

Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Advice to Government

in relation to realigning the
Public Health Framework Approach to reducing restrictive measures
into two final Phases

National Public Health Emergency Team

18 June 2020

1. Introduction

Within a very short few weeks after the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in Ireland at the end of February 2020, as with other EU countries, it became necessary to take unprecedented steps to control the disease. A tiered approach of public health restrictive measures was first announced by An Taoiseach on 13th March, and these measures were further strengthened on 24th March and again on 27th March 2020.

The combined efforts and collective action of people across Irish society over the months of March and April changed the trajectory of the COVID-19 epidemic in Ireland. A strategy to reduce the public health restrictions was set out in the *Government Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business* published on 1st May 2020 over 5 phases, at three-week intervals. Phase 2 of this Roadmap was introduced on 8th June.

During May and continuing into June, ongoing progress has been made in suppressing the overall incidence of the COVID-19 disease in Ireland. Through high levels of adherence to the public health restrictive measures and the rapid adjustment to new personal and collective hygiene behaviours, people, including the most vulnerable, have been protected from infection and lives have been saved.

2. Rephasing of Phases 3, 4 & 5 of the *Public Health Framework Approach* into 2 Phases

On the basis of the good progress that has been made in suppressing the overall incidence of infection, at its meeting on 4th June, the NPHET undertook to examine realigning the remaining three phases of its “*Public Health Framework Approach in providing advice to Government in relation to reducing social distancing measures introduced in response to COVID-19*” into two phases.

This consideration arose in recognition that the *Public Health Framework* was developed at the end of April, and in the context of this rapidly evolving global pandemic, it is important to continuously review and assess the NPHET’s approach so that it can provide the best possible public health advice to Government for its decisions in relation to the *Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business*. In particular, since the *Framework* was developed–

- the status of the disease in Ireland has changed, with new case numbers on a continuing downward trend,
- there continues to be emerging research, information and understanding regarding the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease,
- further information is available on the experiences of other countries that are ahead of Ireland in terms of the profile of the pandemic, on their approach to lifting and adapting public health restrictive measures on the basis of examining how the disease is currently responding, and
- additional data and other information on the wider health and societal impacts of the restrictive measures in Ireland can be assessed.

The phased easing of public health restrictions is an iterative process and in line with procedural values for good decision-making, it is appropriate for NPHET to review the *Public Health Framework* on an ongoing basis and continually adapt national and public health measures to the current course of the pandemic in a way that is reasonable, flexible and responsive. In light of the above, the current epidemiological status of COVID-19 in Ireland and the overall public health risk, the NPHET has developed a new alignment of the original Phases of the Framework. This is set out in Appendix II.

3. Adapting to life during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, as public health restrictions are lifted

It is proposed in this document that Phase 3 commencing on 29 June will see the re-opening of a majority of the remaining businesses, services, amenities and sectors, as well as social, cultural and recreational activities, that had been closed in light of the public health restrictive measures. From 29 June, people will now be able to travel throughout the country. The final phase, Phase 4, will commence on 20 July and any remaining restrictions will be re-opened, or resumption will be considered for review.

It is important to remember that the significant risk to human health and life caused by COVID-19 warranted the imposition of these unprecedented public health measures by countries across the globe. However, Ireland, and all countries worldwide, continues to be susceptible to this pandemic. The risk of a large surge of infection remains ever-present and COVID-19 will continue to be a threat to the world for the foreseeable future, though it is hoped that a vaccine or new treatments may emerge.

While undoubtedly everyone would wish for life to return to how it was before COVID-19, it will be necessary to adapt to the reality of living for the foreseeable future in the context of this prevailing global pandemic. Individuals, families, organisations, businesses, groups across Ireland will now engage in activities and services in ways that they have not done before. People will need to continue to work from home to the greatest extent possible for the coming months. In addition, how business is done and services are provided will change; many experiences such as shopping and eating out will be different; face coverings are now recommended on busy public transport and in busy retail outlets, where appropriate. Adapting to life during this prevailing national and global pandemic means living our lives in new and different ways.

