



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Department of Health

Annual Report 2020



CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH, STEPHEN DONNELLY</u>	1
<u>OVERVIEW</u>	2
<u>THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION</u>	2
<u>ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT</u>	2
<u>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</u>	2
<u>MANAGING COVID-19 AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH</u>	3
<u>COVID-19 IN NUMBERS</u>	3
<i>Timeline</i>	3
<i>COVID-19 Epidemiology in 2020</i>	4
<i>Key Figures</i>	5
<u>THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19</u>	5
<i>National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) for COVID-19</i>	5
<i>NPHET's Work</i>	6
<u>KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19</u>	8
<i>Testing & Tracing</i>	8
<i>Health Workforce</i>	8
<i>PPE and Ventilator Procurement</i>	9
<i>Vaccination Programme</i>	9
<i>Travel Policy</i>	10
<i>COVID-19 Tracker App</i>	12
<i>Ireland's COVID-19 Data Hub</i>	12
<i>Public Health Legislation</i>	13
<i>Cross-Governmental Work</i>	13
<i>Increased International And EU Engagement</i>	13
<u>SERVICE CONTINUITY AND ADAPTATION</u>	14
<i>Acute Services</i>	14
<i>Primary and Community Care</i>	15
<i>Social Care and Mental Health Services</i>	16
<i>Supports to Nursing Homes</i>	17
<i>Social Inclusion</i>	17
<i>Human Resources – Oversight and Policy</i>	18
<u>CREATING A MORE RESPONSIVE, INTEGRATED AND PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE</u>	19
<i>Primary Care</i>	19
<i>Social Care</i>	19
<i>Mental Health</i>	20
<i>Sláintecare</i>	21
<u>MAKING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FAIRER AND FASTER</u>	22
<i>Scheduled/Unscheduled Care</i>	22
<i>National Ambulance Service</i>	22
<i>Maternity Strategy</i>	22
<i>Cancer Services</i>	23
<i>Organ Donation and Transplant</i>	23
<i>Patient Safety</i>	23

<u>IMPROVING OVERSIGHT AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE SECTOR</u>	25
<u>Governance and Performance</u>	25
<u>Strategic Workforce Planning</u>	25
<u>North South Ministerial Council – Health and Food Safety</u>	27
<u>Brexit</u>	27
<u>Women’s Health</u>	28
<u>Policy Development</u>	28
<u>Capital Infrastructure/Major Capital Projects</u>	28
<u>BECOMING AN ORGANISATION FIT FOR THE FUTURE</u>	30
<u>Strategic HR</u>	30
<u>ICT</u>	30
<u>Statement of Strategy</u>	31
<u>APPENDIX 1: CORPORATE INFORMATION</u>	32
<u>Department of Health Management Board 2020</u>	32
<u>Corporate Profile</u>	1
<u>2020 Parliamentary Responses at a Glance</u>	2
<u>Freedom of Information</u>	2
<u>Prompt Payment</u>	2
<u>Energy usage in 2020</u>	3
<u>APPENDIX 2: AGENCIES UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE DEPARTMENT</u>	4
<u>APPENDIX 3: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLICATIONS</u>	5

INTRODUCTION BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH, STEPHEN DONNELLY

I welcome the publication of the Department's Annual Report for 2020.

2020 was an extremely challenging year. At the end of 2019 no-one could have foreseen the extent of the challenges our health and social care services, the nation and the world would face from COVID-19. At the time of my appointment in June 2020, we - as a Department, a government, a society and a country - were in the midst of combatting the pandemic, the impact of which has been devastating for many. However, it has also driven us to redesign and improve many aspects of our health service.

The scale of the challenge faced by the health service in Ireland in 2020 was unprecedented. Our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and everyone across the health and social care services have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. While COVID-19 has presented us with significant challenges, it has also highlighted our strengths - including the resilience, professionalism, courage and innovative spirit of the women and men who deliver for the people of Ireland every day.

Ireland's vaccination programme, which began on 29 December 2020, was the most important public health programme in living memory. Its success has gone a long way towards easing the pressure on our health and social care services, and it has also showcased our spirit as a nation.

I take great pride in the response and efforts of my Department, whose officials went above and beyond in service to our country and its people. Throughout 2020 they showed passion, dedication, and great commitment to public service values. It is a great privilege to be Minister for Health and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff both within the Department and across the health and social care services for their continued and dedicated hard work to support the population in such challenging times.



Stephen Donnelly TD
Minister for Health

OVERVIEW

This annual report for the Department of Health outlines the main achievements made during 2020 to deliver on our Mission and fulfil our role.

The Department's Mission

The mission of the Department of Health is to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Ireland by:

- Supporting people to lead healthy and independent lives;
- Ensuring the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care;
- Creating a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service; and
- Promoting effective and efficient management of the health and social care service and ensuring best value from health system resources.

Role of the Department

The Department serves the public and supports the Minister for Health, Ministers of State and Government by:

- Providing leadership and policy direction for the health sector to improve health outcomes;
- Undertaking governance and performance oversight to ensure accountable and high-quality services
- Collaborating to achieve health priorities and contribute to wider social and economic goals; and
- Creating an organisational environment where high performance is achieved, collaborative working is valued, and the knowledge and skills of staff are developed and deployed.

Strategic Objectives

The five strategic objectives of the Department are:

1. Manage COVID-19 and promote public health.
2. Expand and integrate care in the community.
3. Make access to healthcare fairer and faster.
4. Improve oversight and partnership in the sector.
5. Become an organisation fit for the future.

MANAGING COVID-19 AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Health's overarching priority in 2020 was to lead the public health response to the greatest threat to public health in a generation, COVID-19. The public health response was mobilised on 27 January 2020 with the establishment of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) for COVID-19. Leadership of the public health response to COVID-19 dominated the Department's work and resourcing throughout the year, impacting on the work of all areas. This section provides a snapshot of the Department's very significant work and achievements in 2020.

