

## Test Email - Web Version



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

## IPAS Newsletter

International Protection Accommodation Service

December 2021



## Dear Resident,

Welcome to the December edition of the IPAS Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter highlights an important message from the IPO regarding the IPO Questionnaires and a message from IPAS regarding a Covid-19 Protocol Reminder. Included are also articles and photographs from some of our centres around the country, who are sharing their 'Highlights of the Year' which are all certainly an interesting and enjoyable read! We hope you enjoy our December edition.

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

Kind regards,

The IPAS Team

👍 Like (0)

## 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.**

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## 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

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ipo.gov.ie) or by going to the website [www.ipo.gov.ie](http://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

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## Covid-19 Protocol Reminder

Please click 'Read More' for message from IPAS in relation to Covid-19 Protocol.



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

### Covid-19 Protocol Reminder

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Residents,

Thank you for all your efforts to keep each other safe so far during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We would like to kindly remind you of the importance of continuing to take the necessary precautions, especially now, considering the indications of increased transmission of the new Omicron variant.

Where possible, we ask residents to ensure they adhere to social distancing and wear masks whilst in all common areas. For centres that have a lift, we ask only one family use the lift at a time.

Your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated to ensure the safety of all residents on site.

With thanks,

International Protection Accommodation Services

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## Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission - “Employing International Protection Applicants”

New IHREC guidance for employers entitled “Employing International Protection Applicants”

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta  
an Duine agus Comhionannas  
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission launched last week on International Human Rights Day (10/12/2021) their new IHREC guidance for employers entitled “Employing International Protection Applicants”.

Please click on the link below for further information:

<https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/Employing-International-Protection-Applicants-Employer-Guide-10122021-F.pdf>

Fundamentally the Commission is asking employers across Ireland to use the significant skills, experience and qualifications of people seeking asylum in Ireland to build and grow their businesses.

This new Commission guidance is backed by Ibec and ICTU, and provides clear accessible information on employing international protection applicants – people seeking asylum.

## 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.

## Mosney - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



Please see below by Sarah, Director at Mosney Village:

### Pride of Place Awards 2021

On Friday 29th October 2021, Mosney Village was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Large Housing Estate category of the Meath Pride of Place Awards 2021. Mosney Village entered a substantial submission in May of 2021 to Meath County Council documenting the attention to detail that is given to the maintenance and care of the grounds, the carefully chosen shrubbery, planning of seasonal and annual planting, large range of indoor and outdoor facilities which are carefully maintained and the promotion of Biodiversity and Pollination throughout the village.

The award is testament to all the hard work and commitment of the staff members and management of Mosney Village in their day to day work and dedication to the village and its residents. Mosney Village was also honoured to receive the award for 'Best New Group' and to collect a Special Recognition Award for Mr Karma Lama in the category of 'Best Bee Friendly Front Garden'

Well done to all at Mosney Village!