People across Ireland have already made small but critical changes in individual and collective personal behaviours of hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing, which have had a significant impact in terms of limiting the spread of COVID-19 infection. It is vital that these personal behaviour changes are permanent. Maintaining a high level of adherence to hygiene behaviours of handwashing, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing is even more important now and into the future, to guard against the spread of the COVID-19 virus as the restrictive measures are eased, but also to protect against the spread of respiratory and many other infectious diseases.

As the public health restrictions are lifted and there are no longer detailed rules in place imposed by the State, everybody in society will now exercise their own judgement and take personal responsibility for decisions that they make about the risk of infection to themselves and to others in different situations. A risk assessment framework or checklist may be of assistance to individuals and families, as well as to organisations, businesses, schools, community groups etc. in making decisions about how to assess the risk of different activities and take actions to lower the risk of spreading infection. It is important that there is continued commitment across society from all arms of the State, organisations, employers, businesses and individuals to work together to collectively promote, support and encourage everyone in society to adhere to the core public health principles as effectively as possible, as often as possible, and in as many situations as possible, for the benefit of all.

In this regard, a risk assessment checklist to assist individuals and families, and to support organisations, businesses, employers etc. from Phase 3 onwards is included at Appendix I.

4. Uncertainty in the future trajectory of COVID-19

Based on current evidence, the World Health Organization advises that the most plausible future scenario in the dynamic of COVID-19 may involve recurring epidemic waves interspersed with periods of low-level transmission¹. This means that over the coming months, Ireland and other countries are likely to experience periods of time when the numbers of people infected increases (waves) and periods when the number of people infected decreases. This is already evident from the ongoing reports of outbreaks in various countries, and the report in recent days of mandatory school closures in Beijing, China².

Importantly, the ECDC has recently emphasised that *“the pandemic is not over, and hypothetical forecasting indicates a rise in cases is likely in the coming weeks”*³. On 8th June, the Director General of the WHO warned that for countries

¹ WHO *Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 - Interim guidance* (16 April 2020) <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331773> at page 1

² RTE News (16 June 2020) <https://www.rte.ie/news/coronavirus/2020/0616/1147817-coronavirus-beijing/>

³ ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment, 10th Update (11 June 2020) <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/rapid-risk-assessment-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic-tenth-update> at page 1

that are seeing positive signs in terms of the transmission of COVID-19 disease, the biggest threat now is complacency⁴. Similarly, on 11th June, the ECDC advised of the risk that people will not adhere firmly to public health measures still in place due to '*isolation fatigue*' as EU Member States ease restrictions⁵.

It is impossible to predict with certainty what the future trajectory of the COVID-19 disease will be in Ireland and there is no precedent for dealing with a pandemic such as this. Consequently, it is not possible to provide assurance that it is safe to remove the public health restrictive measures and stricter measures may have to be reintroduced if a strong upsurge of infection were to occur at some point in the future.

Over the coming weeks and months, there will be a continued focus on—

- ongoing monitoring and review of epidemiological trends and health system impact of COVID-19 such that any changes in the overall situation will be detected rapidly, in order that future advice to Government, and health service measures and responses can be implemented based on the transmission patterns of the disease, the trajectory and velocity of change, and the evolving analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the population and health system capacity,
- ongoing enhancement of the HSE's sampling, testing, contact tracing, surveillance and reporting processes, with a particular focus on reinforcing the public health management of complex cases and clusters, especially among vulnerable populations, higher risk populations, including healthcare workers,
- clear consistent sustained accessible risk communication strategy with the public and other key groups, to continually re-emphasise collective behaviours and solidarity in limiting the spread of infection for the foreseeable future and support the desired behavioural change through ongoing communication and education initiatives,
- ongoing public health responses, infection prevention and control, surveillance including the prevention and management of outbreaks in different settings including workplaces, residential and other settings,
- ongoing implementation, monitoring, review and re-calibration of restrictive measures bearing in mind the specific associated public health risks. For example, in light of the recent ECDC recommendation regarding mass gatherings⁶, it will be necessary to maintain restrictions on such gatherings, and to keep these under review in line with the prevailing profile of disease and the evolving international experience,
- continued commitment across society from all arms of the State, organisations, employers, businesses and individuals to work together to collectively promote and adhere to the core public health principles.

