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**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

IPAS Newsletter

International Protection Accommodation Service

February 2022

**Dear Resident,**

Welcome to the February edition of the IPAS Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter highlights an updated HSE Partner Pack which includes great information regarding expert advice on Covid-19, a stress control programme and HSE exercise videos. Also included is an article from The Open Doors Initiative, and a message from the IPO regarding the IPO Questionnaires. We hope you enjoy our February edition.

Translations of this newsletter in Albanian, Arabic, French, Georgian, Somali and Urdu are available below.

Kind regards,

The IPAS Team

 Like (0)

COVID-19 Booster translated posters

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice

Please see attached posters from HSE regarding Covid-19 Booster doses.

The poster is attached below in English, and the following languages:

Albanian (SQI), click [here](#)

Arabic (ARE), click [here](#)

Czech (CSY), click [here](#)

Dari (DARI), click [here](#)

French (FRA), click [here](#)

Georgian (KAT), click [here](#)

Lithuanian (LTH), click [here](#)

Polish (PLK), click [here](#)

Romanian (ROM), click [here](#)

Slovak (SKY), click [here](#)

Somali (SML), click [here](#)

Tigrinya (Eritrea) (TGE), click [here](#)

Urdu (Pakistan)(URD), click [here](#)

BOOST YOUR PROTECTION

COVID-19 VACCINE
Public Health Advice

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are now being offered to everyone aged 16+

Without a booster dose you're more at risk of serious illness from COVID-19

To book an appointment or find a clinic near you, visit [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)

www.hse.ie/translations
 📞 1800 700 700
 📱 #ForUsAll

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

HSE Partner Pack - February 2022

Please click 'Read More' for further information on updates from HSE.



Dear All,

We hope this message finds you well.

Thank you for your continuing support in helping to share information about COVID-19. Our highlight communications updates for you this week are:

COVID-19 booster (4th) dose for people who are immunocompromised (have a weak immune system)

People who have a weak immune system, also called immunocompromised, can now get a booster (4th) dose. People in this group were offered an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine last year, and can now get a booster dose if it has been 3 months since their additional dose. If they had the Pfizer, AstraZenaca or Moderna vaccine, this booster will be their fourth vaccine dose. See below for information on how to get your booster dose.

You can find more information [here](#).

Treatment for people at the highest risk from COVID-19

A new medicine is available to treat people with COVID-19 (coronavirus) who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill. [Sotrovimab](#) is also known by the brand name Xevudy. It is the first type of COVID-19 medicine available in Ireland. You'll be told by your doctor or consultant if this medicine is for you. Other COVID-19 medicines are expected to become available soon.

You can find more information [here](#).

Most people will not need or benefit from these medicines. Most people can [treat the symptoms of COVID-19 at home](#).

The best way for most people to protect themselves from COVID-19 is to [get vaccinated and get a booster dose](#), when they can.

HSE information and expert advice on the COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds

COVID-19 vaccine registration remains open for children aged 5-11. A parent or legal guardian can register and give consent [here](#).

You can [hear the new HSE radio ad here](#).

HSE information and guidance aims to help parents and guardians of 5-11 year old children make an informed decision about COVID-19 vaccination.

- Read information and advice on the COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 year olds [here](#).
- Read the information leaflets for parents and guardians [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine booster

People aged 16 and older can get their COVID-19 vaccine booster dose now. This includes people who have a weak immune system. To book an appointment or find a clinic near you, visit [hse.ie](#).

You need to wait at least 3 months (90 days) after your vaccine course before you can get a booster dose. If you have had COVID-19 since you were vaccinated you should get your booster dose at least 3 months after your positive result.

Please bring photo ID that shows your date of birth to your appointment or walk-in clinic.

Vaccination clinics

We continue to operate clinics for dose 1 and dose 2 vaccinations (for people aged 12 years and over), and booster vaccine clinics for healthcare workers, pregnant women and for people over the age of 16. Find the full list of clinics by county [here](#). You can also check [@HSELive](#) on Twitter for daily updates.