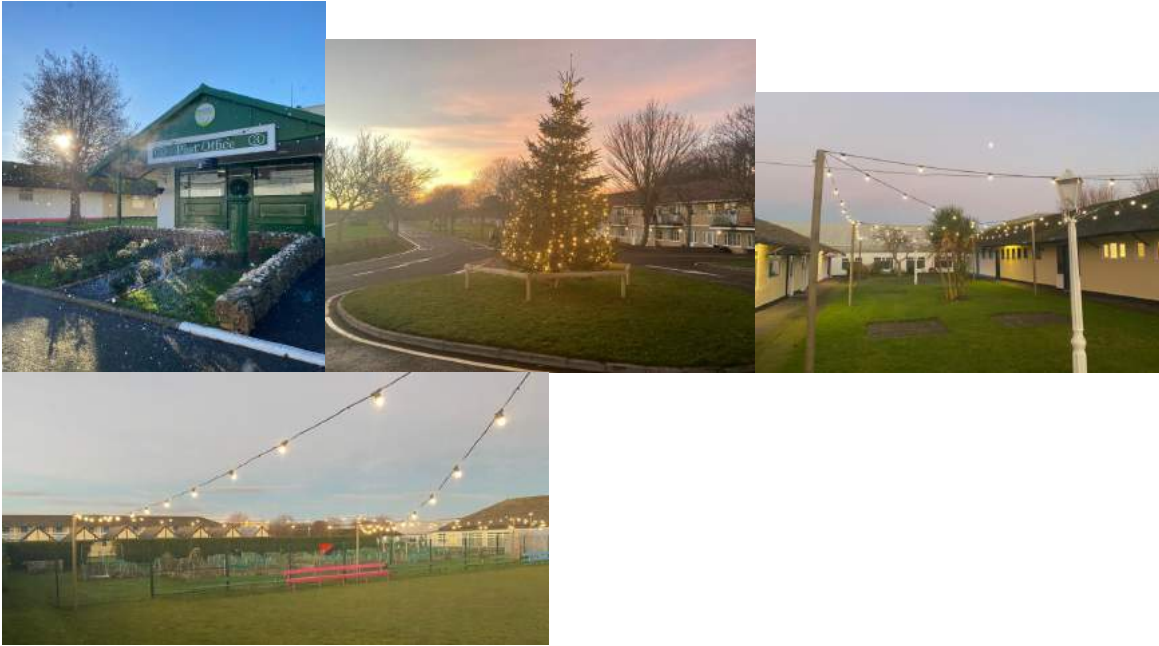
**Minister O'Gorman visits Mosney.**

We were delighted to welcome Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD to Mosney Village on Monday 13 December. Minister O'Gorman was given a tour of the full facilities and services at Mosney Village including the Medical Reception, Food Hall, LMETB Adult Education Quarter, Function Rooms, Gym, Pre School, IT Centre, Beauty Salon and Training Kitchen as well as viewing sample accommodation and meeting with residents. Please see photographs below.



**Christmas at Mosney.**

Christmas is in full sparkle at Mosney Village with a 20ft real Christmas Tree adorning the main avenue complete with LED icicle lights. Mosney Village's Elves are busy packing gifts in the Mosney Village Foróige Club where they are piled high for the boys and Girls. Next door, Mosney Village's Post Office has become a sorting office of special letters and parcels arriving daily for the residents. As Christmas chance would have it, snow is falling outside for added excitement! Garlands of lights line the street and a canopy of lights adorn the Foróige Garden and Tranquillity Garden. 10ft Christmas Trees are carefully placed throughout the Village from the Reception, Food Hall, Garden Room, Leisure Room, Adult Education Quarter right through to the Mabuhay Pre School. Festive Foods are stocked in the Food Hall to cater for the multicultural residents and their family traditions at this time of year. All in all, its beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Mosney Village!



## Ocean View, Tramore - Highlights of the Year

Please click 'Read More' for more information.



Lots of fun events were held at Ocean View House this year! Please read on for more details, as written by staff at Ocean View...

### Festival in a Van

'Festival in a Van' in collaboration with Garter Lane Arts Centre visited Ocean View over the summer. There were live music and poetry gigs from brilliant artists. We followed this concert with lots of fun on the bouncy castle and some tasty treats!





#### Just Grow- Garden Workshop in with Foroige

We were so lucky to work with Foroige throughout the year to develop our very own vegetable and herb garden at Ocean View complete with mud kitchens. We had weekly workshops and worked in the garden from seed to harvest. We had a number of trips to the beach to collect seaweed to help fertilise our soil too, the children had lots of fun doing this. We had lots vegetables including tasty strawberries, carrots and cabbage. We are currently enjoying the brussels sprouts!



#### Bricks4Kidz- Science Week 2021 Activity in collaboration with Calmast

Bricks 4 Kidz visited Ocean View to do a workshop for Science week 2021. The children had so much fun making their Lego creations.





## The Lodge, Co. Meath - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.



Article below by Vera, Centre Manager at The Lodge, Co. Meath:

Boys at the Lodge, Navan were awarded with medals for playing against the local Garda soccer team arranged by Meath partnership. A great day was had by all!



The young man below (Byron) living at The Lodge, Navan was picked through school by Meath Partnership to attend a 3 day cycling skills and safety course. At the end of the course he was gifted a new bicycle and accessories to go with it. Well done Byron!