⁴ WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 (8 June 2020) <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19--8-june-2020>

⁵ ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment, 10th Update (11 June 2020) <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/rapid-risk-assessment-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic-tenth-update> at page 1

⁶ Ibid at page 14



Stay Informed and Stay Safe

Public Health Checklist for Everyone as COVID-19 Restrictions are eased

Public Health Checklist for individuals and families

Know that we are all susceptible and that some people, particularly those over 70 and the medically vulnerable, are at risk of more severe infection.

- Always maintain handwashing, cough and sneeze hygiene, physical distancing and wear a face covering where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Know the symptoms (even minor symptoms), if you have them, self-isolate and contact your GP immediately, to prevent spreading this very infectious disease.

Factors to consider when you are assessing the risk:

✓ Distance:

- The risk of infection increases the closer you are to another person with the virus and the amount of time spent in close contact with that person.
- Keep a safe distance of 2 metres from other people, especially those not among your close contacts, to prevent the spread of infection.

✓ Activity:

- The risk of infection spread is greater when you engage in certain types of activities with other people, especially where there is direct or close contact.
- Assess the risk of different activities and take action to lower the risk (e.g. wear a face covering when visiting busy retail outlets, or on public transport, clean shared sports equipment before and after use).

✓ Time:

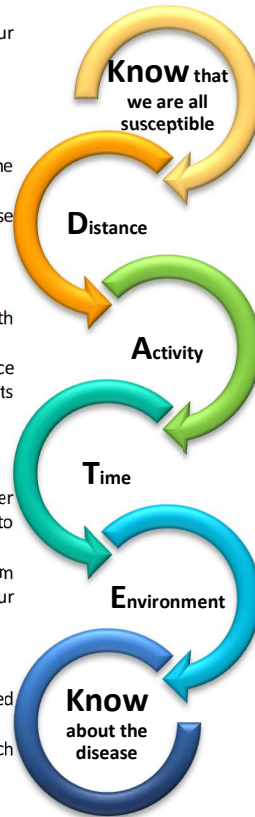
- This disease spreads easily in groups and crowds and the risk of infection spread is greater the more time you spend in contact with other people and the more people you come into contact with.
- As a result, it is best to reduce the number of people you come into direct contact with from outside your household. Where you do come into direct contact with people outside of your close contacts, you should try to limit the amount of time spent with them.

✓ Environment:

- The risk of infection spread is greater in certain environments than others e.g. crowded places, indoor environments, poorly ventilated spaces.
- Assess the risk in different situations and change your environment to lower the risk as much as possible e.g. avoid crowds, meet outdoors, stand apart, open windows etc.

Stay informed about the disease, changes in the infection level over time and of new guidance about the disease.

- Accept that for the safety of everybody in society it may be necessary to reintroduce some public health measures again if the rate of infection increases.



Public Health Checklist for organisations, employers, schools, groups etc.

Know that we are all susceptible and that some people, particularly those over 70 and the medically vulnerable, are at risk of more severe infection.

- Always maintain and enable handwashing, cough and sneeze hygiene, physical distancing and wear a face covering where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Be vigilant and take action to prevent infection spread in your organisation, place of work, business, school.
- Ensure workers, students etc. stay home and seek medical care even if they have even minor symptoms.
- Contact tracing is used by the public health service to trace individuals who have been in contact with a person who is suspected of being infected. To prevent the risk of further spread of the virus, organisations, businesses etc. should consider incorporating record-keeping into their business practices, to support contact tracing, if appropriate.

Factors to consider when you are assessing the risk:

✓ Distance:

- The risk of infection increases the closer a person is to another person with the virus and the amount of time spent in close contact with that person.
- Organise your business, workplace, school, activity etc. in order to maintain physical distancing between people to the greatest extent possible for as much time as possible to prevent the spread of infection.