COVID-19 in Numbers

TIMELINE

27 January 2020	NPHET on COVID-19 established
30 January 2020	WHO declares the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern
29 February 2020	First confirmed case in Ireland
03 March 2020	The Cross-Government COVID-19 oversight structure established
11 March 2020	Pandemic status declared by WHO
11 March 2020	First death in Ireland
12 March 2020	Taoiseach announces first lockdown
18 March 2020	Ireland's COVID-19 Data Hub launched
01 May 2020	Publication of the <i>Government of Ireland Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business</i>
22 May 2020	Minister for Health announces the introduction of a Passenger Locator Form
23 May 2020	Establishment of an Expert Panel on Nursing Homes
05 June 2020	Taoiseach announces <i>Road Map to the Easing of Restrictions</i>
18 June 2020	NPHET published its advice to Government in relation to the <i>Public Health Framework Approach</i>
07 July 2020	COVID-19 Tracker App Launched
21 July 2020	A travel <i>green list</i> is established
23 July 2020	NPHET produced <i>Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response</i>
19 August 2020	COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel Report published

03 September 2020	NPHET approved revisions to the Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response of 24th July 2020
15 September 2020	<i>COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead</i>
22 October 2020	Government moves Ireland to Level 5 of Restriction Framework for six weeks
10 November 2020	High Level Task Force (HLTF) on COVID-19 Vaccination Established
15 December 2020	COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy and Implementation Plan published
24 December 2020	Government moves Ireland back to Restriction Level 5
29 December 2020	First COVID-19 Vaccine administered in Ireland

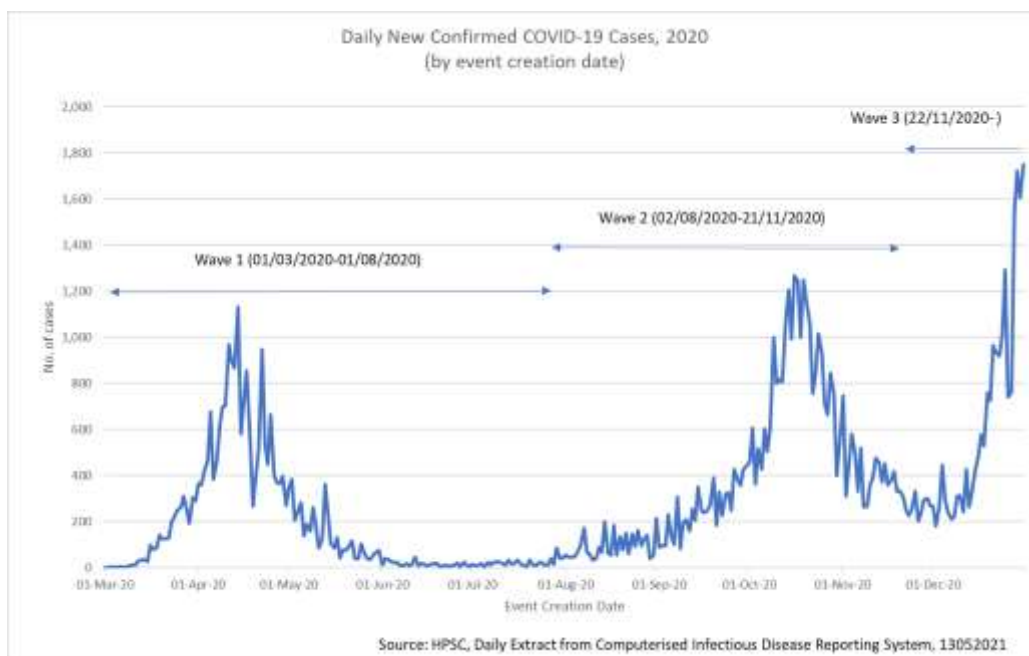
*Bold text refers to Department of Health work

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY IN 2020

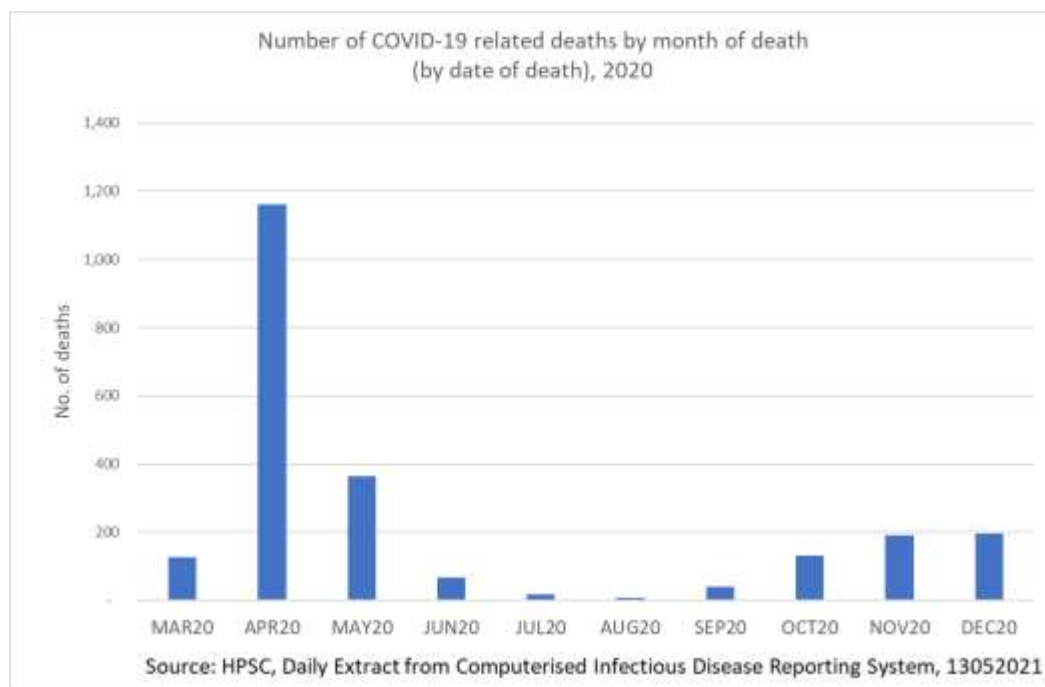
The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Ireland was reported on 29 February 2020. Up to midnight on 31 December 2020 a cumulative total of 93,480 cases had been notified in Ireland. During 2020 the disease was characterised by three 'waves'.

The first wave lasted from March until the end of July 2020 with the highest case numbers in mid to late April. The lowest number of cases recorded during the year (four new cases) was recorded on both 21 and 23 June. The second wave began in early August, and on 16 October the highest number of cases during the second wave were recorded (1,267).

A third wave of the disease began in mid-November and the highest number of cases recorded in a single day during 2020 was on 31 December, at 1,750.



The first COVID-19 related death occurred on 11 March 2020. 2,302 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported as occurring in 2020.¹ The highest number of deaths occurred in April when 1,162 deaths occurred.



