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## DFI News Update

# 21 January 2021



Dear contact.firstname,

See below the latest news and updates from DFI. For the latest news and resources on COVID-19 please also see our [website](#).

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 over 77,000 people have been given their first dose already.

The HSE encourages everyone in Ireland to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source – the HSE website on [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine) is a good place to start, and you can find the vaccine information materials at [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials)

Please find linked information [in English](#) and [in Irish](#) on the vaccine, which recently ran in national and regional print media. The HSE would be grateful

for your help in sharing this information with your members, staff and stakeholders.

Also linked again the [vaccine social media partner pack](#) and [images](#). We would be grateful for your help in sharing this information.

### **Video version of children's test centre guide**

Last month the HSE shared a link to the [updated illustrated guide for children](#) about going to a COVID-19 test centre. Now the guide has been turned into an animation so parents have an alternative way to share this with their children to help prepare them for a test. The video is embedded on the '[testing for children](#)' page on [hse.ie](#) and is also available on [YouTube](#).

### **Face coverings**

You can find [video resources on face coverings here](#) on the following topics:

- How to wear a face covering
- How to safely put on and remove a face covering
- How to safely put on and remove a facemask when required to wear one in a healthcare setting
- Face covering use while visiting a healthcare setting.

You can watch the HSE's [tv ad on face coverings here](#).

You can also find a number of face covering posters on the [COVID-19 posters and resources page](#) under the posters drop down menu.

### **COVID-19 Guidance on visits to Long Term Residential Care Facilities (LTRCFs)**

You can find the latest COVID-19 Guidance on visits to Long Term Residential Care Facilities (LTRCFs) [here](#).

### **Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Residential Care Facilities Webinar**

Friday, 15th January (12-1pm)

You can [register for the webinar here](#).

For telephone access, please use the following: Telephone: 01 526 0058  
Access code: 175 879 7250

### **COVID-19 Self-isolation and restricted movement leaflet – large print format**

You can find the large print format of the [COVID-19 Self-isolation and restricted movement leaflet here](#).

### **Keeping well this winter booklet – large print format**

You can find the large print format of the [Keeping well this winter booklet here](#).

### **Keeping well this winter booklet – Irish Sign Language (ISL)**

You can find the ISL videos of the *Keeping well this winter* booklet under the videos section of the [COVID-19 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communications Resources page](#).

### **Free Stress Control Programme**

HSE Health and Wellbeing are offering a free Stress Control programme to the public. Stress Control is an evidence-based programme that teaches you practical skills to deal with stress.

The programme helps participants recognise the signs of stress. It covers topics including how stress affects our bodies and our thoughts. It teaches skills to overcome negative feelings and tips to getting a good night's sleep.

skills to overcome panicky feelings and tips to getting a good night's sleep.

Dr Jim White will live-stream the classes, free-of-charge. You can watch the sessions either in the afternoon or evening.

This is a free programme and to participate simply visit [www.stresscontrol.ie](http://www.stresscontrol.ie)

## Call for Nominations

### **National Safeguarding Advisory Committee**

DFI is seeking nominations to be considered for the role of DFI Representative on the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, convened by Safeguarding Ireland.

Safeguarding Ireland was established to promote safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare. Terms of Reference of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, in support of Safeguarding Ireland are available [here](#).

The nominee should have a working knowledge of how the policy of Safeguarding is operationalised within an organisation, and be in a position to carry out full roles and obligations as outlined in the [DFI's Reps Protocol](#) which outline the obligations of being a DFI Representative.

This Advisory Committee meets a minimum of four times a year. If your organisation would like to put a person forward for consideration, or would like further information, please email Cathy McGrath [cathymcgrath@disability-federation.ie](mailto:cathymcgrath@disability-federation.ie) providing a short biography (max 500 words) by close of business on Wednesday 27 January.

### **HSE Digital and Assistive Technology Working Group**

The HSE is looking to recruit people with lived experience to their Digital and Assistive Technology, DAT, Working Group.

Please read further information [here](#).