All of our vaccination centres are offering online booking for booster appointments, which can be booked up to 5 days in advance. You can find more information [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing

Full details of [how to get tested are available here](#).

If you test positive for COVID-19

If you have a positive (detected) result on an antigen test or a PCR test you should [self-isolate \(stay in your room\)](#) for seven days. There is a high risk you could spread the virus to others.

Read information on antigen testing and what to do if you receive a positive result [here](#).

Read information on what to do if you receive a positive result on a PCR test [here](#).

Close contact of a person that tests positive for COVID-19

If you are a close contact of a person that tests positive for COVID-19, please find guidance [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

You can find the latest information on vaccines administered [here](#).

Vaccines are making a difference

Every COVID-19 vaccine makes a difference, helping to reduce the amount of severe illness caused by COVID-19. We thank everyone who has already had their COVID-19 vaccine. If you haven't registered yet, or someone in your network has yet to do so, they can:

- Check [hse.ie](#) for answers they can trust about the COVID-19 vaccines
- Talk to a pharmacist or GP – many are giving mRNA vaccines
- Call HSElive on 1800 700 700

or

- [Register online to get a COVID-19 vaccine.](#)

If you cannot register online, you can [call the COVID-19 helpline](#) at Freephone: 1800 700 700 to register by phone.

COVID-19 information in other languages

Visit [hse.ie/translations](#) for a range of COVID-19 vaccine information videos and other resources that have been produced in other languages, including information on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy.

The [#LayerUp posters](#) which outline guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities are available in a range of languages.

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 [here](#) for information about the vaccine, information on this page is updated regularly
- Find the vaccine information materials at [hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials](#)

- Details on COVID-19 vaccines administered are available [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](#)
- Information in Irish Sign Language: information resources on the COVID-19 vaccines in Irish Sign Language are available [here](#)
- COVID-19 vaccines easy read and accessible information formats are available [here](#)
- Translated resources are available [here](#)

Public Health Measures

You can [find information on public health measures here](#).

Applications are now being invited by the HSE for National Lottery Funding Grants

This funding is distributed by the HSE each year to community-based groups and voluntary organisations under the Respite Care Grant Scheme and the National Lottery Grant Scheme. Groups and organisations involved in the provision of Health and Personal Social Services can apply for once-off funding of between €500 and €10,000 for suitable projects.

[Click here for more information including the application form.](#)

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd March 2022. Applicants will be advised as to the outcome of their application by 8th July 2022.

Free flu vaccine for all at-risk groups

It's flu season and while anyone can catch the flu, some people are more at risk of catching the flu, getting seriously ill or needing hospital treatment. The HSE encourages all at-risk groups to make an appointment with their GP or Pharmacist for their free flu vaccine. People at risk include those aged 50 or over, children aged 2 to 17, people with certain long term conditions, pregnant women and healthcare workers. It's the best way to be protected from the flu. Find a [participating pharmacy](#).

Stress control programme

The Stress control programme is starting on February 7th and will teach you skills to fight stress and boost your wellbeing. This is a free programme and to participate simply visit www.stresscontrol.ie

HSE exercise videos

Exercise is a great way of staying physically and mentally healthy. Even a small amount of activity can improve how you feel.

[HSE exercise videos are available here](#), and are led by qualified exercise instructors. They are suitable for most people and are designed for beginners.

Consultation on the draft National Standards for Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) 2022 is now open until 18th February 2022

The guidelines are for people working in healthcare. This includes healthcare workers, management and support staff. They are also relevant to people using healthcare services (these sections are highlighted in the text).

The draft document has 360 pages, so for practical reasons it is fine to limit feedback to areas in which you take a particular interest or have particular expertise.

[Information on how to submit feedback is available here.](#)

[Read the Draft National Standards for Infection and Prevention Control \(IPC\) 2022 here.](#)

These guidelines will be a practical support to IPC practitioners and others in their work to control healthcare associated infection. Your feedback will be invaluable in helping to ensure that the document fulfils its intended purpose.