KEY FIGURES

- 70 meetings of NPHET
- 11 NPHET subgroups established
- 2.3 million COVID-19 tests completed in 2020
- 39 test centres established
- COVID-19 Tracker App established with over 1 million downloads within the first 48 hours
- 29 Community Assessment Hubs established to provide timely community based acute clinical assessment for COVID-19 positive patients
- 324 additional acute hospital beds provided
- Increase in overall critical care capacity to 446 beds
- Arrangement with the 18 private hospitals to provide the Health Service Executive (HSE) with access to private hospital capacity if needed
- €134.5m of funding for the *Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme*² to private nursing homes to prevent and manage the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks
- 51 Statutory Instruments drafted

The Public Health Response to COVID-19

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TEAM (NPHET) FOR COVID-19

The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) is the established mechanism for coordinating the health sector response to significant public health emergencies. It is a long-standing structure

¹ Note there are 12 COVID-19 related deaths where the date of death is unknown.

² <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/temporary-assistance-payment-scheme-for-nursing-homes/>

which has been utilised over many years to provide a forum to steer strategic approaches to public health emergencies in Ireland and mobilise the necessary health service responses.

NPHET for COVID-19 was established in the Department of Health on 27 January 2020, shortly after reports appeared in the global media of the disease emerging in China. Chaired by the Chief Medical Officer since its establishment, it has overseen and provided direction, guidance, support and expert advice to the government on the development and implementation of a public health strategy to respond to COVID-19 in Ireland.

Terms of Reference of NPHET for COVID-19 as established on 27 January 2020:

1. *Oversee and provide direction, guidance, support and expert advice across the health service and the wider public service, for the overall national response to Coronavirus, including national and regional and other outbreak control arrangements.*
2. *Consider the most up to date national and international risk assessments and consider any implications for the national response.*
3. *Direct the collection and analysis of required data and information, as needed.*
4. *Review on an on-going basis the situational analyses and evaluation having regard to reports received, expert advice, international guidance and assurance regarding optimal use of resources.*
5. *Liaise with relevant organisations and stakeholders, to include other Government departments, statutory and voluntary agencies, international bodies and the relevant regulators.*
6. *Direct and ensure an effective communications system at local, regional and national levels.*
7. *Evaluate on an on-going basis the readiness of the health service to manage and sustain the containment of Coronavirus with a view to standing down the NPHET at the appropriate time, as determined by the Chair in consultation with the group.*

A whole of government approach to the COVID-19 response was required and the Department of Health was a key stakeholder in this process.

NPHET'S WORK

- NPHET met on a very frequent basis (twice weekly during periods of NPHET's most intense work and occasionally more frequently), conducted detailed meetings in order to advise on a public health-led, evidence-based Government-wide response to COVID-19 and to provide direction in relation to the public health aspects of the health service responses.
- To support the needs of NPHET, the Department established a full-time secretariat, headed by a Principal Officer within the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. The secretariat team facilitates NPHET meetings and provides administrative support to the Chair.
- NPHET secretariat facilitated 70 NPHET meetings between 27 January and 30 December 2020. Many of these meetings were conducted virtually, in line with public health guidance.
- Facilitation involved oversight of the organisation of NPHET meetings, moderation, recording of minutes, communication of NPHET recommendations/advice to the Minister for Health, and the HSE as required. In line with the principle of transparency, key documents were published on www.gov.ie.
- NPHET inputted to the development of the National Action Plan in Response to COVID-19 in March 2020³ and advised Government on the adoption of a tiered approach to the introduction of public health restrictive measures during March, April and May 2020.

³ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

- NPHET also developed a Public Health Framework Approach in providing advice to Government in relation to reducing social distancing measures which informed the *Government of Ireland Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business* which was published on 01 May. NPHET advised Government on a careful process of easing restrictive measures in order to suppress transmission as effectively as possible.
- On 18 June, NPHET published its advice to Government in relation to the *Public Health Framework Approach* to reducing restrictive measures into two final phases.
- On 23 July, NPHET produced *Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response* reflecting the need to develop a longer-term strategy for managing the State's response to the pandemic.
- On 03 September, NPHET approved several revisions to *the Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response of 24th July 2020* which provided advice to the Minister for Health and Government regarding the future public health response to COVID-19.
- NPHET further refined the 4-phase Framework developed in July into a 5-Level Framework for Restrictive Measures, applying learnings from the escalating restrictive measures over the course of August. This provided further clarity, consistency and certainty in relation to the application of public health measures.

To support the work of NPHET, 11 subgroups were established in 2020. These subgroups were staffed with subject experts to assist NPHET to deliver robust advice to Government to assist with its decision making. The Chairs of these subgroups were also members of NPHET.

A list of the 2020 subgroups are as follows:

1. The Expert Advisory Group (EAG)
 2. Acute Hospital Preparedness Subgroup
 3. Behavioural Change Subgroup
 4. Guidance and Evidence Synthesis Subgroup
 5. Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group (IEMAG)
 6. Health Legislation Subgroup
 7. Medicines and Medical Devices Criticality Assessment Subgroups
 8. Pandemic Ethics Advisory Subgroup
 9. Vulnerable People Subgroup
 10. Health Sector Workforce Subgroup
 11. Diagnostic Testing Approaches Subgroup
- In addition to these subgroups, the Medical Leaders Forum was established in March 2020 to engage key clinical stakeholders from across the health service and seek expert input on the COVID-19 response. Co-Chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Clinical Officer, ten meetings were held between March and June 2020.
 - During the summer of 2020, NPHET formally examined its governance structures, terms of reference, subgroups, and processes to ensure that it could continue to efficiently operate and effectively contribute to the national COVID-19 response into the future. The majority of the subgroups have met their terms of reference and were accordingly stood down with the proviso that NPHET could require them to reconvene, as needed, in the future. The EAG and IEMAG continued their work in line with their terms of reference.

- The evaluation highlighted NPHE's strong focus on its core public health role, the effective collaboration between the Department of Health and its agencies and the strong focus on an effective cross-Government response to COVID-19. Also noted was NPHE's commitment to transparency regarding its meetings and the implementation of improvements to ensure the timely circulation and publication of meeting agendas and minutes and papers.

Further information in relation to NPHE and its subgroups is available in the publication *National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) for COVID-19: Governance Structures*⁴.

Key Achievements of the public health response to COVID-19

This section aims to give an overview of the comprehensive body of work completed by the Department of Health in managing the COVID-19 Pandemic.

TESTING & TRACING

The Department worked closely with the HSE to resource and develop a comprehensive, reliable and responsive testing and tracing operation, building an entirely new programme.