To mark National Playday, Meath Partnership supplied families at the Lodge, Navan with DIY Kite Kits. Each family designed and made their own kites and were invited to show off kites at Kells Community School. A great day was had by all!



## Athlone Accommodation Centre - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.



Below article submitted by Breda, Centre Manager of Athlone Accommodation Centre:

### Forest Experience

Here in Athlone AC – we ran the “Forest experience” for children up to 12 years old. It was an amazing success where the children went to the Portlick Forest & the experienced forester Rory showed the children all things of nature, the natural environment & back to basics – how to set up a camp, light a fire safely, toast marshmallows, embrace & enjoy the outdoors. They discussed wildlife and the animals who live there, the environment & how to care for it. It also included kindness, diversity & sharing with each other. It was such a success we also ran an autumn forest experience. This will become a twice yearly event going forward.

# The Forest Experience



25 children - Seven Saturdays  
in the woods - trees and mud  
and water  
There are no words for it!

## Outdoor areas in Athlone AC

As a result of Covid-19 we have upgraded our facilities here in Athlone AC. We have focused on the outdoor facility so all Residents can avail of outdoor activities in a safe environment – plenty of space & fresh air!

1. Outdoor Adult gym facility now installed with six pieces of exercise equipment now in place for all adults over 18 years old to use.
2. Children playground installed with new swings, slides, climbing frames now in place for all the children to enjoy. This play area has been installed on soft tarmac to ensure safety for children.
3. Second outdoor BBQ area built this year for Resident use – this again gives more space to the Residents and facilitates families to use the space, seating & cooking areas for all of them to enjoy.



Lastly but not least – it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! ..... our very own talented Alan has made us an amazing team of Reindeers for Santa .....



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## Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.



Articles below written by Paul, Centre Manager, Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre.

### **Healthy Eating Graduation**

Five of our residents graduated with flying colours after completing a Healthy Eating course in October at Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre.

Describing the course as enriching, the women were taught how to cook for children and other events using Irish ingredients.

A lot of gratitude goes to Chef Angela who dedicated her time in sharing Irish cooking knowledge.

The course was also set up to connect immigrants with Irish culture through food.



### **Kilmore Quay Sunset Trip**

Residents of the Rosslare Accommodation Harbour Centre experienced a touch of gold from the sun after going on a Sunset trip at Kilmore Quay.

Enjoying the speed boats, the residents got a chance to see the amazing Saltee Island, seabirds and hundreds of seals that call the Killmore Quay home.

Residents were also treated to a meal at a local Irish Pub after the cruise at the village well known for preserving the culture of thatching.

This breath of fresh air trip was made possible by the RHAC, Wexford Local Development and local fishermen men of Kilmore Quay.



**Halloween Party**

Residents of Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre (RHAC) coloured the centre white and orange with flour and pumpkins as they competed for a brand new watch gift set at this year's Halloween celebrations.

Games and dressing up uplifted the mood as children and adults came together to play games such as Mummy Wrap, Pin the Tail on the Cat, what time is it Mrs Witch, Treasure Hunt, Musical Statues and many more.

New to many immigrants, residents of the centre enjoyed celebrating Halloween celebrations, with children wishing everyday was Halloween.

Many thanks go out to Niamh and Zoe of the centre who ensured the Halloween party was a success.



**Universal language of football brings Rosslare community together**

Please click on the link below to read an article from The Wexford People that features residents of Rosslare Harbour Accommodation Centre

[Universal language of football brings Rosslare community together - Independent.ie](#)

**Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre - Highlights of the Year**

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



### Pumpkin Decorating Competition

Each year in the run-up to Halloween, there is a Pumpkin Decorating Competition for children living in Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre. The Competition is a great favourite at this time of year. The colourful pumpkins, arrived embellished with carvings, paints and decorations galore and this year's entries were displayed in the dining hall for all to see, during the special Halloween 'Trick or Treat' Lunch. The Judge had a difficult time deciding on a winner as the standard was so high.