The Active Disability Services Awards

The Active Disability Services Awards have been developed to recognise and reward Disability Services throughout Ireland who have shown leadership and commitment to helping people with disabilities stay active and healthy. The awards will highlight the commitment of staff, management, and individuals with disabilities as well as highlighting the programmes which have a focus on encouraging and supporting service users to participate in physical activity and healthy practices.

The closing date for entries is Friday, 25th February 2022.

You can find information on the awards [here](#).

Public Health Information

For updated information and advice on Coronavirus, please go to: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> and <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>. Clinical and professional guidance relating to COVID-19 is available on www.hpsc.ie where you'll find up to date guidance for healthcare settings and non-clinical settings.

Please check [here](#) for the most up to date partner resources for COVID-19.

You can find translated resources [here](#).

You can find the [COVID-19 A-Z information here](#) from the HSE's Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).

Please also check the Healthy Ireland site [here](#) with further resources and information on the Keep Well campaign.

You can view the latest information on how Ireland is responding to cases of COVID-19 [here](#). Ireland's COVID-19 Data Hub is [available here](#).

If your organisation has any requests in relation to COVID-19 public health information materials, please reply directly to this email to let us know.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Kahlil and Sandra

COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement, HSE Communications

The Open Doors Initiative

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



The Open Doors Initiative

We are a group of over 100 companies and NGOs, who work with government to create pathways to employment for marginalised people. These can be internships, scholarships, training courses, aiding entrepreneurs or full/part time employment, from a range of backgrounds and abilities. These can be developed out on a bespoke basis with organisations to include specific projects. The people we work with include refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, people with disabilities and disadvantaged youth (including those from a traveller background, LGBTQ+, ex-offenders and so on).

We offer online training, mentorships, assisted learning, seminars, inhouse training for existing employees on a range of subjects and can assist with funding for training courses you run. We have ongoing meet ups with other companies and supporting partners who are working to create diversity and inclusion within their organisations.

More details are available on our website here: www.opendoorsinitiative.ie

Some of the ways we work:

Internships – We work with individual companies to put long term paid internships (6 months – one year) in place which greatly support people in their search for employment and benefits the company through a more diverse workforce, lateral and creative thinking and by supporting existing employees who are proud to work in such an inclusive environment. We bring learnings from other companies in designing these, who have already put such schemes in place and are happy to share their experience.

Mentoring - We have launched a mentoring programme with all the company employees, in which we train all the mentors and mentees in what to expect and how best to develop a relationship which leads to employment for the mentee. We have a framework document setting out all questions and aids required which we will share with the mentors, ensuring that they are well equipped to undertake this role. We have trained over 100 mentors to date and the equivalent in mentees to date, particularly in working with vulnerable people. They were paired off according to skill sets. The training was funded by Positive2Work Skills set. A third round is due to start in January.

We also have assisted learning with the many courses on our website:

<https://www.opendoorsinitiative.ie/training-courses-and-supports> whereby people can support a student online in choosing and successfully completing a course which will lead them to employment opportunities.

Bespoke programmes – We have a number of sector specific programmes that we are working on, including research, employment preparation, soft skills, accreditation and others which we design in conjunction with the organisation to meet their, and the participants needs.

Current Projects

The Open Community

takes refugee families from Syria and other places of extreme need and resettles them here in Ireland, within a community of allies. We have been asked to develop the support relationships through Cairde – the Allies Network, with business, sport, the religious, and other community groups. We are looking for business and academic partners to support this work.

Afghan LGBT+ refugees

We are currently working with Amnesty Ireland and the Irish Government to assist in the resettling of 25 Afghan refugees and help them into education and work. They arrived four weeks ago and we have been helping with supports and will assist in the long-term engagement.

Employers for Change Service

The Taoiseach and Sinead Burke launched Employers for Change - the new Employers Disability Information Service in March. This service aims to make employers more confident in hiring people with disabilities and retaining them in the workplace and offers advice and supports including information about available grants www.employersforchange.ie. There has been excellent uptake of this offering.