- Ireland completed over 2.3 million COVID-19 tests in 2020.
- Testing centres were opened throughout the country where necessary to meet demand.
- By December 2020, there were 39 testing centres in operation (34 static test centres and five pop-up test centres). In addition, comprehensive serial testing programmes were implemented in long term residential facilities, in food processing facilities and in other high-risk, vulnerable settings.
- Contact tracing was central to the response to the pandemic. Four contact tracing centres were set up to deal with rapidly identifying secondary cases and in support of the management of complex cases undertaken by public health teams.
- A significant recruitment campaign saw circa 1,000 swabbers and circa 800 contact tracers recruited to the testing and tracing functions. These included a mix of dedicated staff and redeployed staff from other areas of the HSE as well as from across the Public and Civil Service.
- By the end of 2020, on-island capacity to test up to 175,000 people per week had been developed, with on-island and off-island laboratory capacity in place to process tests. This allowed the system to respond robustly when case numbers and referrals for tests increased exponentially throughout the end-of year period.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

An urgent and rapid expansion of the essential health sector workforce was required to respond to the additional pressures caused by the pandemic. Numerous recruitment initiatives took place to facilitate this expansion and maximise the current workforce across the health sector.

- Recruitment initiatives led to an increase of 6,357 WTE (Whole Time Equivalents) in 2020. This is the largest annual increase in the workforce since the establishment of the HSE.

⁴ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/de1c30-national-public-health-emergency-team-nphet-for-covid-19-governance-/>

- Ambitious plans were unveiled to double the public health workforce by recruiting an additional 255 permanent staff, at an annual cost of over €17m, including public health doctors, public health nurses, scientists and support staff. This is not only a response to the pandemic but is an investment in the future development of our Public Health function.

PPE AND VENTILATOR PROCUREMENT

One of the early challenges in Ireland's response to COVID-19 was establishing a sustainability supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- The Department worked closely with the HSE to quickly source and establish supply lines to ensure PPE, ventilators and other emergency supplies and equipment were supplied to our hospitals and front-line workers in response to the emerging pandemic emergency, in what was a very volatile and challenging world market.
- The Department strove to maximise indigenous capacity for PPE manufacturing where possible and worked with the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES), as well as the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), to consider how to prioritise cohorts is based on ethical principles and epidemiological considerations.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

- The development of Ireland's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme required a delivery approach to navigate complexity/uncertainty, foster collaboration and engagement and direct the collaborative work of thousands of personnel across Government, HSE, State Agencies, advisory, regulatory and delivery partners across both the private, public and voluntary sectors. The Programme therefore designed and implemented a patient end-to-end process, logistics, infrastructure, a bespoke national vaccination information system and recruited thousands of personnel for the safe, effective and integrated operation of the vaccination programme.
- For a supply driven programme, an innovative *Programme Planning Roadmap* (PPR) was developed to support and enable an adaptive planning process. The PPR provides an ability to carry out extensive modelling and scenario analysis amid significant uncertainty, anticipate the impact of anticipated changes, exchange information and increase knowledge.
- The Department of Health is representing Ireland in an EU Procurement Exercise operated by the European Commission on behalf of member states to procure suitable, safe and effective vaccines in sufficient quantities, to combat COVID-19. Both the Department and the HSE have actively engaged in meetings of the Steering Board, chaired by the Commission, which provides the core governance and consultative forum for the EU procurement process.
- The arrangements are intended to ensure coordinated action at the European level to vaccinate the EU population. By end of 2020, Ireland had opted into an Advance Purchase Agreement (APA) with the British-Swedish drug maker AstraZeneca, which partnered with Oxford University and was considering a second APA (Sanofi-Pasteur) offered to member states.
- The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine became the first authorised vaccine for use in Ireland after the European Commission authorised the vaccine on 21 December 2020, on foot of a positive recommendation from the European Medicines Agency.
- The first vaccine was administered in Ireland on 29 December 2020.

TRAVEL POLICY

The aim of travel policy in response to COVID-19 has been to protect public health. As such, its development over the course of the pandemic has remained agile and reactive, informed by both the developing epidemiological situation and emerging scientific evidence.

Common approach to intra-EU travel

Since the beginning of the pandemic, EU member states have adopted several measures to protect public health.

- To avoid fragmentation and disruption of services and to ensure transparency and predictability for citizens and businesses, on 13 October 2020, the EU Council adopted a Recommendation on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ireland adopted aspects of this Recommendation as part of national travel measures.
- The Department has actively engaged in the on-going development and refinement of this Council Recommendation in line with the developing epidemiological situation.

Introduction of Public Health Travel Requirements

Since March 2020, the public health measures in relation to international travel have been kept under constant review, with key updates made as follows:

- On 6 July, the Government decided that a 'green list' of countries with epidemiological situations comparable or better than Ireland's would be drawn up and that restricted movement would not be required of travellers arriving from those countries. The approach taken to develop the green list was based on the methodology used by the EU for making assessments of third countries, adapted to the Irish context. The Government Green List was reviewed each week to include EU/EEA countries with incidence rates of 25 per 100,000 of the population or less.
- The EU Council Recommendation on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was adopted at the General Affairs Council on 13 October. This recommendation aims to avoid fragmentation and disruption, and to increase transparency and predictability for citizens and businesses.
- In response to the identification of a new variant of COVID-19, all flights arriving into Ireland from Great Britain were banned from midnight 20 December 2020 to 06 January 2021. The temporary flight ban applied strictly to non-residents, including Irish citizens. Due to the emergence of the new variant strains of COVID-19, extra precautions were introduced for travellers arriving from Great Britain, South Africa and South America. The initial flight ban was replaced on 08 January by a requirement to present negative/'not detected' result from a pre-departure COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test carried out no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Ireland.

Passenger Locator Form

- Ireland's COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form (PLF) was introduced on 24 April 2020 to support contact tracing and public health messaging to assist the national efforts to combat the virus.
- Following a Government decision on 15 May 2020, the PLF was made a mandatory requirement for passengers arriving to Ireland from overseas and supporting regulations were established.

- There have been several iterations of the COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form in the intervening year, including the introduction of an electronic form to supplement the paper forms on 26 August 2020 and the regulations have been updated several times to capture the required changes.