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### Moat Lodge, Co. Dublin - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



#### Below piece submitted by Vinny, Centre Manager at Moat Lodge:

Every Christmas and birthday is a celebration at Moat Lodge. We ensure that each guest receives a special present on Christmas day. Last year through our interaction with the Gardai and local community we had a special additional treat. Local school children made Christmas cards for our residents and the community surprised us with gift sets and hats and scarves for everyone residing here delivered by the Gardai. This community and staff goodwill helps build an understanding and relationship between staff, residents and our community. Residents are our guests and we are happy to look after them as best we can.



On birthdays we play traditional music from their country of origin and normally it ends up with some dancing and singing. We try to provide traditional foods for these occasions. Our Head Chef Liam always makes a birthday cake and decorates the room while the staff set up the music and provide light drinks. We all love the interaction and the atmosphere is fun.



### Cornerpark Lodge, Dublin - Hightlight of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.



Below written by Paul, Centre Manager at Cornerpark Lodge:

In December 2021 we had a 'Baby Announcement' party here at the centre in Cornerpark Lodge. The residents and staff all had a fantastic time and there was great excitement for the day. Its a boy - Congratulations to Mum & Dad!





## Story of Resident from Rathmore Holiday Village

Article by Miriam Dudashvili

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.



The below article was written by Miriam Dudashvili, Rathmore Holiday Village:

Good afternoon, I would like to tell you a little story about myself. I am an ambassador of Places of Sanctuary Ireland from 2019. I came to Ireland in 2019 with my husband and two teenage children. Our family has been in Ireland for over two years. Our family had to leave our home country, where we lost everything, and we all experienced tremendous stress. We needed to switch to something that would make us forget a little everything that happened to us.

Until recently, we lived in Gorey, in Emergency Direct Provision. There, we were visited by representatives of Wexford Local Development and Places of Sanctuary in Ireland. These groups helped form a Sanctuary Ambassadors Group for asylum seekers and refugees from all over County Wexford. Anyone who had a desire could join and become a member of the group. Together we learnt about how society and politics works in Ireland, and how to advocate and speak in public. The group has now expanded to include people from many other counties.

I was invited to become one of the members of the group and I gladly agreed. For me this role was a great opportunity to integrate into a new society and start a new life here in Ireland. I got a lot of experience communicating with people from different countries, sharing my experience, making many friends and useful connections, and finally helping others, I began to feel more confident and I had new opportunities, plans and new ideas. In June 2020 I was one of six people from the group selected to represent them before the Oireachtas members this resulted in a strong and positive report published in newspapers Gorey Guardian and Wexford People and everyone present was impressed. <https://ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/2020/07/14/wexford-sanctuary-ambassadors-make-history>

I went on to represent our group at Gorey District Council, before the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commissioners, and in a special sitting with Senator Malcolm Byrne and Gorey Council District Manager. When lockdown began, I realised there would be a large demand for face masks and, as a skilled seamstress, I began to sew some by hand for distribution among the residents. I trained my friend, a resident, to make face masks and during the early months of the pandemic, we made and gave away over 4,000 facemasks. Indeed one of these masks was worn and mentioned in the Oireachtas by Senator Malcolm Byrne. As the Pandemic & lockdowns continued I too continued to make face masks and have encouraged my friends sewing skills in the Centre as well to include a large variety of crafts, clothing and household goods. In October 2020, the Gorey Town Council offered to me an opportunity to display some of our wares in an exhibition centre, Sanctuary Space, on Gorey Main Street. These achievements were illustrated on the front page of a magazine - Changing Ireland (pictured below). <https://ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/2020/12/22/sanctuary-space-opened-in-gorey-main-street-for-2-days>

My daughter is also an active member of Places of Sanctuary Ireland and Sanctuary Ambassadors. She overcame many difficulties her including language barriers, completed her Leaving Certificate successfully. Finally she won a Sanctuary Scholarship for Trinity College Dublin; her goal is to be a doctor. We are very grateful for the help that Creagh College gave to her and to other asylum seeking young people; this school is a great example of a School of Sanctuary.