Migrant Hub

We are building a hub for all material related to migrant employment in conjunction with Supporting partners and other NGOs in the area. This will feed into the work with Cairde and align with what is being done on the Employers Disability Information Service. We are looking for funding to develop this further.

Skillsbase

Volunteer hub to directly connect professional volunteers with NGOs on a needs basis. In talks with Volunteer Ireland and Chambers Ireland on how this can be utilised.

Remote Working Centre

An Crann, David Stanton TD and local businesses are all involved, along with ODI. Have sourced 60% funding in partnership with AIB and Cork City Chamber. This work meets the Tánaiste's proposals around remote working, with a focus on people with disabilities and others who need remote working resources.

Computers for Direct Provision

We are working with a range of migrant groups to collect 900 computers for people in Direct Provision who are in education or looking for work. Several companies have already contributed.

Jobs board additions

We are featuring a Jobs board on the website, advertising internships, jobs and other relevant positions direct to marginalised groups. Interest from participants has been very strong. All companies are encouraged to send positions to us. We have participants trained up to Doctorate level, so all positions are applicable, including grad roles. The wording of the spec should be aimed at encouraging marginalised people to also apply, which we can help with.

<https://www.opendoorsinitiative.ie/positions-apprenticeships-and-internships>

Training, Supports, Offerings

- We created five internships with IAPI in creative advertising followed by three month placements in advertising agencies. Out of this group, three people got jobs. We are extending this in January to 15 people. We are expanding this to media, with a view to having scholarships to encourage diversity in this sector. We are talking to RTE, Virgin Media, The Irish Times and the Journal about trained apprenticeships, provided by Solas, one of our Supporting Partners. We work with our partners to create internships within their companies, focusing on marginalised groups, to give them experience and pathways to future employment.
- Training – we are continuing to run regular online seminars on various topics with our partners. Uptake has been very good and there are requests already in for more seminars this year
- A scholarship on the public relations course is being offered to a person from a marginalised background - this ties in with the possible Journalism placements with TUD and national media
- We funded an Entrepreneurs training module with TUD for people with disabilities. We aim to do similar with Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Submissions and research

- Written and Oral Submission to the Joint Committee on Key Issues Affecting the Traveller Community – 80% are unemployed currently.
- Research into barriers and Supports for bringing marginalised people into the workforce by Prof Thomas Cooney, TU Dublin which was launched by the Tánaiste in September.
- We were requested to input to the Dept of Further and Higher education three-year strategy by Sec Gen Jim Breslin. A submission has gone in looking at helping more diverse students to gain access to education leading to employment.
- Positive to Work has funded research with Open Doors and Employers for Change on the impact of remote working on people with disabilities during the Covid19 pandemic. This will be launched on 10th November 2021.
- We are working with IT Sligo on research which will provide a gold standard toolkit to inclusive recruitment practices for marginalised groups.
- We are currently looking to carry out research with Foroige/EY/Bank of America into the barriers to employment for disadvantaged youth and their disengagement with supports, with a view to offering required supports and to work with Government on how to put these into place. This will possibly lead to a hub for supports for this cohort, similar to Employers for Change and the Migrant Hub.

If you require any further detail, please do not hesitate to contact us and we would be happy to talk through other ideas and projects that are possible.

Best wishes,

Jeanne McDonagh
CEO - The Open Doors Initiative
 info@opendoorsinitiative.ie

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to any questions you may have about COVID-19.
 Click on 'read more' for more information.



What COVID-19 vaccines being offered in Ireland?

There are three vaccines currently being offered in Ireland. The Janssen (J&J) vaccine is expected soon. They are:

Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine

Information leaflet about the COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech, Comirnaty) in [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Georgian](#), [Kurdish Sorani](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Urdu](#), [Yoruba](#)

Moderna vaccine

Information leaflet about the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) in [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Georgian](#), [Kurdish Sorani](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Urdu](#), [Yoruba](#)

AstraZeneca vaccine

Currently the AstraZeneca vaccine is only being offered to those between 60-70 years.