✓ Activity:

- The risk of infection spread is greater when people engage in certain types of activities together (e.g. where there is direct or close contact between people).
- Depending on your business, workplace, school, etc., assess the risk and identifying ways to lower the risk for you, other workers, employees, colleagues, customers, students, and other participants that engage in work other those activities (e.g. providing hand sanitizer, maintaining physical distancing, wearing face coverings, enhanced cleaning of communal areas and shared equipment, wearing personal protective equipment if appropriate).

✓ Time:

- This disease spreads easily in groups and crowds and the risk of infection spread is greater the more time people spend in contact with each other and the more people they come into contact with.
- Organise your business, place of work, school, activity etc. to reduce the amount of time that people spend in direct contact with people outside their household as much as possible and consider business continuity of key workers in light of infection risk (e.g. staggered work hours / customer attendance hours, designated work teams / school 'bubbles', short / virtual meetings).

✓ Environment:

- The risk of infection spread is greater in certain environments (e.g. crowded places, indoor environments, poorly ventilated spaces).
- Depending on your business, workplace, school, etc., assess the risk in the work environment and identify ways to lower the risk as much as possible for you, other workers, employees, colleagues, students etc. (e.g. remote-working, limit attendance to capacity of venue, bearing in mind physical distancing requirements, limit entry to control crowding, one-way system, open windows, change work-area layout).

Stay informed about the disease, changes in infection level over time and of new guidance about the disease

- Accept that for the safety of everybody in society it may be necessary to reintroduce some public health measures again if the rate of infection increases.

Appendix 2 – New Phase 3 & New Phase 4

Public health framework approach to advising on easing restrictive measures

Mass Gatherings		
Measure Category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
<p>Mass gatherings are events where there is a concentration of people at a specific location for a specific purpose over a set period of time. They can include a single event or a combination of several events at different venues and constitute a diverse range of gatherings such as sports, music / entertainment, religious events, family events (such as weddings, funerals etc.) large conferences and exhibitions, as well as community, charity events and other types of events. (Attendance at the place of work for the purposes of work would not ordinarily constitute a mass gathering.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the context of COVID-19, mass gatherings can amplify the transmission of the virus within the community and have the potential to significantly impact on the health service and wider COVID-19 response. In line with the ECDC advice⁷ and the current approach of other EU countries, it is recommended that outdoor and indoor mass gatherings be restricted up until at least the end of Phase 4. This restriction will be reviewed having regard to the WHO risk assessment process⁸. Mass gatherings should be organised in advance to enable adequate planning by organisers so that prevention and control measures can be implemented, and physical distancing can be maintained so as to reduce the risk of transmission and avoid strain on health services. Therefore, have regarding to WHO guidance⁹, spontaneous mass gatherings (parties, gatherings, demonstrations etc.) are not recommended at this time. The mass gathering numbers listed below are total numbers of people at mass gathering events including organisers, participants and attendees and compliance with recommended physical distancing. Adopting a cautious approach considering the high risk of infection spread at mass gatherings, it is recommended that marquees, tents, circuses etc. be considered indoor venues for the purposes of these mass gatherings restrictions. Those mass gatherings operating in line with the limits below should comply with physical distancing and the Public Health Checklist. However, notwithstanding the limits below, physical distancing should continue to be complied with, having regard to the size of the venue. 		
Organised indoor mass gathering total numbers:	50 people	100 people
Organised outdoor mass gathering total numbers:	200 people	500 people A review will be carried out in relation to the ongoing restriction of indoor and outdoor mass gatherings.