Public Health Communications

In 2020, the Department of Health delivered a range of communications campaigns and initiatives designed to support the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland, and to strengthen the overall public health response. In a pandemic, effective public communication is one of the most important parts of a nation's crisis response plan. Enhancing the public understanding and encouraging new safe behaviours through communications was critical to protecting people's health and tackling this new viral threat, for which no vaccine existed at the time. The Department's strategic communications approach was to deliver:

- Transparent and open communication with the public led by trusted, expert voices;
- Co-ordinated, simplified and consistent messaging, underpinned by facts, data and real-time access to information;
- The creation of a new brand – the yellow COVID-19 public health advice – to convey the scale of the public emergency and to direct citizens to reliable, trusted information, rolled out in a co-ordinated way through cross-government and cross-sector partners; and
- Evidence based communication, underpinned by data and including constant market research, audience analysis and public opinion tracking.

From March to June 2020, the Department of Health:

- Created 6 different COVID-19 yellow campaigns, with posters available on www.gov.ie to public and private sector organisations to download and use.
- Delivered 2 million COVID-19 information booklets, one to every household in the country.
- Held more than 75 press conferences to inform the nation on the progress of the disease.
- Conducted more than 30,000 quantitative surveys, 32 focus groups and 32 in-depth-interviews, listening to the nation as they experienced the pandemic and tailoring our communication to them appropriately.

Between June 2020 and December 2020, the Department delivered;

- Over 2 million bilingual posters on how to wash your hands correctly;
- A "Stay local. Stay safe. Protect each other" campaign to support updated guidance for Phase 2 easing of restrictions, behavioural advice and information on COVID-19 symptoms;
- Regional campaigns encompassing media, paid social and advertising to support regional "Stay Home" measures;
- A series of paid social and digital youth-focused creative campaigns on how to socialise safely throughout the summer and winter; and
- A "Stay Safe" campaign to support the reintroduction of restrictions in December 2020.

COVID-19 TRACKER APP

A key innovation in Ireland's response to the pandemic was the development of the COVID-19 Tracker App.

- Ireland's COVID-19 Tracker App was launched in July 2020 and it had over 1 million downloads within the first 48 hours of release.
- Ireland achieved a world first in all-island contact tracing app interoperability in July when the COVID-19 Tracker App became interoperable with Northern Ireland's STOPCOVIDNI app.
- Along with Germany and Italy, Ireland was one of the first countries in Europe to participate in the EU Interoperability Gateway that went live on 19 October 2020, enabling national contact tracing apps to 'talk to each other' meaning there is no need to download a local app when travelling to participating countries.
- App updates to include data on confirmed cases and 14-day incidence rates by county and data on the number of first dose and second dose vaccinations, by vaccine type.

IRELAND'S COVID-19 DATA HUB

Transparency and openness are key components of effective health communications and, to this end, the COVID-19 Data Hub was developed to make information more accessible to the public and other stakeholders.

- In early March 2020, the Department of Health was part of the GeoHive COVID-19 Response Co-ordination Group set up to quickly respond to this demand. Using the existing GeoHive platform, managed by Ordnance Survey Ireland, Ireland's COVID-19 Data Hub was launched on 18 March 2020.
- Development of the Hub was a highly collaborative project between the Department of Health, Ordnance Survey Ireland, the Central Statistics Office, Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSPC), Health Service Executive, Health Intelligence Unit, All-Island Research Observatory and many others. Initially it included data on COVID-19 cases and deaths (from HPSC), as well as data on hospital (from HSE) and ICU numbers (from National Office of Clinical Audit) and lab testing (from HPSC).
- The hub also includes a secure area accessible to NPHET, contributing to the national policy-making process.
- As the pandemic evolved, more data became available and public demand for information grew. The Statistics and Analytics Unit within the Department of Health established a COVID-19 Data Co-ordination Group to direct the activities of public service bodies involved in collecting and disseminating COVID-19 related data in Ireland and to oversee expansion of the Data Hub.
- A core element from the start was that all data would be accessible as open data both directly through the hub and through Ireland's Open Data Portal⁵. The Hub's automated data flows reduce the burden on the data providers and increase the value to data users. This has enabled many users to create their own visualisations and services such as the statistics used by the HSE's COVID-19 Tracker App, the RTE Dashboard and by many citizen data scientists.
- What began as an emergency response to COVID-19, has the potential to evolve into an increasingly co-ordinated and open approach to the sharing and publication of health data in Ireland.

⁵ <https://data.gov.ie/>

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

As Ireland faced an unprecedented crisis, it became necessary to empower public health measures with a statutory underpinning. This represents a substantial body of work undertaken and delivered by the Department in 2020.

- In 2020 the Department drafted and oversaw two different pieces of Primary Legislation through the Oireachtas: the Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Act 2020, and the Health (Amendment) Act 2020. These Acts provide for emergency powers to give effect to public health measures to protect the health and lives of people during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Department drafted 51⁶ Statutory Instruments under these emergency powers. These Regulations give effect to the public health measures agreed by Government.
- The Department also drafted and oversaw two Joint Resolutions of the Oireachtas in Autumn 2020, which extended the emergency COVID-19 powers from their original expiration date of 09 November 2020 to 09 June 2021.

CROSS-GOVERNMENTAL WORK

In addition to the cross-governmental work undertaken through NPHE, the following significant cross-governmental work took place:

- Working with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the Department guided the finalisation and implementation of NPHE recommendations on the use of barrier masks or face coverings by the general public.
- The Department also engaged with other Government Departments to ensure that:
 - the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) had access to schools for their blood clinics;
 - IBTS staff were exempt from public health restrictions while travelling to and from work; and
 - members of the public could leave their home to attend a blood clinic.
- Extensive work was undertaken by the Department in liaison with the State Claims Agency, the HSE and other agencies and service providers to structure several aspects of COVID-19 work in an appropriate way to ensure adequate liability cover for all parties.
- The Food & Environmental Health Unit engaged with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Health Safety Authority (HSA) and the HSE's Environmental Health Service (EHS) to agree and finalise arrangements for the EHS' involvement with the HSA Return to Work Safely Protocol. The EHS included raising awareness of the Protocol with food businesses as part of its ongoing inspection regime. 11,854 visits were conducted in 2020.

INCREASED INTERNATIONAL AND EU ENGAGEMENT

International engagement by the Department expanded considerably throughout 2020 as the EU established new and strengthened existing structures to better coordinate the response across Member States. EU Ministers of Health met frequently in the second half of 2020 to discuss the pandemic and bolster the response.