Information and aftercare about the COVID-19 vaccine (Astrazeneca) in [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Georgian](#), [Kurdish Sorani](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Urdu](#), [Yoruba](#)

All the vaccines in use in Ireland have gone through very close testing and review by the European Medicines Agency to make sure they are safe and they work.

You can find translated information and aftercare booklets for the vaccines being used in Ireland [here](#)

Is there anyone who shouldn't get COVID-19 vaccines?

There are very few people who are advised not to get the vaccine. These are people who have had a severe allergic reaction to this vaccine or parts of this vaccine in the past. The healthcare worker will make sure the vaccine is suitable for you before giving it

Do Covid-19 vaccines work?

All of the COVID-19 vaccines that are used in Ireland are extremely effective at preventing death and hospitalisation. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine lower the risk of COVID-19 by around 95% after two doses. The Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine lowers the risk by around 82% after two doses. All of the vaccines have reduced the risk of severe COVID-19/hospitalisation by **100%**

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

All of the Covid-19 vaccines used in Ireland are safe. All vaccines used in the Republic of Ireland must be approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The EMA only approves vaccines once they are satisfied that they are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines that are used in Ireland and approved by the EMA must still go through the same safety and effectiveness assessments that all other vaccines and medicines go through before they are approved.

When can I get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine is being offered first to people aged 70 years and older, healthcare workers, and people under 65 with serious medical conditions. Then, people will be offered the vaccine based on their age – from 70 years old downwards.

People who live and work in crowded settings will also be offered the vaccine. The HSE, your Centre Manager or your GP will let you know when it's your turn to get the vaccine.

Do I have to get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

It is your choice whether to get it or not. You will be asked by the person who gives you the vaccine if you consent to get the vaccine. Ask the person vaccinating you any questions you might have.

Could I still get COVID-19 even though I have had the vaccine?

All the COVID-19 vaccines being used in Ireland are very effective. There's a small chance you might still get COVID-19 even if you have been vaccinated. But even if you do become infected, the vaccine will protect you from the serious illness the virus can sometimes cause.

Do I need the vaccine if I've had COVID-19 already?

Yes you should still get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect you against infection.

Can the vaccine give you COVID-19?

The vaccines being used in Ireland do not contain any of the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

After I get the COVID-19 vaccine, can I stop wearing my mask?

Unfortunately no! There is still a small chance you might get COVID-19 after you have had the vaccine. There is also a chance that you might spread COVID-19, even if you don't get sick yourself. That is why it is so important to continue to wash your hands, keep your distance and wear a face covering.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe in pregnancy and for breastfeeding mothers?

If you are pregnant you can get COVID-19 vaccines. All the information we have at the moment tells us that if you get COVID-19 vaccine during your pregnancy there will be no effect on your baby. Your GP, midwife or obstetrician can give you more information. Make sure the person giving you the vaccine knows you are pregnant. This is because the vaccines should be given between 14-33 weeks of pregnancy. The vaccines are also safe if you are breastfeeding

Getting the vaccine will stop you becoming very unwell from COVID-19.

Do the COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility?

There is no evidence that any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use in Ireland will affect your fertility.

Are there any side effects from COVID-19 vaccines?

Like all medicines, vaccines can have side effects. The side effects are mostly mild or moderate and include things like having a sore arm or itching in the part where the injection was given, feeling tired, feeling sick, swollen lymph glands in the arm where the vaccine was given, body chills or feeling like you have a fever. Some people don't get any side effects at all. More rarely, people experience sleeplessness, or temporary weakness in their face muscles. The side effects from a COVID-19 vaccine are similar to the side effects that you can get from other vaccines. We know that serious side effects from vaccines, like an allergic reaction, are extremely rare. You can find out more details on side effects in the translated vaccine booklets [here](#)

Where can I go to get reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccine that I can trust?

There is lots of information on-line and in the media about COVID-19 vaccines. It is important that the information you get is reliable information from experts in healthcare. The [HSE website](#) has lots of information about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccines.

