supply of PPE and Vicky McDwyer, Board Director and Nursing Home Provider, advancing the issue of staffing is critical and the HSE should immediately desist from trying to recruit staff from our sector. Further into the bulletin, a live interview was undertaken with Tadhg from Department of Health headquarters. [Watch the broadcast here](#).

Tadhg stated on Virgin Media news the provision of equipment, the challenges around staffing, and the necessity for a financial support scheme to address the significant

challenges presented by Covid-19 were all presented to the Minister. [Watch his interview here \(8 minutes into the broadcast\)](#).

Last night, Tadhg Daly featured in studio on The Tonight Show with Matt Cooper. When the show becomes available online we will include it in our updates.

Weekend media engagement included:

RTE: [Nursing homes 'need hundreds of millions' in Govt aid to survive crisis](#)

The Irish Times on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March: [Nursing home residents will not just walk out on nursing home residents](#)

The Sunday Independent, 29<sup>th</sup> March: [Dozens of elderly in care homes test positive](#)

Irish Times, Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March: [New measures planned to tackle spread](#).

Irish Examiner, Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March: [Virus to peak in two weeks](#).

The Herald, Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March: [New cases rise by 200](#)

## **TODAY - Covid-19: Prescribing & Microbiology Webinars**

The All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care is collaborating with Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services and Tallaght University Hospital to deliver Project ECHO AIIHPC webinars to provide information and guidance to nursing homes during the COVID-19 outbreak. The webinar is being supported by NHI, the HSE and Irish Hospice Foundation.

The following sessions will last a maximum of one hour on the following dates and will include a presentation and a discussion session:

- Tuesday 31 March at 2.30pm – Anticipatory Prescribing and related issues led by Dr Cliona Lorton, Palliative Medicine Consultant, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services. Please use this link to register your attendance  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8X5KsQ8mSI6R3XHzhqm\\_ew](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8X5KsQ8mSI6R3XHzhqm_ew)
- Thursday 2 April at 2.30pm – Dr Anna-Rose Prior, Consultant Microbiologist, Tallaght University Hospital – Latest guidance from Clinical Microbiology. Please use this link to register your attendance:  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Epn3RWj4TFCIKmly2RDMAw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Epn3RWj4TFCIKmly2RDMAw)

Please note you will need to register for each session separately and once you are registered you will receive an email with the zoom line details. The session will be hosted in Zoom which can be downloaded onto your computers, ipad or smart phones or accessed via a phone line. If you have any issues with registering please contact [info@aaihpc.org](mailto:info@aaihpc.org)

## HPSC Webinar: IPC Interim Guidance for COVID-19 for Community Residential Facilities and in-patient facilities outside of acute hospitals

**Topic:** IPC Interim Guidance for COVID-19 for Community Residential Facilities and in-patient facilities outside of acute hospitals

**Presented by HPSC AMRIC (Antimicrobial Resistance) Team:** Prof. Martin Cormican, National HCAI Clinical Lead and Mary McKenna, IPC Asst Director of Nursing,

**Date and time:** Friday, April 3, 2020 from 10-11am,

**Event number:** 141 972 966

**Event password:** covid

**Pre-register for the event:** <https://hse-webinar.webex.com/hse-webinar/onstage/g.php?MTID=e1accc1122f7a6b330b8b10409d2db78f>

When you join the webinar you can listen to it over the computer but we are advised sound quality is better over the phone:

**Irish dial in number:** 015260058 / Access code: 141 972 966

## LHP Skillnet: Covid-19 Management Training Course this week

LHP Skillnet is following up on the Covid-19 Management Training Course it delivered last week to run this week: Covid-19 Emergency Management Education Programme. The programme will aim to provide participants with the tools to manage the impact of Covid-19 in your nursing home, and to minimise the risks to your staff, clients and business. It will consist of two online webinar sessions. The limit of participants on each session is 20. Each session takes 90 minutes.

