

Test Email - Web Version



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

IPAS Newsletter

International Protection Accommodation Service

July 2022

**Dear Resident,**

Welcome to the July edition of the IPAS Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter includes an important article from International Protection Office (IPO) regarding the IPO Undocumented Scheme (closing date for which is 7th August 2022), updated information from HSE and a piece dedicated to Pride month. Included are also links to the new and updated IPAS website, where you will find all the information you require in relation to all things IPAS.

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

Kind regards,

The IPAS Team

**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.

IPO Undocumented Scheme - Notice from the International Protection Office

Please note that the international protection strand of the Regularisation Scheme for Long-Term Undocumented Migrants will close **at 23.59 on Sunday, 7th August, 2022.**



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

Please click 'Read More' for further information.

International Protection Regularisation Scheme closes to applications on 7th August, 2022

Please note that the international protection strand of the Regularisation Scheme for Long-Term Undocumented Migrants will close **at 23.59 on Sunday, 7th August, 2022.** Only on-line applications received by that point will be considered under the terms of the Scheme.

This will bring the six month application period, announced by the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D., on 7th February, 2022, to a close.

This **final reminder** is aimed at international protection applicants, including IPAS residents, who take the view that they may come within the scope of the Scheme. It is hoped that such persons will avail of this

one-off opportunity to secure their position in the State.

As previously indicated, the Scheme has an on-line application process. Application forms, which can be downloaded from the International Protection Office's (IPO's)

Website at www.ipo.gov.ie/en/ipo/pages/whatsnew, must be submitted by email to IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie

To be eligible under the international protection strand of the Scheme, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- They must be a current applicant for international protection in the State;
- They must be in the international protection application process for **at least two years immediately prior to 7th February, 2022**;
- They must meet acceptable standards regarding character and conduct and must not pose a threat to the State. Having convictions for minor offences will not, by itself, result in disqualification under the Scheme.

Successful Scheme applicants will be granted a stamp 4 based immigration permission that allows for unrestricted access to the Irish labour market. All such periods of permission will count as reckonable for the purposes of pursuing Irish citizenship by way of naturalisation.

Further details regarding the Scheme's qualifying criteria, the documentation required to support an application and how to apply is available on the IPO's website at www.ipo.gov.ie/en/ipo/pages/whatsnew.

Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the IPO Website at www.ipo.gov.ie/en/ipo/pages/whatsnew.

They are available in the following languages:

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Albanian](#)

[Arabic](#)

[Georgian](#)

[Urdu](#)

Updated 25th July, 2022

HSE Partner Pack

Please click on 'Read More' for further information. The information in this partner pack comes directly from HSE.



Thank you for taking the time to read the below information about important health service updates and COVID-19. Our highlight communications updates for you this month are:

Health Service Updates

HSE urges more people to get their COVID-19 vaccine or booster

HSE is urging anyone aged 65 or older and anyone with a weak immune system to get their second COVID-19 vaccine booster. Without it, you're more at risk of serious illness if you get COVID-19. This is particularly important given the recent increase in the numbers

of confirmed cases. To arrange an appointment, contact a participating pharmacy or GP, or book at [HSE.ie](https://hse.ie). You can also call the team in HSE Live on 1800 700 700.

COVID-19 leaflet to support people with a weak immune system

We have published an information leaflet on *Living with COVID-19 if you have a weak immune system*, which is available to download in [English](#) and [Irish](#). Some people may have a weak immune system because they have a health condition or are getting treatment for a health condition. This information is very important for anyone with a weak immune system.

#KeepUpToDate campaign

The National Immunisation Office (NIO) has launched #KeepUpToDate, a campaign to encourage parents and guardians to keep up to date with those all-important first vaccines for your baby. Information on the campaign [is available here](#).

Recent [HPSC reports](#) tell us that the 95% needed to achieve community immunity is not being reached, so we want to highlight these all-important vaccines to avoid outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

The campaign will run over the next four weeks and will share information and tips for parents across the NIO social channels. There will also be a spotlight on Health Care Worker resources.

Follow the #KeepUpToDate campaign on [NIO Twitter](#) and [NIO Instagram](#)

My Health My Language

A new video series called "[My Health, My Language](#)" aims to give migrants and international protection applicants information on healthcare in Ireland. Presented, by healthcare workers working in Ireland, in their native language the videos cover 11 health topics in 17 languages. More languages will follow with the official launch of the series on Monday.

Health service information for Ukrainian nationals

- Updated mental health supports information is [here](#)
- Disability services information is [here](#)
- Healthcare services information is [here](#)
- COVID-19 information is [here](#)
- COVID-19 vaccination [video](#), Dr Oksana Kozdoba, a Pediatrician from Ukraine, shares information about the vaccination programme in Ireland. She covers the vaccines offered in Ireland to protect babies, school children and adults.

COVID-19 Updates

If you have a weak immune system

People aged 12 years and older who have a weak immune system previously had one additional dose of vaccine, and were also offered a first booster dose earlier in 2022. The HSE is issuing SMS reminders to people in this group as their second boosters become due. Clinicians will also be identifying people who have become immunocompromised recently to be added to this group.