This information has been prepared by vaccine experts who work in Ireland, and is based on the most up-to-date research. You can also call HSELive on 1850 24 1850.

You can also find translated information, including videos on the COVID-19 Vaccine and vaccine booklets, in more languages here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-vaccine-materials/covid-19-vaccine-translated-materials/>

We will continue to keep you updated in the coming weeks ahead, and provide you with further information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Whilst there is hope on the horizon with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, we need you to keep up your efforts to protect yourself and your family by following public health advice and ensuring social distancing, hand hygiene and mask wearing is followed.

Regularisation Scheme

International protection applicants, who have been waiting for a decision for 2 years or more, can apply for this new scheme.

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



**An Oifig um Chosaint
Idirnáisiúnta**
International Protection
Office

Regularisation Scheme

17December 2021

As you may be aware, Minister McEntee recently announced a once in a generation scheme to regularise long term undocumented migrants and their dependents living in the State.

As part of her announcement, the Minister also outlined a separate strand which will include a parallel process to implement the recommendation included in the report of the Expert Advisory Group, led by Dr Catherine Day, to allow international protection applicants who have an outstanding application and have been in the asylum process for a minimum of 2 years to apply.

This international protection strand will be a separate application process to the long term undocumented scheme and will be processed by the Ministerial team in the International Protection Office. I want to reassure you that you do not need to take any action at this time. Our aim is to write to our eligible applicants in early 2022 to outline the terms of the scheme and provide details on how they can opt to apply.

Further information will be made available on this website in January 2022, including details on the terms, criteria and application process for this strand, along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, which I hope you will find helpful.

For those of you who will be celebrating Christmas, I wish you a Nollaig Shona Daoibh – a very Happy Christmas.

Thank you.

David Delaney

Chief International Protection Office

Notice from the International Protection Office

The IPO Questionnaire is now available to complete online

Please click 'Read More' for further information in relation to completing your IPO Questionnaire online.



**An Oifig um Chosaint
Idirnáisiúnta**
International Protection
Office

Notice from the International Protection Office (IPO)

The IPO Questionnaire is now available to complete online.

You can complete your questionnaire electronically in English, French or Arabic. Please send completed questionnaires to Questionnaire@ipo.gov.ie

Questionnaires must be completed and returned to the IPO as soon as possible (within 20 working days)

Click QR Code here:



Please notify the IPO if you change address or legal representative. You can do this by emailing info@ipo.gov.ie or by going to the website www.ipo.gov.ie and return by post the change of address form.

The International Protection Office (IPO) November 2021.

Help the IPO to help you

Asylum Seekers and driving licences in Ireland

Asylum Seekers can now apply for a driving licence or a learner permit in Ireland

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



The Department of Transport has announced that asylum seekers can now apply for a driving licence or a learner permit in Ireland. The Department of Transport said that this ruling gives the legal certainty to allow access for asylum seekers to be introduced now, ahead of legislation.

It said that Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan now intends to introduce a Committee Stage amendment to the Road Traffic and Roads Bill to ensure that any person who is legally entitled to reside in the State can apply for a driving licence.

This will put the Government's policy on a statutory basis and provide clarity and legal certainty for applicants and the Road Safety Authority (RSA), the department said.

In a statement, Minister Ryan said: "In the Programme for Government we gave a commitment to making it possible for asylum seekers to access the driving licence system. The courts have now made a ruling that international protection applicants meet the residency requirements to apply for a licence."

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD said the Government has committed to improving conditions for people living in direct provision as it works to end that system, adding that "allowing people to apply for driving licences is another element of that".

By removing the barrier to accessing driving licences, we are giving people an option to travel that many of us take for granted, whether that is going to college or work, meeting up with friends or bringing children to school. This is a positive step forward, that will help people to live independent lives and better integrate into their communities," he said.