Expressions of interest must be sent via email to [ncp.disability@hse.ie](mailto:ncp.disability@hse.ie) by Friday 5 February.

## Dying with Dignity Bill

The Dying with Dignity Bill 2020 is a proposed new law to make provision for assistance in achieving a dignified and peaceful end of life to qualifying persons. Following a publicised call for submissions for the Oireachtas Justice Committee, DFI is making a submission for the due date of Friday 29 January. We would welcome any thoughts and feedback you have to inform this submission. Please contact John Dolan at [johndolan@disability-federation.ie](mailto:johndolan@disability-federation.ie) by close of business Wednesday 27 January.

## Legal Advice Clinics for Children and Young People

Particularly during the pandemic, many people face incredible difficulty when it comes to advocating for their rights or the rights of their child. This year, Children's Rights Alliance will be partnering with [Eversheds Sutherland](#) law practice to ensure that additional support is accessible to families who may need it.

Their free legal advice clinics will be running in partnership with Eversheds Sutherland to support children and young people, parents and guardians. The new partnership is facilitated by [PILA](#), Public Interest Law Alliance, a project of

FLAC, Free Legal Advice Centres.

The service will formally be launched in a few weeks but in the meantime Children's Rights Alliance's helpline is open to children, young people and their families with any queries or concerns about children's rights.

Call:

01 902 0494

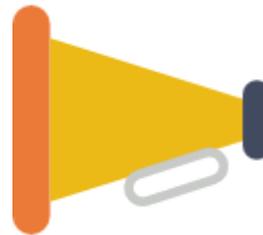
On:

Mondays 10:00am - 2:00pm

Wednesdays 2:00pm - 7:00pm

Fridays 10:00am - 12:00pm

## 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:

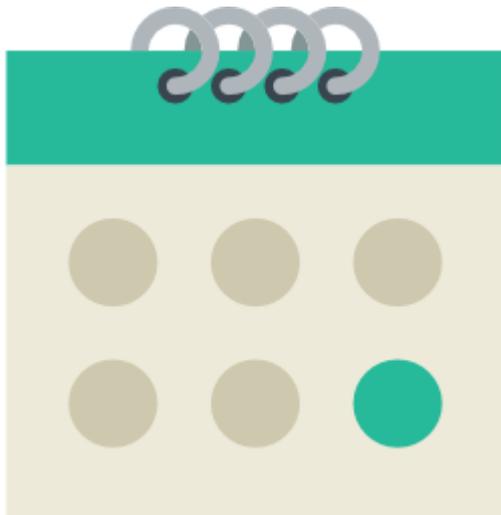
- adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality<sup>[1]</sup>. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- become more involved in the Government's '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.



## Upcoming Events

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

### **Centre for Disability Law and Policy, CDLP, Summer School 2021**

The 12th International Disability Law Summer School on '*Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport for People with Disabilities*' will take place over 5 weekly sessions between Monday 31 May and Friday 2 July. Each week will comprise of a pre-recorded session on Monday and live interactive sessions on Wednesday and Friday. Registration will open end of January. Regular updates will be available on CDLP's Facebook and Twitter.

### **Learn about the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN CRPD**

This information webinar presented by the Disabled Persons Coalition, DPO Coalition, will take place on Wednesday 27 January from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

Information will include:

- The Convention and what it means
- How you can engage in the Government's consultation on Ireland's Draft State Report
- The DPO Coalition's planned Shadow Report on Ireland's Draft

Initial State Report under the UN CRPD was published in December 2020 and is open for consultation until Wednesday 3 March 2021. The DPO Coalition is one of four funded Disability Participation and Consultation Network members who will be making a submission on the State's Draft Report. The DPO Coalition is also developing an independent report that 'shadows' the State's report and presents an alternative view of how the State has met its obligations under the Convention. At the webinar you will be informed about further webinars, community consultations and focus group discussions.

If you would like to register contact Independent Living Movement of Ireland, ILMI, at [info@ilmi.ie](mailto:info@ilmi.ie)

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