

Factsheet for Northern Ireland Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Extensive programme to help care homes

Health Minister Robin Swann has set out a wide range of measures being deployed in Northern Ireland to protect care home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is extensive work going on across the HSC to protect residents and staff. Support for the sector to date includes:

- producing and updating guidance
- £6.5 million in additional financial support
- providing millions of items of PPE
- thousands of staff hours to care homes free of charge.



The Minister also underlined the Executive's intention to significantly expand testing across care homes.

Other initiatives include:

Intensive support for care homes, including Trusts' strengthening of hospital-to-community outreach teams, and investment and reform in social care.

More at: bit.ly/2Wx5erz

For the latest Frequently Asked Questions on care homes: bit.ly/3fRxZqK

Stay at home - Wash your hands - Keep your distance

Executive publishes roadmap to recovery

The Executive has published a five-stage plan to ease the COVID-19 lockdown in Northern Ireland.

In making decisions, the Executive will consider three key criteria: the most up-to-date scientific evidence; the ability of the health service to cope; and the wider impacts on our health, society and the economy.

Everyone is urged to continue to follow the regulations, including social distancing and regular hand washing. More at: bit.ly/2WYZQN3

Volunteer dentists to work in care homes

Dentists have volunteered to help the fight against COVID-19 in care homes.

More: bit.ly/2zB0A2Q



Foster Care Fortnight celebrates foster care and the vital contribution of the 2,100 foster carers across Northern Ireland. This year's campaign theme "This is Fostering" highlights all that is great about foster care, particularly at this time. More: bit.ly/3bznHlj

Nightingale to be stood down

Belfast's Nightingale Hospital is to be stood down.

Announcing the move Health Minister Robin Swann said the facility at the City Hospital's Tower Block could be used again in the future if needed.

More at: bit.ly/2zHAaMD

Exercise advice for those with specific health conditions

Guidance has been given for those with a specific health condition that requires them to leave their home to maintain health.

More: bit.ly/2WTV9UB

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Pharmacy opening hours to change

From 11 May, the majority of community pharmacies returned to normal opening hours with the exception of lunchtime.

The closure of one hour for dispensing services to the public will remain. It is expected that this will be generally 1pm to 2pm for most pharmacies.



Contact tracing to help limit second wave of coronavirus



The Public Health Agency's contact tracing pilot programme aims to help how Northern Ireland can limit the impact of a second wave of COVID-19. Currently 58 people have been trained, including redeployed staff from PHA and Health and Social Care Trusts. They will identify priority groups where clusters of infection may be present.

Over 800 staff have volunteered to take part and their training remains ongoing to help meet demand as the programme expands.

More at: www.pha.site/coronavirus

Breastfeeding support is still available during Covid-19

Breastfeeding mums need support and, with the reduction of home visits from health professionals, they should know they are not on their own.

Support is still available, both over the phone and online.

More at: bit.ly/35YCwmn.



Stay at home - Wash your hands - Keep your distance

Don't ignore signs of type 1 diabetes



Parents and carers are urged not to ignore the signs of type 1 diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children can develop type 1 diabetes at any time. Parents need to be aware of the four most common symptoms of type 1 diabetes to make sure all children who develop the condition are diagnosed early and without delay.

If symptoms develop, seek urgent support and get your child's blood sugar checked that day. More at: bit.ly/3fMJoYE

Sun safety warning during lockdown

Spending more time in our gardens or yards during lockdown could lead to an increased risk of sunburn.

Top tips to help protect against harmful UV rays:

- seek shade when the UV rays are strongest between 11am and 3pm
- cover up with a long sleeved t-shirt and broad brim hat
- wear sunglasses that have CE or British Standard Marks, which carry a UV 400 label and offer 100% UV protection
- use sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 15 for UVB protection and UVA 4-stars. More at: bit.ly/2WwYKJc



For more advice and information

- [Download previous HSC Factsheets](#)
- [For the latest figures on COVID-19 see Department of Health dashboard](#)
- www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus
- www.nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus
- www.hscboard.hscni.net/coronavirus
- www.gov.uk/coronavirus