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## DFI News Update

# 18 February 2021



Dear contact.firstname,

See below the latest news and updates from DFI.

Please circulate the [News Update sign up form](#) to anyone who wants to sign up.

## Latest News

### Health

See below the latest health news affecting people with disabilities and services from DFI, government, the HSE and more.

Important: As this information is live and updated regularly, we advise you to access it directly from these sites:

- [HPSC website](#)
- [HSE page with disability-specific resources](#)
- [Government COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [HSE HR Circular 2020 webpage](#)

These sites need to be checked regularly for updates.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The vaccination programme continues to be rolled out nationwide, and more than 240,000 vaccines have been administered.

Daily vaccination data is now available to all on the COVID-19 Data Hub and is on the COVID-19 Tracker App. The data is from 48 hours previously to allow for validation.

The next group (people aged 85 and over) in the COVID-19 vaccine programme will be invited by GPs from next Monday 15 February, bringing the vaccine programme firmly into the community. You'll find answers to your questions about the vaccination programme on [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccines](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccines)

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### **COVID-19 Vaccine Registration for frontline disability staff**

The COVID-19 vaccine registration portal is now available for frontline healthcare workers to register for their vaccine. This includes all frontline staff in disability services. [See our website for more details](#). Frontline healthcare workers who have not already registered for a vaccine are being asked to register their details using the online portal over the coming days. This includes frontline healthcare workers working in direct patient care in:

- HSE or HSE-funded organisations
- Private hospitals or clinics
- Community based not-for-profit and private healthcare providers not directly funded by the HSE.

Before you register, please read the Guidelines for sequencing and registration process for HCW COVID vaccination.pdf (size 803 KB). This will help you to identify which group you are in. Other healthcare workers will be invited to register when it is their turn - this includes management, administration and other non-patient/service user facing personnel.

Frontline healthcare workers can register here <http://www.hse.ie/hcwwaccine>.

### **COVID-19 vaccine information for people with sight loss**

Working with NCBI, information about COVID-19 vaccines for people with sight loss have been created in Braille, audio and large print. These have been distributed to NCBI members. The large print format is also [available on hse.ie](#).

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings are now mandatory in retail outlets, banks, credit unions and post offices, in taxis, in bus and rail stations, on public transport and for workers in customer facing roles in cafes, bars and restaurants. You can find the latest [information on face coverings here](#).

### **Ireland Reads**

As part of the Healthy Ireland 'Keep Well' campaign and following Slaintecare funding, the recently launched '[Ireland Reads](#)' campaign is about promoting the power of reading for enjoyment and wellbeing. More details can be found on [www.irelandreads.ie](http://www.irelandreads.ie).

Campaign resources available on <https://www.irelandreads.ie/#resources>  
Ireland Reads logo, imagery and illustrations by well-known illustrator Tara O'Brien are available to download at <https://wettransfer.com/downloads/6e05ba57819dedc661d368388bda8edc20210202213543/b55bee>

Ireland Reads promotional video is available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrdqudzgQds> and [can be downloaded here](#).

Follow Libraries Ireland on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) – use #IrelandReads or #SqueezeInARead

### **Where to find COVID-19 Vaccination Information**

We encourage everyone to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source – here are the links to the pages with information on the vaccine:

- Check [hse.ie/covid19vaccine](http://hse.ie/covid19vaccine) for information about the vaccine, information on this page is updated regularly

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- Find the vaccine information materials at [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials)
  - Details on getting the COVID-19 vaccine is updated regularly [here](#)
  - Read the [full COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Strategy](#)
  - Read the [National Immunisation Advisory Committee Chapter about COVID-19 vaccine](#)
  - [COVID-19 vaccine information for health professionals](#)

See [Guidance regarding Consent for COVID 19 Vaccination](#) linked for your attention [here](#) along with support documentation of

1. [The Consent Flow Chart](#)
2. [The Consent Flow Chart - Wards of Court](#)

### **Call for Nursing Rep - National Clinical Programme for Disability**

The National Clinical Programme are seeking to appoint a nurse representative from a DFI member organisation to sit on the Nursing Group of the National Clinical Programme for Disability. For more information on the governance structure of the Clinical Programme, and where the Nursing Group sits see [page 5 of the linked document](#). See also their [website](#).