For more information on specific conditions or treatments, please find details [here](#).

People aged 65 years and over reminded to get second COVID-19 booster vaccine

The HSE is reminding all those aged 65 years and over that they can avail of their second COVID-19 booster vaccine. Those with a weak immune system aged 12 and over can also get their second booster, when it is due.

Those who are now due their second COVID-19 booster vaccine can:

- [Book online now for appointments at HSE vaccination centres](#)
- Participating GPs will be in contact to offer appointments
- Check with your local Pharmacy
- Ring HSELive at 1800 700 700 and book an appointment
- Visit [HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie) for more information

This second booster will give you the best protection from serious illness caused by COVID-19.

Interval between first and second booster

If you are 65 or over or 12 years and older with a weak immune system, you should get your second booster at least 4 months (at least 120 days) after your first booster. You can check the date of your last booster on your digital COVID-19 certificate.

If you have had COVID-19 in the last 4 months

You should get your second booster dose at least 4 months after your positive test result or when your symptoms started

Going to the vaccination centre

Please bring a photo ID with you. Examples of ID include passport, driver's licence, Garda age card, student/school ID etc. but if your ID does not include your date of birth, please bring proof of your date of birth (e.g. your birth cert).

What vaccine will I get?

If you are 30 years or older you will be offered a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID 19 vaccine at the HSE vaccination centres, GPs and Pharmacies. If you are 29 years or younger we will offer you a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine. These are mRNA vaccines. NIAC has recommended people are given an mRNA vaccine for this second booster dose, and it is safe to receive if you previously had a different vaccine.

If you have not had your first booster yet

Everyone aged 12 and over can still get their first booster, and are invited to come forward and book an appointment at a HSE vaccination centre. You can find more information [here](#).

Video explaining second booster

You can [watch this video](#) with Dr Eimear Hayes, Senior Medical Officer from the HSE National Immunisation Office. In the video Dr Hayes answers questions about the second booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 12 and older who have a weak immune system and those aged 65 and older, and explains their recommended COVID-19 vaccination course. Information about the recommended vaccine schedule for COVID-19 is available from the [National Immunisation Office Website](#).

Stay safe

COVID-19 is still with us. These are important things that we can all keep doing to help reduce infection:

- isolate if you are symptomatic (even if you are fully vaccinated and boosted) or if you are diagnosed with COVID-19
- complete your [primary and booster programme of vaccination](#)
- continue to [manage risk](#) for yourself and others who are more vulnerable. You can do this by wearing masks, physical distancing and avoiding crowds as well as maintaining basic hand and respiratory hygiene

Treatment for people at the highest risk from COVID-19

Medicines are available to treat people with COVID-19 (coronavirus) who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill.

You can find more information about treatments and higher risk groups [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years

If your child is aged 5 to 11 you can book their COVID-19 vaccine appointment [online](#) at a time and date that suits you. The vaccine will help to protect them and the rest of the family too. The World Health Organization has advised that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe for children of this age. Visit [hse.ie](#) for information or to book an appointment.

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

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

COVID-19 Testing

Full details of [are available here](#).

COVID-19 information in other languages

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

Information videos on COVID-19 vaccination for parents of children aged 5-11 are available [here](#).

Animated videos for children about COVID-19 vaccination

Animated videos for children are now available in English, Irish, Irish Sign Language and 11 other languages. The videos are intended as resources for parents, guardians or care workers to use to talk about the child's COVID-19 vaccine and the process of being vaccinated with them.

The videos are also available in Arabic, Czech, Dari, French, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Urdu, and Yoruba and you can see all of the videos [here](#).

Funding Opportunity

Tobacco Free Campus – Quality Improvement Bursary

The Tobacco Free Ireland Programme has launched a Quality Improvement Bursary for 2022/2023. Any Section 38 organisation, Section 39 organisation or HSE service could be awarded up to €5,000 for improvements in Tobacco Free Campus (TFC) policy implementation. The deadline for applications is Thursday 30 June 2022. You can find [more information 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 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).

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 & Sandra
COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement, HSE Communications

LGBTQ+ Pride

Please click 'Read More' for further information.



As June was Pride Month, IPAS asked Centre Managers to let us know what they have been doing to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride during the month of June. It is very important that all cultural events and celebrations are marked in our centres.

This can be as simple as displaying posters and pride flags right through to holding events in the centre. Simple acts like displaying Pride flags can have a hugely positive impact on LGBTI+ residents in our accommodation centres.

Below are some replies we received from some of our centres.

Moat Lodge, Lucan, Co. Dublin

On Thursday the 30th of June we held our 1st Mid Summer Pride Barbecue inviting all residents and friends in our community. Our DJ chose a fitting compilation of Summer themed music along with 2 recent songs from each of our 15 different nationalities represented in Moat Lodge. Liam the Head Chef surprised everyone with a super spread and the party soon got into full flow. Our household is all adults so we did not have to cater for children's entertainment but singing and dancing soon took over. It was a great opportunity to relax and have a laugh and a joke in a completely different environment.



The Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre, Co. Wexford

We put up a post on our Facebook page (please see below) where all our new, old, and present residents can keep updated with what events go on in our centre and the local community.