Community Health		
Measure Category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
Wearing of face coverings in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an additional hygiene measure, when using busy public transport or when in indoor public areas including retail outlets, the wearing of a face covering (i.e. a non-medical face covering) is recommended, where appropriate and where physical distancing cannot be maintained. 	
Travel within Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People may travel throughout the country and travel to Ireland's offshore islands by non-residents may now resume. Those planning to travel should acquaint themselves with the level of transmission of the virus in the relevant area, and consider how best to protect themselves. Non-essential travel outside of Ireland is not recommended at this time but this will be kept under continuous review. 	
Cocooning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cocooning for those aged 70 years and over and the medically vulnerable continues to be recommended for their safety. However, it is important that people who are cocooning feel empowered to exercise their own judgement and autonomy regarding the extent to which they consider the cocooning guidance is appropriate to their individual circumstances. For people aged 70 years and over and the medically vulnerable who wish to visit others, receive visitors in their home, attending shops, and engage in other activities, it is recommended that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –(and their visitors) maintain strict hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, –continue to strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidance of 2m, –avoiding touching surfaces and cleaning surfaces touched by visitors, –ideally use face coverings when attending the shops or other busy public areas. Those cocooning who are planning to travel within and outside their region should acquaint themselves with the level of transmission of the virus in the relevant area, and consider how best to protect themselves. See HPSC's <i>Guidance on cocooning to protect people over 70 years and those extremely medically vulnerable from COVID-19</i> for useful practical guidance. 	
Family and non-family activities and social visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific number is now given for a gathering in a private home other than that people should restrict the number so that adequate physical distancing and ventilation of the home can be maintained bearing in mind the size of the home. 	
	In line with the Mass Gatherings restriction above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor mass gathering: groups of up to 50 people Outdoor mass gathering: groups of up to 200 people 	In line with the Mass Gatherings restriction above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor mass gatherings: groups of up to 100 people. Outdoor mass gatherings: groups of up to 500 people.
Self-isolation of cases and contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain self-isolation of confirmed and suspect cases, as well as of all household and close contacts of confirmed and suspect cases. 	

⁷ ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment, 10th Update (11 June 2020) <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/rapid-risk-assessment-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic-tenth-update> at page 14

⁸ WHO Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19 - Interim guidance (29 May 2020) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak>

⁹ Ibid at page 1

Appendix 2 – New Phase 3 & New Phase 4

Public health framework approach to advising on easing restrictive measures

Community, Religious, Cultural, Social and Sport		
Measure Category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
<p>In recommending all remaining Community, Religious, Cultural, Social and Sport amenities and events organisations, business owners, groups, associations and others should carry out a <u>Risk Assessment</u> of the nature of their service, business or activity, the particular risks associated with the service, and activities within the overall service, and how they could mitigate those risks for their customers, attendees, participants, and staff.</p> <p>Using the Public Health Checklist–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distance</i>: Arrangements to ensure physical distancing as much as possible including, where appropriate: controlled entry; advanced purchased ticketing; assigned seating; record-keeping of visitors/ service users for contact tracing etc.; • <i>Activity & Time</i>: Depending on the nature of the amenity, venue or event, the extent and duration of interaction between groups of people may vary. Arrangements should be implemented to enable hand hygiene, minimise close contact and the duration of contact between people, (e.g. organise shorter events, staggered attendance hours to limit crowds or designated teams that always engage in activity together to avoid random mixing of people, extend distancing, move activities outdoors). It is particularly noteworthy that the risk of droplet transmission/aerosol emission may be greater in some circumstances, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – in relation to sports and physical activities: in high intensity exercise and direct contact sports; – in relation to group singing and certain group brass and woodwind musical instrument playing. • <i>Environment</i>: Outdoor events should continue to be encouraged over indoor events and organisers should specifically plan for weather conditions and ensure that planned outdoor events do not inadvertently become overcrowded indoor events. For indoor events, effective ventilation and cleaning of premises, especially of communal areas, shared equipment, sports changing rooms, shower areas (if applicable). Particular risk assessment is required for those facilities with changing room and shower areas, saunas, steam rooms, hot tubs and non-chlorinated indoor baths etc., these will require particular cleaning, effective ventilation and supervision. All facilities opening, which may have been closed for some time, will need to assess the risk of and protect against the emergence of Legionnaire’s disease. 		
<p>a) Community, Religious, Cultural, Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-open venues, amenities, organised events, ceremonies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religious buildings and places of worship; – Museums, galleries, theatres, concert halls and other cultural outlets; – Cinemas, music venues (excluding nightclubs and discotheques), leisure facilities, bingo halls, arcades, skating rinks, amusement parks etc.; – All other recreational venues unless specified elsewhere in the document. <p>These venues, amenities and activities should operate line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>	
<p>b) Sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-commence all sporting activities, including team leagues for adults and children, close contact sports, as well as organised sporting spectator events and fixtures. • Re-open indoor gyms, exercise, yoga, Pilates and dance studios and sports clubs, public swimming pools. • Re-commence all other sporting activities and venues unless specified elsewhere in the document. <p>These venues, amenities and activities should operate line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>	
<p>c) Group singing, choirs and playing certain brass musical instruments in groups ONLY</p>	<p>Choir rehearsals have previously been linked to outbreaks in a number of countries (UK, US, Netherlands, South Korea). In addition, there is some evidence emerging that the playing of brass and some woodwind instruments (e.g. trumpets, trombones, flutes) in groups may be associated with a higher risk of infection due to increased droplet transmission or aerosol emission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the potential increased risk of transmission especially due to group singing, choirs and playing brass and some wind instruments in groups, the following precautions are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Choir practice, teaching and performance, brass and wind instruments music group practice, teaching and performance should be done while maintaining very strict physical distancing of a <u>minimum of 2 metres</u> from other people, ideally outdoors, limit duration of indoor practice, teaching and performance with frequent breaks to facilitate regular ventilation of rooms and instrument cleaning (where applicable); – Singers, choirs and musicians of brass and some woodwind instruments should consider protective equipment and measures to minimise the potential for droplet or aerosol emission (e.g. instrument covers, screens, face coverings etc). – Where group practice or performances are organised, a risk assessment should be carried out to minimise the risk to the participants and their audience, including bearing in mind the age profile and risk factors of the participants/audience in question. 	