The purpose of the nursing group is to:

1. To provide clinical and discipline-specific leadership, guidance and expert knowledge relevant to the needs of the Disability Advisory Group, DAG, and NCPPD.
2. To promote engagement and buy-in from professional nursing communities and colleges in relation to disability matters and aims of the NCPPD.
3. To promote cross-college, cross-programme and cross-discipline work relevant to achieving the aims of the NCPPD and addressing the needs of persons with disability.
4. To partake from time to time on specific task groups. Task Groups will be established to address specific issues and these will be comprised of DAG members, Profession-Specific Disability Committee members, and such other individuals as deemed necessary by the DAG to ensure an authoritative, comprehensive and multi-perspective approach to the specific task. These groups will be short-life working groups, with clearly specified ToRs, time-scales and outcomes. They will meet twice a month, or more often, in accordance with the ToR and urgency of the deliverable.

If there is a nurse in your organisation who would like to apply to be the DFI representative on this group, please get in touch with their name and a short bio (max 500 words) by Tuesday 23 February at 5:00pm. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Róna at [riamorris@disability-federation.ie](mailto:riamorris@disability-federation.ie).

### **HIQA- The Need for Regulatory Reform**

HIQA have produced a document on the [Need for Regulatory Reform](#). It

summarises HIQA reports and publications and presents a case for reforming the regulatory framework for social care services. The proposals have implications for all DFI members, whether or not you are currently regulated by HIQA. It includes a proposal to extend regulation to forms of care that are unregulated. It causes for a range of changes, including:

- Introduction of regulation into other forms of care that are currently unregulated and whose service users may be vulnerable.
- Development of a comprehensive, integrated social care policy that considers social care in its totality, alongside Sláintecare.
- Comprehensive review of current regulations for social care services in Ireland and the establishment of a regular review process.
- Reform of the Health Act 2007 to take account of the changing landscape in health and social care services.
- A framework that makes a clear distinction between the purchaser and provider of services, along with clear governance and accountability arrangements.

We would welcome the thoughts of our members on the proposals, both those currently regulated by HIQA and those not regulated. We will be feeding back our views on the document to HIQA. We also have three HIQA representatives on the HIQA Provider Forum who can represent our members' views. Please contact Catherine at [catherineharrington@disability-federation.ie](mailto:catherineharrington@disability-federation.ie) with any feedback.

## Housing

### **Requests for Nominations for Housing and Disability Steering Groups in Donegal, Leitrim, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Kildare**

The Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) assist in the delivery of the Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities, operating at Local Authority level. A number of HDSGs are seeking new representatives from disability organisations. We have had requests in from the Housing Agency for applicants for the following positions:

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council: Sensory Representative

Kildare County Council: Sensory Representative

Leitrim County Council: Sensory, Mental Health Representative

Donegal County Council: Physical, Sensory, Intellectual and Mental Health Representative

If you, or someone in your organisation, are based in any of these Local Authority areas and would be interested in applying for any of these positions, please contact [nicole.berkery@housingagency.ie](mailto:nicole.berkery@housingagency.ie), outlining your interest in, and experience working on, the issue of housing. It would be great if you could also cc [fleachtaphelan@disability-federation.ie](mailto:fleachtaphelan@disability-federation.ie), to keep us in the loop.

## Social Protection

### **Department of Social Protection seeks customer feedback**

The Department of Social Protection is conducting research amongst customers to gather feedback on some of the schemes it delivers, including Disability Allowance.

The aim is to:

- have a 30-40 minute virtual discussion with participants
- ask questions around services the department offers

- obtain feedback on some of the new website features the Department is working on.