Irish Health Service Poster

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



[About the Irish Health Service poster with QR codes in 15 languages](#)

'**About the Irish health service- a guide for refugees and other migrants**' is now available in [poster](#) [[About the Irish Health Service poster with QR codes in 15 languages](#)]format with QR codes. The QR codes can be scanned by a smart phone, which bring you to the booklet 'About the Irish Health Service'. There are 15 QR codes on the poster, one for each language (English, Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Farsi, French, Georgian, Kurdish, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Somali, Spanish, Urdu).

The booklets can also be downloaded [here](#)

The guide was developed by the National Social Inclusion office with social inclusion colleagues in response to an identified need for clear and accessible information on Irish Health services and how to use these effectively.

The guide has received NALA Plain English approval and is in three parts;

- Part 1 gives information on how to access different types of health care, the services that are free and how the GP, Pharmacy and hospital systems work.
- Part 2 gives information about specialist services (dental treatments, eye tests, hearing aids, vaccinations) and some of the staff you may meet in the health system.
- Part 3 advises what to do in an emergency.

About the Irish Health Service

Part 1 gives information on how to access different types of health care, the services that are free and how the GP, Pharmacy and hospital systems work.

Part 2 gives information about specialist services (dental treatments, eye tests, hearing aids, vaccinations) and some of the staff you may meet in the health system.

Part 3 advises what to do in an emergency.



<p>About the Irish health system A guide for refugees and other migrants</p>	<p>Rreth sistemit shëndetësor irlandez Një udhëzues për refugjatët dhe migrantët e tjerë</p>	<p>حول نظام الرعاية الصحية الأيرلندي دليل اللاجئين والمهاجرين الآخرين</p>
<p>За ирландската здравна система Ръководство за бежанци и други мигранти</p>	<p>درباره سیستم بهداشتی ایرلند یک راهنمای پناهندگان و بقیه مهاجران</p>	<p>À propos du système de santé irlandais Guide pour les réfugiés et les migrants</p>
<p>ახლანდელი ჯანდაცვის სისტემის შესახებ საბუღალტრო მითითებები საქართველოს მთავრობის განცხადებით</p>	<p>دەربارەی سیستمی تندرۆستی ئێرلەندی زینەریک بز پەنجەران و کۆچەرانێ ئێر</p>	<p>د آیرلیندی روغتیاي سیستم په اړه د مهاجرینو او نورو ګډوالو لپاره لارښود</p>
<p>Irländzki system opieki zdrowotnej Poradnik dla uchodźców i migrantów</p>	<p>Sobre o sistema de saúde irlandês Um guia para refugiados e outros migrantes</p>	<p>Informații referitoare la sistemul de sănătate irlandez Ghid pentru refugiați și alți migranți</p>
<p>Wax ku saabsan siistemka caafimaadka Irishka Hagaha qaxootiga iyo muhaajirinta kale</p>	<p>El sistema sanitario irlandés Guía para refugiados y otros migrantes</p>	<p>آرش نظام صحت کے متعلق پناه گزینوں اور دیگر مہاجرین کی گائیڈ</p>

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IPAS Internal Restructuring

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



IPAS restructured in 2021 to meet the needs of our residents. We now have a number of dedicated teams (please see a summary below) working to ensure we provide you with the service you require.

The **Intake and Reception team** are responsible for your period in quarantine and in Baleskin

The **Residents Movement team** will designate your accommodation centre and will also deal with requests for transfers and additional space.

The **Customer Service team** will deal with you queries via the IPAS help-desk. This team is also responsible for the IPAS consultative clinics and the IPAS newsletter.

The **Centre Management and Oversight team** will ensure the correct procedures are implemented in the centres and that the centres are run in a manner which promote respect and dignity. This team will also conduct unannounced inspections of centres to check on standards.

The **Resident Welfare team** are trained to identify residents who need additional mental health supports. This team will offer and conduct vulnerability assessments to help identify those with needs and put a support programme in place for these residents.

The **Transition team** will support those residents who have been successful with the International Protection application, to move out of IPAS accommodation and into their own homes.

The **Business Management and Pandemic Response Team** are responsible for business management and the co-ordination of the IPAS Covid-19 pandemic response.