*Webinar Session 1 – Preparing and Planning:*

- Wednesday 1st April **10am - 11.30am** or Thursday 2nd April **10am - 11.30am**

*Webinar Session 2 – Manage, Control and Evaluate:*

- Wednesday 1st April **2pm - 3.30pm** or Thursday 2nd April **2pm - 3.30pm**

When you register, you will be able to purchase HCI's resource pack. Though not mandatory, LHP Skillnet highly recommends the option is selected. The pack entails documents and templates that detail policies and procedures for nursing homes. Sample documents include:

- *Covid-19 Roles and Responsibilities,*

- *Business Continuity Plan,*
- *Liaison Responsibilities (for Residents/Families/Staff/HSE/HSPC/HIQA),*
- *PPE Policy and Procedure*
- *IPC Audit Tools*
- *IPC Policies and Procedures Covid-19 Update(#12).*

Price: HCI original cost (including Resources Pack) - €1,225. LHP Skillnet has reduced the cost of the Webinar (incl. both sessions) to €70 per person, and the Comprehensive Resource Pack is €550 per nursing home. To book click [here](#).

[Download last week's Covid-19 Emergency Management Education Programme webinar presentation here.](#)

## **Reminder re important update re HSE Covid-19 support, helpline & essential workers template**

We are reminding of important update issued over weekend, on Sunday. The Update can be [downloaded here](#) and informed of:

**HSE communication with NHI re Covid-19 support measures (CHO)**, with the HSE informing management at local level rests with Community Healthcare Organisations. Members are reminded CHO contacts for nursing homes are featured under the [access to PPE](#) section on our website, with CHO's being appropriate contacts for nursing homes that have ordered PPE through the [HSE procurement website](#) but have issues presenting.

**HSE helpline to provide occupational advice for healthcare workers.** The helpline is to support workers specifically requiring occupational health advice and can be contacted at 1850 420420.

**NHI's Essential workers letter template:**

[Download the letter in PDF format here](#)

[Download the letter in Word format here](#)

## **Irish Hospice Foundation Resources re coping with grief**

These new resources we have been developed over the past week by the Irish Hospice Foundation. They are part of our wider Irish Hospice Foundation Care & Inform initiative, currently being finalised.

[Grief in Exceptional Times](#)

[Helping Children Grieve Through COVID-19 Restrictions](#)

[Planning A Funeral in Exceptional Times](#)

## Reminder: Inform your local TDs

As per our update last Friday, NHI has provided every TD and Senator with a briefing regarding the key challenges and required supports for nursing homes during Covid-19. You will be aware yesterday NHI representatives met with Minister for Health Simon Harris and engagement has also been undertaken with the leaders of Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin. We are on the frontline and nursing homes should inform local TDs of the challenges presenting for you during this national emergency and supports you require from the State.

[Our Briefing to TD's can be downloaded here and you can utilise it in representations to your local TDs](#)

## PROMOTE nhirecruitment.ie

You are reminded yesterday, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, NHI went 'live' with <https://nhirecruitment.ie/>. We're urging you to promote the website that allows unemployed people to register their interest in fulfilling roles within NHI Member homes during the Covid-19 emergency.

You can utilise the promo image below for utilisation on your website and social media channels. We hope the new portal will support Members in filling key roles and support your staffing complement during the emergency. [Download the image here.](#)



The graphic features a dark purple background with a white speech bubble in the center. Inside the speech bubble, the text reads: "NHI RECRUITMENT DRIVE", "FULFILLING EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19", "WORK IN YOUR LOCAL NURSING HOME", "REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT", and "www.nhirecruitment.ie". To the left of the speech bubble is a white silhouette of a person holding a megaphone. In the bottom right corner, the NHI logo is displayed in white, along with the social media handles "#nursinghomerecruitment" and "#jobfairy". In the bottom center, the website "www.nhi.ie" and the Twitter handle "@NursingHomesIRE" are listed next to a Twitter icon.



## **PPE suppliers**

Third-party providers have contacted NHI to inform of PPE Equipment being available from private providers. Please note, we are passing on contact details and these providers are independent of NHI.

Johnson's Pharmacy Limited, based in Cork informs of availability of 4,100 surgical masks by the end of the week - at €1.20 per unit and 5,000 N95 by Friday week - at €5.10 per unit. The contact is Sam Johnson 087 9647327 and email contact [johnsonsam2@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonsam2@gmail.com)

We also received correspondence from a Michael Byrne. He informs he can source equipment from China and can provide protective product within ten days. His mobile number is 086 2704050 and he is available by WhatsApp.