- The Department's EU and international engagements and obligations and its EU legislative workload increased significantly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

⁶ <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/1f150-view-statutory-instruments-related-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

- The Department was engaged in servicing the Vaccine Steering Board (constructed on an exceptional basis) at expert level, and numerous national contact points for workstreams under the Emergency Support Instrument and, the full activation of the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) mechanism for the coordination of the EU's cross-sectoral response at Attaché level.
- There were also increased levels of engagement with existing structures such as, at expert level, the Health Security Committee and eHealth Network, COREPER at Ambassador level and, at Ministerial level, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO).
- Reflective of the increased political prominence of health issues, the pandemic response frequently featured on the agendas of the General Affairs Council (GAC) and the European Council (EUCO) and briefing was provided to enable participation.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in April 2020 to strengthen North/South cooperation on the public health response to COVID-19 and another MoU was signed to address cooperation and mutual support in critical care delivery in November 2020. There was frequent engagement between the Department and counterparts in Northern Ireland on the epidemiological situation and public health response.

Service Continuity and Adaptation

The COVID-19 pandemic led to unprecedented interruption to normal healthcare activity, with all healthcare settings affected throughout 2020. Despite this, the Department of Health continued to support and lead the health and social care sector in ensuring, in so far as was practicable, the continuation of services for the people of Ireland through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

ACUTE SERVICES

- An additional 324 acute beds were delivered.
- A three-month agreement was reached with the Private Hospitals Association to use up to 100% of private hospital capacity to alleviate pressures on the public hospital system associated with the pandemic.
- The Department and the HSE agreed a new arrangement with the 18 private hospitals to provide the HSE with access to private hospital capacity to include a safety net arrangement for any further surge of COVID-19 case in 2021 following the termination of the original private hospital agreement in June 2020.
- A strategic multi-year plan for additional critical care capacity was developed in conjunction with the HSE, and the National Clinical Programme for Critical Care. This plan sets out two phases of capacity expansion to:
 - ensure readiness of the health system for provision of critical care to COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients as part of the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - support the ambitious long-term strategic goal of increasing overall critical care capacity to 446 beds, fully addressing the critical care recommendations of the Health Service Capacity Review.
- A network of Community Assessment Hubs was established to provide timely, community-based acute clinical assessment for COVID-19 patients (presumptive and confirmed) in their local area. At the height of the COVID-19 crisis, there were 29 hubs in operation, with the

numbers operational at any one time varying during the year according to changing demand levels.

- Measures were put in place to ensure that the Hepatitis C & HIV Compensation Tribunal was able to operate during the pandemic:
 - Tribunal staff were exempt from restrictions while travelling to and from work.
 - A Ministerial Order was made, designating the Tribunal as a State Body for the purpose of holding remote meetings and hearings, in accordance with the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020.

PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE

Primary Care Practitioners have played a pivotal role in responding to the health needs of the public during the COVID-19 crisis. Engagement between the Department of Health, the HSE, and the various professional and regulatory bodies has supported this role.

Community Pharmacy

- The HSE's Healthmail system was modified to allow prescriptions to be transferred directly to a pharmacy.
- Community pharmacists and their teams were recognised as key workers to ensure access to priority testing for the COVID-19 virus and priority access to vaccination.
- S.I. No. 401 was put in place to allow for the flu vaccine to be administered by pharmacists in places other than the premises of the retail pharmacy business. This has reduced barriers to participating in the National Influenza Vaccination campaign.

Oral Health

- Dental Practices were one of the first services to reopen after the initial 'lockdown' on 18 May 2020. This was possible with the support of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) guidance commissioned by the Department and put in place to support the reopening of services.
- The Department worked with the HPSC and the Dental Council in developing and reviewing this guidance during 2020.
- Dentists and their teams were placed in the second priority for receipt of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- SI 698 of 2020 was amended in February 2021 to add registered dentists and optometrists to the list of professionals who may supply and administer COVID-19 vaccinations.

General Practice

- A package of measures to support general practice, agreed with the IMO, was introduced from March 2020 to ensure GPs were able to continue to provide essential services, both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19. This package provided for COVID-19 related GP assessments and testing referrals without charge for all patients. Separate to these supports, an arrangement was also introduced to support GP Out-of-Hours services.
- The Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Programme, which commenced at the end of January 2020, was modified to provide for remote GP patient review in addition to in-surgery reviews as clinically necessary. The Modified CDM Programme allowed for 120,000 patients over the age of 70 to benefit from the programme in 2020, rather than the 43,000 patients over 75 initially planned for that year, helping to keep the care for chronic disease in the community.

- Ireland's influenza vaccination programme was expanded for the 2020/2021 flu season so that all of those in the HSE-defined at-risk groups aged from 6 months up, and all children aged from 2 to 17 years inclusive had access to vaccination without charges. The programme provided a dramatic increase in the number of vaccinations administered.

Screening

- All four screening programmes (BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScan) run by the National Screening Service (NSS) were paused for a time in 2020 due to COVID-19. All screening services resumed on a phased basis throughout 2020. During the pause, clinical staff were supporting symptomatic breast services in their host hospitals, providing care, diagnostics, treatment and surgery for patients referred to the symptomatic service.

SOCIAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Continuous oversight of service delivery was provided, keeping focus on the resumption of services by the HSE that had closed at the start of the pandemic.
- A focus on maintaining palliative care and end-of-life care services during COVID-19 was ensured and proposals were developed to underpin the allocation of €7.7m to the voluntary hospice sector and €10m to the broader palliative care sector in this context.
- The HSE and key partners worked with the Department to ensure services for people with dementia and family carers were maintained during COVID-19 and ensured that innovative COVID-19 responses, such as in-home day care for people with dementia and emergency respite for family carers, were mainstreamed in the 2021 National Service Plan.
- The Department worked with the HSE and the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to ensure that residential services for people with a disability were delivered safely during COVID-19.
- A round-table for family carers was organised to discuss their experiences of caring before and after COVID-19.
- Full residential disability services were provided throughout the pandemic.
- The HSE, HIQA and disability service providers supported the Department to ensure the provision of supports including PPE equipment, infection prevention and control guidance, and COVID-19 response teams thus ensuring significant protection was achieved for residents of disability residential care facilities.
- *Disability services – preparedness and ongoing response to COVID-19*⁷ was published.
- Over 7,000 adults with disabilities were supported upon the closure of other Adult Disability Day service locations, through a combination of remote and outreach day supports, harnessing innovative ways of working and technological supports. A further 4,000 adults continued to receive some face-to-face service, including approximately 900 priority service users who continued to be supported at day service locations, within public health guidelines.
- An additional €7.5m was provided in September 2020 to increase day services by 1 day per week for 14,940 day-service users and by end of November service provision had increased to 51% of the original service. This increase was augmented by an increase in remote supports due to the investment in technology.

