

# Factsheet for Northern Ireland Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)



Health and  
Social Care

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**



## Funding support for NI care homes



The Health and Social Care Board has worked alongside the Public Health Agency and Department of Health to secure a further £11.7 million financial support package for care homes to help them meet the challenge of the pandemic.

The funding will enable homes to pay staff 80% of their salary when on sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons. It will also provide support with cleaning costs and the provision of specialist equipment. More at: [bit.ly/374g4ZV](https://bit.ly/374g4ZV)

## Carers' Week

Carers' Week runs from 8-14 June and in the latest blog from the Health and Social Care Board, Mary Donaghy, Mental Health and Learning Disability lead, says there's never been a more important time to acknowledge the significant contribution that carers make to the lives of family, friends and neighbours. Read the blog at: [bit.ly/3eUge8Q](https://bit.ly/3eUge8Q).



**Stay Safe, Save Lives**

## Minister sets out scale of contact tracing operation

Testing and contact tracing will play a central role in unlocking the coronavirus lockdown in Northern Ireland, Health Minister Robin Swann has said.

The Minister announced the scale of the NI contact tracing programme, which is being built for the long-term. Details of the Department's Test, Trace and Protect strategy were also revealed.

Anyone with any symptoms of COVID-19 is urged to get tested as quickly as possible. These include a new, continuous cough, high temperature, and changes to sense of smell or taste.

Tests can be arranged for anyone over the age of five by going online to [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119. More at: [bit.ly/2yYbkls](https://bit.ly/2yYbkls)



## Plan for phased return of dental services

A phased return of dental services is due to begin from Monday 8 June across Northern Ireland.



It will be a three-stage process to help address the growing number of people with pressing oral health needs.

Dental practices have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. The nature of dental treatment means that the patient and dentist are in very close proximity and many dental procedures are aerosol-generating, which may facilitate transmission of the virus.

As a result, dental practices have been unable to provide these procedures during the pandemic.

Patients with urgent dental care needs have continued to receive treatment with around 2000 patients being seen each week in general dental practices and a further 250 seen in the five urgent dental care centres. More at: [bit.ly/3dsaWBa](https://bit.ly/3dsaWBa)

**Stay Safe, Save Lives**

## Guidance for care home staff

Regional guidance for care home staff supporting clients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 has been issued by the Public Health Agency.

The guidance, distributed to all registered care homes through the regulator, Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, includes advice on nutrition; communication; and eating, drinking and swallowing.

Further details on [nutrition](#), [communication](#) and [eating, drinking and swallowing](#) are available by clicking on the text.

## 'Shielders' can go outdoors

Vulnerable people in Northern Ireland advised to shield during the coronavirus lockdown can go outdoors again, the Executive has agreed.

Those considered to be at the highest clinical risk from the virus were advised to stay at home at all times and avoid all face-to-face contact for at least 12 weeks.

From Monday 8 June they can go outdoors with their household; or if they live alone they can meet one person from another household, provided social distancing is observed. More at: [bit.ly/37b7KaM](https://bit.ly/37b7KaM)



## Accident prevention under spotlight in Child Safety Week



Accidents are the main cause of death for children post-infancy, with many occurring in the home.

Child Safety Week, which runs from 1- 7 June, aims to raise awareness of accidents that can happen in the home and provide helpful tips to prevent them from occurring. More at: [bit.ly/3eMW40d](https://bit.ly/3eMW40d)

**Stay Safe, Save Lives**

## Thank you to community volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers from community groups across Northern Ireland who have been delivering prescription medicine to those who are vulnerable or shielding during the COVID-19 crisis.

Working with the Community Development and Health Network, both community pharmacies and patients have been supported by these volunteers.

To date, almost 34,000 deliveries of medicines have been made throughout Northern Ireland. A total of 252 pharmacies have registered to be part of the delivery service and 120 community groups have volunteered their time. More at: [bit.ly/3gXvV0N](https://bit.ly/3gXvV0N)



## Take our survey and tell us what you think

We hope you find the HSC Factsheet a useful source of health and social care COVID-19 related information.

To help us provide the information that's important to you at this time we'd love you to take our short survey.

Complete the survey **by Monday 15 June** at: [bit.ly/2ZVhAM2](https://bit.ly/2ZVhAM2)



### 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](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)
- [www.nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- [www.hscboard.hscni.net/coronavirus](https://www.hscboard.hscni.net/coronavirus)
- [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)