Sanctuary Ambassadors are refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who work together to build bridges of understanding across Irish society. The voice and views of Sanctuary Ambassadors is very important for schools, universities, decision makers, and areas of society wanting to strengthen integration and community cohesion.

<https://ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/>

I am proud to be a member of this group. Now my family has been transferred to County Wicklow. My group and I have already begun to plan to expand to this area and I hope the schools and County Wicklow will also become one of the Places of Sanctuary in Ireland.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped my family in difficult times for us. We hope we will be able to contribute more and more to building a fair and just society in this wonderful country, Ireland, which we now feel is our home.



## Exchequer Accommodation Centre - Highlights of the Year

Please click 'Read More' for further information.



Please see below by Mark, Centre Manager at Exchequer Accommodation Centre:

We held a Food Cultural Event (Expo) on the 26th September and a Halloween Party Celebration on the 31st October also.

Residents loved these events and the Staff really enjoyed preparing the food for them. Please see some photos below.



### Alverno House - 'Home is Mama'

Please click 'Read More' for further information.



Please see below article written by Martin, Centre Manager at Alverno House, Co. Meath:

### HOME IS MAMA

According to official stats, there are 2 billion mothers in the world. Here at the Alverno House in Laytown, County Meath, we have twenty seven souls under the one roof, constantly yearning for, and missing their respective Mothers from the African and Middle-east continents. It is a common lament from the mouths of sons and daughters missing their Mammy's.

Thankfully, there is a surrogate Mother-in-house. Her names is Margaret. She is the Managers Mother. That's me. Known only to all simply as either "Mama" or "Mommy," Margaret is the heart of the centre.

The Mother is a critical role in the family, which is a powerful force for social cohesion and integration. A mother is not just a noun. As a verb, to mother can mean many things: to love, to teach, to provide, to heal, to listen, to sacrifice, to inspire. The list goes on.

In most Arab countries, Mother's Day is celebrated on March 21st. Egypt is the first Arab nation to publicly acknowledge Mother's Day. In Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Yaum ul-umm, is modelled after Western Mothers' Day and is marked by celebrations and feasts.

In Greek mythology Mother is Gaia. Gaia is the Earth that holds us all. She has no nationality or race. She is Mother.

With a new year brings the same painful yearning for most of our guests to see their Mothers again. But thankfully, a little lady from Cavan has helped fill that void for now. And that has made a world of difference.

Home is where Mother is. And one day soon, they will see her again, In sha'Allah.

Photographed below are two residents of Alverno House ,Stanley from Nigeria and Amir from Palestine, with Margaret O'Donoghue.Margaret has been the proprietor of the Alverno House since 1992.



### Port Road Apartments, Letterkenny - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



Below submitted by Jason, Centre Manager at Port Road Apartments:

Please find below our activities bulletin for the Port Road Apartments and some photographs. Karen Durning is the Assistant Manager and Activities Co-Ordinator at Port Road Apartments, Karen was instrumental in co-ordinating with our Friends of The Centre contacts in making all the below happen.

#### Activities highlights at Port Road Apartments 2021

- During the Summer Donegal Youth Service 'Our Generation' programme in partnership with cooperation Ireland provided a 4 week circus skills programme for children aged 6-12 years in order to welcome them to Letterkenny. See the corresponding news article below.

the Leader | July 2021 Page 67

*The craic was mighty at Letterkenney Town Park during a Circus Skills Programme run by Donegal Youth Service (DYS) to welcome a group of 6- to 12-year-old newcomers to Donegal.*



## DYS Circus Skills Programme offers a big welcome to young Donegal newcomers

**It took every ounce of effort for twenty-one youngsters to contain their excitement as they sat wriggling on the stone wall at Letterkenney Town Park, waiting for a man in a blue bowler hat to speak.**

"Who's ready?" the man finally asked. "Give me a 'Yeah' if you're ready!" "YEAHHHHHHH!" the youngsters yelled back.

And so began their latest session learning circus skills and generally having the craic with Michael Johnston and other staff from the Derry-based In Your Space Circus School.