⁷ <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/120189/0f2d14ac-4619-48b0-833f-5da351c4b30d.pdf#page=null>

- Emergency legislation (Part 5 of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (COVID-19) Act 2020) was introduced to enable the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to conduct mental health tribunals with limited personal interaction.
- Secondary legislation was introduced to allow the transfer of patients from the Central Mental Hospital (CMH) Dundrum to new facilities in Portrane, so that other at-risk patients can be appropriately treated at the CMH.
- A tripartite oversight group, comprising of the Department's Mental Health Unit, the HSE Mental Health Services and the MHC was established to monitor and update responses to COVID-19.
- Over €2 million was provided for a range of e-mental and telemental health solutions, enabling a more blended, up to date mental health service offering to meet evolving demands and circumstances.

SUPPORTS TO NURSING HOMES

Evidence in Ireland and globally has shown that older people, particularly those who are medically compromised or frailer are at severe risk for poorer outcomes from COVID-19, and that congregated settings such as long-term residential care facilities have been severely impacted.

- A comprehensive package of policy responses and support measures was developed and implemented to support nursing home and home support services throughout the pandemic.
- On foot of a NPHE recommendation, the Minister for Health established a COVID-19 *Expert Panel on Nursing Homes* in May 2020. The Expert Panel's report⁸ was published in August 2020 making a package of recommendations and a framework for the continued response to COVID-19 in nursing homes.
- Implementation structures, including a multiagency oversight team and stakeholder reference group, were established to progress the recommendations of the Report.
- A first Progress Report, outlining early key progress across a range of key national recommendations, was published October 2020.
- The Department developed, with the HSE and NTPF, and secured up to €134.5m of funding for the *Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme*⁹ to provide financial support to private nursing homes to prevent and manage the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks.
- The Department provided extensive support towards the response to managing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in nursing homes, including meeting the significant demands brought about by the high level of public and parliamentary concern.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The Department coordinated the public health response for socially excluded groups in congregated settings and in the community including people who use drugs, people who are homeless, the Traveller community, the Roma community, and residents in direct provision centres.
- The Department collaborated with government departments, the HSE and civil society to minimise the overall impact of COVID-19 on socially excluded groups by ensuring they received priority action in terms of detection, case management and contact tracing. A fast-

⁸ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3af5a-covid-19-nursing-homes-expert-panel-final-report/>
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/temporary-assistance-payment-scheme-for-nursing-homes/>

track flexible approach was used for complex cases in these communities, that minimised further spread.

- The Department supported the HSE-led response to COVID-19 among people who are homeless which resulted in additional funding of €3m in the HSE Winter Plan for enhanced healthcare services for people who are homeless, including the shielding of 300 people in own-door accommodation.
- The Department, the HSE and voluntary and community organisations worked together to restore drug and alcohol services for people with substance use dependency. Additional funding of €500,000 was provided to drug and alcohol task forces to help service providers adapt their services to meet COVID-19 restrictions.
- Public health guidance was provided in an accessible format for people who use drugs and those with alcohol dependency. Guidance was also provided to support the continued operation of drug and alcohol support groups and programmes.
- A rapid impact assessment was conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on drug and alcohol services and people who use drugs¹⁰, in conjunction with the Irish Government Economics and Evaluation Services and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug-related Activities.

HUMAN RESOURCES - OVERSIGHT AND POLICY

- A temporary mechanism was created to allow for the rapid restoration of retired health and social care practitioners to professional registers during the COVID-19 Emergency.
- Action 6 of the National Action Plan on COVID-19 identified the re-recruitment of retired health sector workers to maximise the pool of registered health professionals available to combat the pandemic. Following consultation with the six regulators of health and social care professions, five of the regulatory Acts were amended by the Emergency Measures Act to provide for an expedited mechanism for restoration to the register free of charge, for the specific purpose of addressing the COVID-19 Emergency.
- Support was provided to Phase 1 of the Safe Staffing Framework in Model 4 hospitals. €5m was allocated in 2020. There are now Safe Staffing Coordinators in every Model 4 hospital to support the implementation.
- The IT contract to support the roll out of the Safe Staffing Framework was signed.
- Phase 2 of the Safe Staffing Framework, which focuses on emergency care settings, completed the recruitment into the pilot sites. A total of 45.5 WTE were recruited into the pilot sites. The first post-recruitment change was complete in 2020 and the second is ongoing and will include some of the impacts of COVID-19.
- Phase 3 of the Safe Staffing Framework, which focuses on the long-term residential care setting was commenced, with €1m award to the research team to support the National Taskforce. The research team produced the evidence review of available international literature relating to the assessment of appropriate staffing levels in the residential care setting.

¹⁰ <https://igees.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covid-Rapid-Impact-Assessment.pdf>

CREATING A MORE RESPONSIVE, INTEGRATED AND PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE

The Department is committed to keeping people well at home, or near home, by expanding and increasing primary care and social care available in the community, within an integrated model of care across all settings.

PRIMARY CARE

- Nine new Primary Care Centres became operational, bringing the total to 138 at the end of 2020.
- €150m in new development money was secured to fund an Enhanced Community Care programme in 2021, including the development of Community Health Networks and specialist community teams for older persons and those with chronic disease.
- €25m in additional funding was announced to develop Structured GP Access to Diagnostics.
- The Health (General Practitioner Service and Alteration of Criteria for Eligibility) Act 2020, was enacted on 02 August 2020 which provided for an increase in the gross weekly medical card income limits for persons aged 70 and over from 01 November 2020. The act also provides the legal framework for the phased expansion of GP care without charges to children up to the age of 12, subject to a suitable commencement date.
- The final Report of the HSE Clinical Advisory Group (CAG), which was established to review eligibility for medical cards in cases of terminal illness, was published in November 2020. A comprehensive work programme is being undertaken to address the findings of the CAG report, including the development of a legislative framework to extend eligibility for the terminally ill. In December 2020 the Government approved the implementation of a new Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme so as to ensure persons resident in the State can continue to access healthcare from private providers in Northern Ireland and be reimbursed for that care by the HSE post the end of the Brexit transition period (31 December 2020).
- Negotiations on a Common Travel Area Healthcare MoU with the UK to maintain reciprocal healthcare for residents of Ireland and the UK in the event of a no-deal Brexit were concluded by end 2020.
- Primary legislation was drafted for the Government's omnibus Withdrawal of the UK from the EU Act. The health provisions of this Act provided a legislative basis for the CTA Healthcare MoU and, in the event of a no-deal Brexit, also provided for a scheme to reimburse the necessary healthcare costs for certain residents of Northern Ireland while on a temporary stay in an EU Member State. Secondary legislation in relation to implementation of the health provisions under the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU Act was prepared and drafted.

