

Factsheet for Northern Ireland Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk



Health and
Social Care

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Rebuilding Health and Social Care services

A concerted effort is underway across Health and Social Care (HSC) to rebuild services disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

A significant amount of hospital, social, community and primary care services were scaled back to ensure there were enough staff, resources and capacity to cope with the predicted surge of COVID-19 cases.



The Department of Health has published a Strategic Framework for Rebuilding Health and Social Care Services. The six Health and Social Care Trusts have also published plans setting out a series of actions to rebuild their services in the immediate period to 30 June.

These plans include an ongoing emphasis on high priority cancer services, and other urgent conditions, as well as on supporting and protecting vulnerable members of society.

For more information on how HSC will be rebuilt visit the Health and Social Care Board's website at bit.ly/3fiZ8BL

Stay Safe, Save Lives

Support available for young carers

There are around 310,000 carers in Northern Ireland, with an estimated 98,000 more since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before lockdown, almost 4% of carers were young carers.

During Carers' Week, we highlight the Regional Young Carers' Service in Northern Ireland which is funded by the Health and Social Care Board. Provided by Action for Children and Barnardo's, it delivers support, information and guidance to carers aged from 8 – 18 years old.

Young carers are children and young people who may help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug and alcohol related problem. They carry out lots of extra jobs in and around the house such as; cooking, cleaning or helping a family member get dressed and move around their home.

Due to coronavirus many young people have found their caring role has increased. More at: bit.ly/2YrqH52



New ID cards for carers



A new ID card to support carers in Northern Ireland is now available.

Similar to IDs for healthcare workers, carers will be able to show their ID in stores to get access to priority shopping hours.

Watch our video to see how young carer, Elizabeth, benefits from having a Carer ID card. bit.ly/2XVAtgL

For more information on the ID card visit: bit.ly/2zocaOV

Stay Safe, Save Lives

Extra funding support for foster carers

The Health and Social Care Board has secured additional funding approved by the Department of Health to support foster carers during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This financial support will be made available to all foster carers across Northern Ireland for a period of up to 12 weeks commencing in June 2020 and will be kept under review as circumstances change. More at: bit.ly/3dTKxwh

PPE order arrives from China

The first consignment of personal protective equipment from China has arrived in Northern Ireland.

A total of 1.5 million Type 11R respirator masks arrived in Belfast in recent days, with the remainder of the order to be delivered in a phased basis over coming weeks.

The total value of the contract is just over £60m. More at: bit.ly/2B2hS9S



Seek urgent medical care for stroke during pandemic



People are urged to seek urgent medical care if they experience any of the symptoms of stroke.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, stroke units have seen a slight reduction in the number of patients admitted with stroke.

The Public Health Agency has said that help is available for those who need medical attention throughout the pandemic. More: bit.ly/3ffiKqh

Stay Safe, Save Lives

Guidance posters for airports and ports

A range of posters for airports and ports to remind people to keep following social distancing and hand hygiene guidance are now available.

They also include information on booking a test, if anyone displays coronavirus symptoms. More at: bit.ly/2MPEa0Y



Share your views and experiences on shielding

Health Minister Robin Swann has urged everyone shielding due to COVID-19 to take part in a survey on their views and experiences.

The survey is open to all those advised to shield and to those supporting them. More at: bit.ly/2zs5lqi

Final edition - Subscribe to our eUpdate

We hope you've enjoyed this dedicated COVID-19 publication and found it a useful channel for information on how health and social care in Northern Ireland is dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

However, following feedback and, as HSC starts to move into a rebuilding phase, we've decided that the Factsheet is no longer required. This will be the last edition for now. We will review the need for future editions depending on how the pandemic continues in the weeks and months ahead.

The Health and Social Care Board will continue to publish COVID-19 information in its eUpdate. Subscribe at: bit.ly/2B5tCbi

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