The session was one of six organised by Donegal Youth Service (DYS) for six to 12-year-old residents of the new Bridgestock Apartments Direct Provision Centre in Letterkenney as part of the PEACE-IV Our Generation Project.

Generation Project, which aims to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in local communities across the island of Ireland.

"Part of the overall strategy of Donegal Youth Service over the years has been to work with young people who are new to the area," said Frankie McGreevy, DYS Youth Worker. "Given that history, linking in with the new Direct Provision Centre is a natural for us. Young people who arrive from overseas are automatically in need of a welcome because of their age and being in a new place. We decided that a Circus Skills Programme would be a fun, inter-

while at the same time giving them a chance to get to know each other."

As part of the programme each child was given a bag of circus equipment to learn how to use, including juggling balls, spinning plates, flower sticks, and diabolo.

"The aim was to teach them how to use all these pieces of equipment at a basic level," Michael Johnston said. "They can then keep on practising at home and with their friends. We have also incorporated games and other fun activities into the programme, including learning how to walk on a tight wire."



*A participant in the DYS Circus Skills Programme demonstrating her newfound ability to spin a plate on a stick.*

- Many of our residents have signed up with the local tidy towns committee and participate regularly in a community litter pick every Sunday. See pictures below. Many of our residents also volunteer in SVP working in their shop.



- MACE in collaboration with CYPsy provided a weeklong summer camp for all children living in the centre. This funding was secured through SEUPB. Children 0-6 attended Park School of Early Learning, children 6-12 attended L and children 12-18 attended Foroige. These camps ran throughout July & August with over 120 attendees from our centre.
- LYIT provided a sports and games summer camp for all children ages 4-12 that occurred over the space of 6 weeks (1 day per week).
- Foroige provides a cycling for all teenagers throughout the brighter months. Please see below photo of the bike club in progress.



- Dance classes. Throughout the Summer we had fortnightly dance classes available on site for all children. It was a much-loved activity, and we look forward to running them again in the warmer months ahead, please see photograph of tutor and participants below.



- We had two family trips over the Summer. One trip was to Rathmullan Beach locally where families had a great day in August enjoying the sunshine and enjoyed the play park. We also had a trip to Lurgybrack open farm in July.
- Many of our female residents took part in the 'Shaping ourselves and our children' programme which was run by Lifestart Services. See below some of the families that participated.



- We ran several art competitions for the children, all participants received a prize, it was great fun and many children got involved, please see below pictures of the drawings from the children.



- Donegal Youth Service are currently running Youthscape programme for children aged 14+. This is a peace programme with an emphasis on good relations, personal development, and citizenship.
- Donegal Youth Service provided a Fit for Life programme, they done different activities throughout but focused on football. They also provided trips to Sligo Fishing Club and Tayto Park for teenagers.
- Donegal Local Development Company provided a job club for residents focusing on CVS and interviews.

- Donegal Sports Partnership lead a "walking for mindfulness" programme for residents
- Donegal County Library provided a sensory show for babies.

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## 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.

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**About the Irish health system**  
A guide for refugees and other migrants




**Rreth sistemit shëndetësor irlandez**  
Një udhëzues për refugjatët dhe migrantët e tjerë




**حول نظام الرعاية الصحية الأيرلندي**  
دليل اللاجئين والمهاجرين الآخرين




**За ирландската здравна система**  
Ръководство за бежанци и други мигранти




**درباره سیستم بهداشتی ایرلند**  
یک راهنمای پناهندگان و بقیه مهاجران




**À propos du système de santé irlandais**  
Guide pour les réfugiés et les migrants.




**ფრანგული ენაზე**  
სახელმძღვანელო იმის შესახებ




**درباره سیستمی تندرستی ایرلندی**  
راهنمای پناهندگان و دیگر مهاجران و کوچمندان




**د ایرلیندی روغتیا سیستم په اړه**  
د مهاجرینو او نورو کډوالو لپاره لارښود




**Irlandzki system opieki zdrowotnej**  
Poradnik dla uchodźców i migrantów




**Sobre o sistema de saúde irlandês**  
Um guia para refugiados e outros migrantes




**Informații referitoare la sistemul de sănătate irlandez**  
Ghid pentru refugiați și alți migranți




**Wax ku saabsan sistemka caafimaadka Irishka**  
Hagaha qaxootiga iyo muhaajirinta kale




**El sistema sanitario irlandés**  
Guía para refugiados y otros migrantes





**آرش نظام صحت کے متعلق**  
پناہ گزینوں اور دیگر مهاجرین کی گائیڈ



National Social Inclusion Office  
Health Service Executive  
www.hsesocialinclusion.ie