Appendix 2 – New Phase 3 & New Phase 4

Public health framework approach to advising on easing restrictive measures

Education, Childcare & Children’s Measures		
Measure category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
<p>In recommending the remaining Education, Childcare and Children’s amenities, activities and events, organisations, schools, business owners, groups, and others should carry out a <u>Risk Assessment</u> of the nature of their service or activity, the particular risks associated with the service, and activities within the overall service, and how they could mitigate those risks for children, young adults, attendees, participants, and staff.</p> <p>The Education and Childcare sectors should refer to the dedicated <i>HPSC Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for those sectors</i> to assist in carrying out a risk assessment.</p> <p>Using the Public Health Checklist–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance: Arrangements to ensure physical distancing as much as possible including: applying the micro-community or bubble / pods concept in education and childcare and activities for children and teenagers where participants in camps, youth clubs and other activities are assigned to and stay within consistent individual pods with the same staff members within the pod, in order to minimise the spread of infection; for children’s amenities to avoid crowding consider controlled entry; advanced purchased ticketing; for contact tracing where appropriate consider record-keeping requirements; etc. Activity & Time: Depending on the nature of the amenity, venue or event, the extent and duration of interaction of the interaction between groups of people may vary. Arrangements should be implemented to enable hand hygiene, minimise close contact and the duration of contact between people (e.g. organise shorter events, staggered attendance/playtime, designated teams/pods); Environment: Outdoor events should continue to be encouraged over indoor events and organisers should specifically plan for weather conditions and ensure that planned outdoor events do not inadvertently become overcrowded indoor events. For indoor activities, effective ventilation and cleaning of premises, especially of communal areas, shared toys, books and equipment, changing rooms, (if applicable). All educational, childcare, children’s and other facilities and buildings opening, which may have been closed for some time, will need to assess the risk of and protect against the emergence of Legionnaire’s disease. 		
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open all remaining facilities where adult education is provided/ community-based projects take place (e.g. adult education programmes, community groups, Men’s Sheds etc.). Re-commence all other education and community activities unless specified elsewhere in the document. <p>These venues, amenities and activities should operate in line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>	
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open crèches, childminders and pre-schools for children of essential workers in phased manner with physical distancing and other requirements applying as per the HPSC Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open crèches, childminders and pre-schools for children of all other workers on a gradually increasing phased basis with physical distancing and other requirements applying as per the HPSC Guidance
Activities for Children and Teenagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open indoor and outdoor summer camps and youth clubs for children and teenagers of all ages. Re-open all indoor and outdoor amenities for children. Re-commence all other children’s activities and venues unless specified elsewhere in the document. <p>These venues, amenities and activities should operate in line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>	