If you or any of your members, service-users, or clients, wish to partake in this research, you can contact [kennis@deloitte.ie](mailto:kennis@deloitte.ie) with any questions or to register your interest. This could be a good opportunity to give the Department feedback on issues and problems that come up for people with disabilities. It would be great if you could also cc [fleachtaphelan@disability-federation.ie](mailto:fleachtaphelan@disability-federation.ie), to keep us in the loop.



## Upcoming Events

See our [calendar of activities, events and webinars](#) that our members are organising during COVID-19.

### DFI State Report Webinar

DFI will be holding a webinar on the state reporting process, and how civil society can participate in the process. This webinar will take place on the Thursday 25 February, from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Speakers will be Dr Meredith Raley of DFI and Julie Ahern of Children's Right's Alliance.

To register, please go here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2765CuGSSuCSopxA9vXzng](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2765CuGSSuCSopxA9vXzng) .

If you have any questions or require any accommodations, please email [meredithraleay@disability-federation.ie](mailto:meredithraleay@disability-federation.ie).

You can find the current UN CRPD draft state report here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/aa9a7-consultation-on-the-draft-initial-state-report-under-the-united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/>

### National Economic Social Council, NESc, Presentation and Update on Dialogue Forum

NESC will be giving a presentation to DFI members from 2:30pm-4:00pm on Tuesday 23 February on collaboration between the state and voluntary organisations during COVID-19. The presentation will be followed by a discussion. [Register via Eventbrite](#).

The NESc report was carried out to inform the work of the Dialogue Forum. As you are aware DFI is a member of the Dialogue Forum. This Forum was established to implement the recommendations of the Catherine Day Report. The Catherine Day report focused the relationship

between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector in relation to health services.

Progressing the work of this Forum has been challenging during the current COVID-19 crisis. Yet there have also been key learnings on how best to progress the recommendations of the Catherine Day Report. The presentation will outline some of these key learnings. Thank you to our members who responded to our survey during the summer and provided us with information to inform the NESC report.

The Voluntary Hospital Forum have recently completed significant research that greatly informs our engagement with the issues arising out of the Catherine Day report and we will be shortly be inviting you to a briefing on that too.

### **EU Vaccines Strategy Event**

The European Commission Representation in Ireland is organising an online event on the EU Vaccines Strategy in co-operation with European Movement Ireland.

Date: 23 February 2021

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am IST

Prior Registration via link is essential: <http://bit.ly/EMIECREvent23Feb21>

Speaker: John F. Ryan, Director for Public Health in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Moderator: Andy Klom, Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland

Format: John Ryan will present the EU Vaccines Strategy and then participate in a Q&A with the audience. Questions may be submitted, including in advance, to [events@europeanmovement.ie](mailto:events@europeanmovement.ie)

Further information on how to join the online event will be circulated to registered attendees the day before the event.

### **ALL Institute Virtual Seminar Series**

The ALL Institute are continuing their Virtual Seminar Series on Tuesday 2 March 2021. Held in association with the Lonsdale Institute, this seminar will focus on 'Public and Patient Involvement in Research' and will run from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. [See information flyer here.](#)

## **Funding Opportunities**



## COVID-19 Emergency Fund - 2nd Round Call for Applications

The Department of Rural and Community Development funds the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. The Department put in place the first round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund in April 2020 to provide grants to community groups involved in the Community Call response.

The Department is now launching the 2nd round of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. It will provide grants to groups to assist them:

- adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality<sup>[1]</sup>. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

The grants may also be provided to support groups (including those involved in the community call) with day to day running costs if needed.

It is intended that 30% of the funding allocated to each Local Authority area will be ring-fenced for grants of €1,000 or less.

This 2nd round has commenced in some areas, please check your Local Authority website for further details.

<sup>[1]</sup>This is consistent with an action assigned to our Department under the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19.

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