The **IPAS Transparency Team** manage all information provision in respect of Oireachtas business and Ministerial correspondence.

All these teams can be contacted via the IPAS helpdesk at ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie

Immigrant Council of Ireland - Community Navigators project

Supporting victims of gender based violence

Please click on 'Read More' for further information on the Community Navigators Project to view leaflet.



In September of this year the Immigrant Council of Ireland launched a new initiative called Community Navigators. The aim is to provide information and advice to migrant women victims of domestic violence, to bridge the gap between victims and the available supports, which may not be readily accessible due to lack of awareness or cultural barriers.


Six migrant women, based in different counties throughout Ireland, have received training to support migrant victims of domestic abuse. They will conduct outreach activities within their communities and will act as the first point of contact for migrant women who are victims of domestic abuse.


Funded in part by the Community Foundation of Ireland, the initiative will also be supported by the Immigrant Council's legal team, providing specialised supports in areas such as immigration permissions and family reunification, where required.

In addition to providing one-on-one advice to victims, the navigators will also be raising awareness among migrant communities about legal and immigration rights for people experiencing domestic and other forms of gender-based violence including human trafficking and labour and sexual exploitation which significantly affect migrant communities.

One of the Navigators offering support specific to women living in Direct Provision. And we Immigration Council of Ireland like to reach out to residents to communicate about the project and the support available to them.

Please see below leaflet below and the click the following link to the project's webpage: [Community Navigators | Immigrant Council of Ireland](#)



 **Immigrant Council of Ireland** **Community Navigators**
Free, confidential one-on-one info & advice for migrant women living in Direct Provision and experiencing domestic violence

Community navigators are trained to provide info to victims of domestic violence

Community navigators can:

- Provide information on where to find support, connecting victims with mainstream public services;
- Provide information on where to find legal, psychological and domestic violence support services in Ireland;
- Refer to the Immigrant Council legal team for legal advice on immigration rights and permissions including escaping human trafficking, family reunification, etc.



Contact us by email: navigator1@immigrantcouncil.ie



Dignity Partnership

Dignity Partnership Flyer attached



Dignity Partnership
Restoring Dignity, Connecting Communities

Are you looking to upskill, reskill or develop a business idea?

Dignity Partnership provides self-employment and personal development support services to international protection applicants and refugees, supporting members to succeed through the power of their own ideas.

Benefits of our services:

- Learn, improve and share core business and entrepreneurial skills
- Receive information on business courses and self-employment support services
- Network with Irish businesses and connect with local communities
- Have a platform to market your skills or business

CONTACT US
Email: dignitypartners@gmail.com
Phone: +353 89 254 6155

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Helpline

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Ireland offers a confidential helpline for residents and can provide independent advice and support. You can contact JRS on Freephone 1800 929 008.



The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Ireland offers a confidential helpline for residents and can provide independent advice and support. JRS provide access to translators when required.

Freephone: 1800 929 008

Hours of Service

- Monday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
- Tuesday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
- Wednesday: Voicemail Service
- Thursday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
- Friday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

The helpline is open four days a week. It has been designed to complement and support existing services offered by statutory agencies, non-governmental organisations and civil society.

The helpline will:

- Provide information and advice about the Irish Protection Process
- Support access to local supports and statutory services
- Follow up on queries and concerns about living conditions
- Seek solutions to issues and challenges faced by residents

Newsletter Translations

To view this Newsletter in Albanian, Arabic, French, Georgian, Somali or Urdu please click [read more](#).



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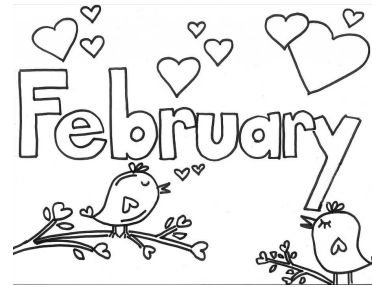
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Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you. Have you got a story for our next issue? If you do, please get in touch with us at: ipasnewsletter@equality.gov.ie

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