Health and Social Care System		
Measure category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
Visiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommencement of visiting at hospitals, and other residential settings on a planned and phased basis. Each setting should conduct an assessment that identifies potential risks for that setting, along with ways to mitigate those risks, including the use of PPE. 	
Delivery of non-COVID-19 care and services alongside COVID-19-care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation and implementation by the HSE and service providers of the Service Continuity Framework for the Resumption of Non-COVID-19 Care. 	

Appendix 2 – New Phase 3 & New Phase 4

Public health framework approach to advising on easing restrictive measures

Retail, Personal Services & Commercial Activities		
Measure category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
<p>In recommending all remaining Retail, Personal Services and Commercial Activities, business owners and organisations should carry out a <u>Risk Assessment</u> of the nature of their business, service or activity, the particular risks associated with the service, and individual activities or services within the overall service, and how they could mitigate those risks for their customers, staff and the wider public, as appropriate.</p> <p>The Hospitality sector, as applicable, should refer to the <i>HPSC COVID-19: Guidance for Food Service Businesses</i> to assist them to carry out a detailed risk assessment.</p> <p>Using the Public Health Checklist–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance: Arrangements to ensure physical distancing as much as possible, bearing in mind whether the environment is considered a controlled environment. Also consider other distance measures that might be appropriate in light of the nature of the business: controlled entry; advanced booking (for personal services and hospitality); assigned seating (for hospitality); record-keeping for contact tracing etc.; Activity & Time: Depending on the nature of the business, service or activity, the extent and duration of interaction between people may vary. Providers of personal contact services may be at greater risk of infection or infection spread due to the close physical contact and duration of contact. Personal protective equipment should be worn by staff, and face coverings by customers throughout procedures, where at all practically possible especially those in sectors where close physical contact with customers cannot be avoided, (e.g. health and wellbeing-related services, contact personal services). Arrangements should be implemented to enable hand hygiene, minimise close contact and limit the duration of contact between people. Environment: Utilisation of outdoor spaces should be encouraged over indoor spaces where practicable, in the hospitality sector. For indoor services and businesses, effective ventilation and cleaning of premises, especially of communal areas and shared equipment. Particular risk assessment is required for those facilities with changing room and shower areas, saunas, steam rooms, hot tubs and non-chlorinated indoor baths etc., these will require particular cleaning, effective ventilation and supervision. All facilities opening, which may have been closed for some time, will need to assess the risk of and protect against the emergence of Legionnaire’s disease. 		
Commercial Activity (Retail & Personal Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open all remaining health and wellbeing-related services e.g. chiropractic, massage therapy, acupuncture, reflexology, homoeopathy etc. Re-open all remaining providers of contact personal services (e.g. hairdressing salons, barbers, nail and brow salons, beauty salons, spas, make-up application services, tanning, tattooing and piercing services etc. Re-open all remaining retail (e.g. bookmakers), personal services and commercial activities and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open changing rooms in fashion retail outlets subject to appropriate storage and cleaning of clothing returned or handled extensively in light of the lifespan of the virus on materials and fabrics.
Commercial Activity (Hospitality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open restaurants and cafés providing on-premises food & beverages in line with HPSC guidance. Takeaway food should still be encouraged. Re-open hotels, caravan parks, holiday parks, hostels for social and tourist activities. Hostels will need to risk assess the safety of communal room-sharing arrangements. <p>The communal spaces of these venues, amenities and activities should operate in line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and the Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open pubs, bars, hotel bars, casinos etc. Nightclubs and discotheques to remain closed until at least 20 July. Resumption after this will be considered. By their nature, nightclubs and discos are not intended to be seated environments where people can maintain 2 metre physical distance. Bars, pubs, hotels, music venues, theatres etc that have a nightclub or discotheque component should keep that component closed. <p>The communal spaces of these venues, amenities and activities should operate in line with physical distancing, the Public Health Checklist and Mass Gatherings restrictions applying in Phase 3 and Phase 4.</p>