 **#myhealthmylanguage**

## 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 six teams (please see details 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, who have been successful with the International Protection application, to move out of IPAS accommodation and into their own homes.

All these teams can be contacted via the IPAS helpdesk at [ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie](mailto:ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie)

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## Happy Holidays from IPAS

Please click on 'Read More' for further information.



Go raibh maith agaibh / Thank you to all IPAS residents, centre managers and staff for all your cooperation in what has been another very challenging year.

The continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic along with unprecedented demands for IPAS accommodation provided us all with a challenging year where both flexibility and understanding was required.

The IPAS team sincerely appreciate your flexibility and understanding in 2021 and please be aware that we are committed to making the experience of all our residents as pleasant and as positive as possible.

With the IPAS clinics and inspections back in operation we are now getting the opportunities to meet as many residents and centre managers as possible and these meetings give us the chance for greater understandings and to all work together for the mutual benefit of all. Looking forward to meeting you in 2022.

We wish all our residents, centre management and staff a Happy Christmas and Happy Holiday and a Healthy and prosperous New Year.

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## 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 Immigrant 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 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](mailto:navigator1@immigrantcouncil.ie)



### 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

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## 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](#)

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

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

To view this Newsletter in Urdu 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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## Kids Zone - Colouring

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



## 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.

In recent weeks IPAS has organised 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!

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### Message regarding face masks and hand sanitizer

Please click on 'Read More' for a message from IPPS (International Protection Procurement Service) in relation to residents being supplied with face masks.



Dear residents,

Thank you for your cooperation in minimising the spread of Covid-19.

All residents aged 13 and over will receive three new reusable masks in the next few weeks. HSE advice on face coverings for children under the age of 13 is as follows:

- Face coverings are not recommended for children under the age of 13 unless they are in secondary school
- Some children under 13 may choose to wear one. They may also be asked to wear one when attending a hospital clinic or GP surgery.

IPPS (International Protection Procurement Service) encourages residents to adhere to HSE advice as well as laws regarding wearing a face covering, regular hand washing and social distancing. Further advice can be found on the HSE website. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/>

Kind regards,  
International Protection Procurement Service

# How to use Face Coverings



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR HANDS BEFORE **AND** AFTER WEARING A FACE COVERING

## Correct Covering

**Medical masks should be reserved for health workers or patients in treatment.**

If you have been advised to wear a medical mask, always have the coloured side showing and the metal band at the top of your nose.



## Check Your Fit

Check that the face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.



Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.



Tighten the loops or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps. If there are strings, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit. Do not touch or fidget with the face covering when it is on.



**DO NOT:**  
Wear the face covering below your nose.



**DO NOT:**  
Leave your chin exposed.



**DO NOT:**  
Wear it loosely with gaps on the sides.



**DO NOT:**  
Wear it so it covers just the tip of your nose.



**DO NOT:**  
Push it under your chin to rest on your neck.



## The One Step Up Information and Referral Service

Please Click 'Read More' if you are thinking of learning something new, training for a new career, getting new skills, or want to continue your education.

## Newsletter Translations

[Albanian](#)  
[Arabic](#)  
[French](#)  
[Georgian](#)  
[Somali](#)  
[Urdu](#)

## The Lodge, Co. Meath - Highlights of the Year

Please click on 'Read More' for more information.

Article below by Vera, Centre Manager at The Lodge, Co. Meath:

Boy's at the Lodge, Navan were awarded with medals for playing against the local Garda soccer team arranged by Meath partnership. A great day was had by all.



## 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](mailto:ipasnewsletter@equality.gov.ie)

[Print version](#)