Friends of the Centre Rosslare

Posted by Clement Banda

2 Jun · 🌐



A space to be yourself!!

RHAC joins the rest of the country and the world in celebrating pride month.

Home to beautiful people from all over the world, Rhac is a safe haven for people who have fled their countries because of their sexual orientation, providing them with a space to feel at home, and be themselves without being mocked or judged.

Happy Pride Month!!

[#Pride](#) [#pridemonth](#) [#pridemonth2022](#)
[#homeofbeautifulpeople](#) [#RHAC](#)



Temple Accommodation Centre, Co. Westmeath

We have this imagery (below) displayed at the reception area, clearly visible for all residents and visitors to see promoting diversity and inclusion.



International Day of Friendship

Happening on July 30th 2022.

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



International Day of Friendship is a day committed to diversity, inclusion, and appreciation

Friendship is a bond between people that connects them and lets them share each other's feelings and thoughts.

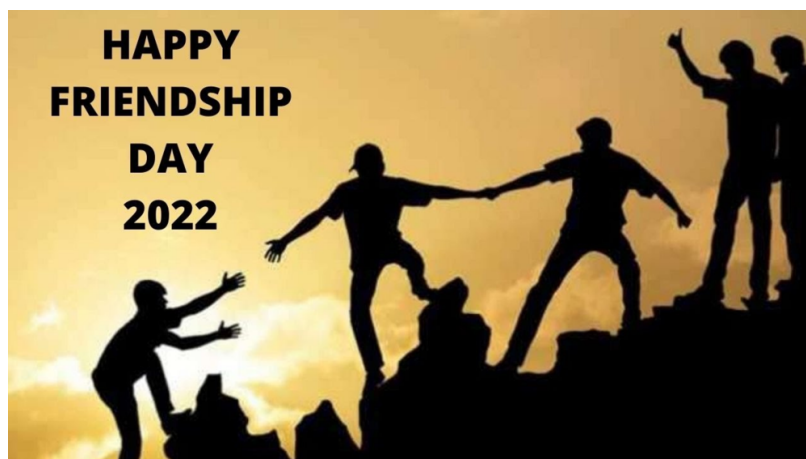
Friendship is a basic tool to make the world prosperous and peaceful. The meaning of friendship is different for everyone and the bond of friendship varies. Good friends are good for your health they celebrate good times with you and provide support during bad times.

Inclusively is a huge part of the day. International Day of Friendship aims to include any and all, and embrace others that may appear different than us.

Take this moment to be spontaneous with a kind note, or perhaps even heading out to lunch with friends to touch base as a way to celebrate. Most of us connect with people day in and day out, and we cannot think of a better way to commune than to be around those we see most often as a means to observe this day.

HOW TO CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIP DAY

1. Meet a friend for lunch, dinner or a coffee
2. Attend a community cultural celebration
3. Send a greeting card to a friend you haven't seen in a while



IPAS Clinics

Regular IPAS visits to centres



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Due to the gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions, IPAS has begun resuming visits to centres countrywide.

IPAS have been organising consultation clinics in various centres. The purpose of these clinics is to meet with residents and discuss with them on a one-to-one basis any issues of concern about services provided to them in their centre.

Conversations can be treated in confidence if the resident wishes.

The IPAS Customer Service team plan to visit each centre at least twice per year to meet with residents and see how they are finding life in the centre, have conversations and take on board any issues or concerns they may have.

These clinics will give us all the opportunity to meet each other face to face, increase understanding and hopefully assist in the positive resolution of any outstanding issues within the centres. Your centre manager will notify you of the date for your consultation clinic.

We look forward to meeting with you shortly!

New IPAS Website

The updated IPAS website is now live, please click for more information.



The new updated IPAS website is now live! The website explains what IPAS is responsible for and also includes many useful links such as House Rules and Procedures, Education, Guides to Living Independently, and Transfer Requests among others.

IPAS would love for this new website to be a useful tool for residents as well as the general public. We would love to hear from residents as to what information they would like to see on an IPAS website that isn't there already. You can contact IPAS in relation to this at ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie

The website can be accessed by all via the following links:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d9f43-international-protection-accommodation-services-ipas/>

www.gov.ie/ipas

www.gov.ie/IPAS

Dignity Partnership

Dignity Partnership Flyer attached



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.



To view this Newsletter in Albanian please click [here](#)

To view this Newsletter in Arabic please click [here](#)

To view this Newsletter in French please click [here](#)

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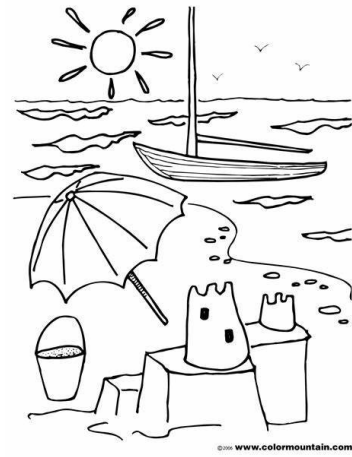
Kids Zone - Colouring

You can print this page and colour the image with your friends. We hope you enjoy!



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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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