Appendix 2 – New Phase 3 & New Phase 4

Public health framework approach to advising on easing restrictive measures

Economic Activity (Work)		
Measure category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
Economic Activity (Work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All workers and businesses that can work remotely from home should continue to do so to the maximum extent possible. This should be continued at least for the coming months until there is greater clarity on the future progression of COVID-19 in Ireland and globally. • Organisations should continue to deploy their own plans for prioritising onsite working arrangements by those workers that are required to work onsite utilising all options to limit the number of workers interacting with each other at any one time e.g. shift work, staggered hours, designated teams working always together, defined break times, etc. • Businesses and organisations should apply the <i>Return to Work Safely Protocol - COVID-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers</i> published by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, including having a COVID-19 Response Plan in place. • Where workers are returning to onsite work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Employers should work proactively, including with authorities and health authorities where necessary, to limit the spread of disease within or connected with the workplace and to mitigate the effects of workplace outbreaks should such occur. – Workers should not come to work, should self-isolate and should seek medical care if they have even mild symptoms, including flu-like symptoms, and workers who are contacts of a confirmed or suspected case, should follow public health advice and not come to work until advised otherwise. 	

Transport		
Measure category	Phase 3 Commencing 29 June	Phase 4 Commencing 20 July
<p>In relation to transport, business owners and organisations should carry out a <u>Risk Assessment</u> of the nature of their business, service or activity, the particular risks associated with the service, and individual activities or services within the overall service, and how they could mitigate those risks for their customers, staff and the wider public, as appropriate. Those providing transport services, whether commercially or in a private capacity, or where vehicle sharing is a normal feature of work, should consider developing guidance for their sector / organisation.</p> <p>Using the Public Health Checklist–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distance</i>: When transporting or travelling with people not from the same household, consider ways to enhance physical distancing as much as possible, e.g. limiting passenger numbers, sitting as far apart as possible, etc.; • <i>Activity & Time</i>: Depending on the nature of the business, service or activity, the extent and duration of the interaction between people on transport or when travelling will vary, however, as vehicles are enclosed spaces, there is increased risk of infection spread. The wearing of face coverings by drivers and passengers on public, private commercial transport and those travelling together in shared vehicles (when not of the same household) is recommended. Transportation providers, depending on the nature of their service should consider as appropriate, advanced booking, controlled occupancy, strict record-keeping of customers for contact tracing purposes; • <i>Environment</i>: As vehicles are enclosed spaces, effective ventilation and cleaning of vehicle interiors is essential, especially of communal touchpoints. 		
Public Transport (Buses and Trains)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport providers (including those provided by private operators) to continue to actively monitor numbers travelling on public transport. • Increasingly encourage the use of face coverings on public transport as an additional measure to hand hygiene / respiratory etiquette. • In light of the numbers of people, the importance of communal handrails, to reduce the risk for those using public transport, provide hand sanitizer for use by passengers. • Progressively decrease restrictions on numbers travelling on public transport. • Continue to encourage public to stagger travelling times on public transport in order to maintain physical distancing on public transport. 	
Private Transport (including tourist and entertainment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-commence all other private transport services (e.g. tour buses, event buses, private bus and vehicle hire etc.) • Encourage the use of face coverings as an additional measure to hand hygiene/respiratory etiquette. • In light of the numbers of people, the importance of communal handrails, to reduce the risk for those using such transport, provide hand sanitizer for use by passengers. • Sectors or business owners should develop guidance. 	
Driving schools, Driving test centres, voluntary or other driving services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-commence all driving schools, driving tests, volunteer or other driving services etc. • Encourage the use of face coverings as an additional measure to hand hygiene/respiratory etiquette. • In light of the communal touchpoints, to reduce the risk of transmission, consider providing hand sanitizer for use by passengers. • Sectors or business owners should develop guidance. 	