SOCIAL CARE

- An unprecedented increase of nearly €400m in funding was secured for Older Persons Services during the Estimates process, including funding for 5 million additional home support hours

- The development of an amendment to the Nursing Homes Support Scheme for farmers and small business owners was advanced.
- The continuing implementation of the *Housing Options for Older People* policy statement was supported.
- The development of the new, national policy for adult safeguarding in the health and social care sector was advanced, including the publishing of stakeholder feedback, the completion of commissioned service user focus group research and the completion of a commissioned international evidence review.
- An international evidence review on '*linking care-bands to resource-allocation for home-support and long-term residential care*' was commissioned from the HRB.
- A phased project to review the regulatory framework governing designated centres for older persons commenced, which included the establishment of a Bilateral Project Group, to consider interim legislative enhancements.
- The Department oversaw continuing progress by the HSE in 2020 in relation to specialist disability services.
- An estimated 126 people transitioned from congregated disability settings to living in the community.
- From September onwards, over 1,300 school leavers commenced their new day service.
- 1.78 million Personal Assistance hours delivered in 2020 to 2,552 people, an increase of 6.7% over the target in the National Service Plan (NSP).
- 3.1m Home support hours were delivered to 7,130 people with disabilities.
- Progress on Personalised Budgets test pilot project continued.
- The HRB was commissioned to provide an international evidence brief on palliative care policies in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and the Netherlands to support the Palliative Care Update.
- The Department's Legal Unit continued liaising with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on the Financial Sustainability and Corporate Governance review of the Sector.
- The oversight of delivery of residential disability services was continued and timely and regular updates were provided to Ministers on disability providers facing financial and corporate governance challenges.
- From September onwards, over 1,300 school leavers commenced their new day service

MENTAL HEALTH

- *Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*, a 10-year mental health policy was launched on 17 June 2020. A National Implementation Monitoring Committee was established to drive implementation of the policy.
- An increase of €50m in the national mental health budget for 2021 was provided, bringing the total to over €1.1 billion.
- *Connecting for Life: the National Strategy to Reduce Suicide* extended by four years to 2024 with an updated implementation to 2022 published by HSE National Office of Suicide Prevention in December.
- The review of the Mental Health Act was progressed.
- The Central Mental Hospital (Relocation) Act 2020 to allow for the relocation of the CMH to Portrane in 2021 was enacted in December 2020.
- Jigsaw opened its 13th site in Bray, Wicklow in December 2020.

SLÁINTECARE

- A strong message of the importance of prevention has been made through the work of Healthy Ireland and the roll out of the *Keep Well* resilience campaign.
- A conscious move to implementing more integrated care was taken, resourcing more networks of care, through the establishment of community healthcare networks, as well as older persons and chronic disease management hubs.
- Sláintecare has also progressed the goal of keeping people out of hospitals as much as possible by agreeing with GPs that they will deliver a national Chronic Disease Management Programme. This will help people with chronic conditions to stay well, avoid hospital and receive more care in the community.
- The implementation of telehealth access to GP services for COVID-19 symptoms, the integration of services across acute and community, the focus on managing as much care as possible in the community and the rapid deployment of e-health solutions, for example, illustrated what was possible when all stakeholders in the health and social care system worked collaboratively to tackle the challenges faced due to the pandemic. There was a huge increase in telehealth access to GP services, which allows people to speak with their GP over the phone or video conference much more easily.
- In 2020 there was a rapid deployment of e-health solutions – from speedy prescription delivery to pharmacies, to the delivery of appointments such as physiotherapy sessions or exercise programmes online.
- Through the €20m Sláintecare Integration Fund, Sláintecare is funding over 100 innovation projects across the country – led by partners such as hospitals, hospital groups, community organisations and NGOs, Primary Care Centres, universities – which are each working to improve integrated care and shift care, where appropriate, into the community. These projects demonstrated new ways of delivering care.

MAKING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FAIRER AND FASTER

The Department is committed to the principle of health and social care based on need and not on ability to pay. This is based on a whole of system approach to support better health outcomes through the right care delivered in the right place at the right time, addressing fundamental health inequalities. The 2020 achievements under this objective are outlined under the following headings:

SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED CARE

- The Department oversaw the delivery and implementation of the HSE's Winter Plan 2019/20 and the development of the HSE's €600m Winter Plan 2020/21.
- The Department worked with the HSE to monitor the performance of Emergency Departments, ensuring that emergency care was available to those who needed it throughout the pandemic.
- The Department oversaw the development of the 2020 Access to Care plan, which set activity targets for both the HSE and National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF), with the key aim of improving waiting times for scheduled care.
- As a result of the Department's implementation of modified pathways to care and utilising innovative methods of providing scheduled care, the growth trend in the Inpatient/Day Case waiting list was reversed and the number waiting for a hospital appointment/procedure dropped by 17% from May to December 2020.

NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

Supported by a €1m funding allocation in NSP 2020, the National Ambulance Service continued building capacity and implementing service improvements in line with the strategic reform plan, *Vision 2020*. Key achievements included:

- The allocation of clinical and specialist support capacity in the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) Clinical Hub, enabling increased use of alternative care pathways and hospital avoidance.
- Expanded use of community initiatives and "see and treat" services, which involve ambulance crews responding to 999 calls and, where appropriate, treating the patients at the scene rather than conveying them to hospital emergency departments.
- Further development of critical care and retrieval services, supporting the rollout of strategic national initiatives, including trauma and critical care.

MATERNITY STRATEGY

The Maternity Strategy continued to be implemented, with a focus on the on-going expansion of the supported care pathway across maternity services.

- 12 additional Advanced Midwife Practitioners (AMP) were funded to support the further roll-out of the Model of Care, ensuring all 19 maternity services have at least one AMP.
- Ireland's first ever Maternity Experience Survey took place and was published in 2020 with the results being very positive overall and all hospitals having developed Quality Improvement Plans.
- To improve access to gynaecology services, the HSE's National Women & Infants Health Programme developed a Model of Care for Ambulatory Gynaecology which centres on one-stop "see and treat" clinics. The roll-out of Phase One of the new Model of Care commenced

during 2020, with the establishment of the first three clinics in Dublin (Rotunda), Cork and Galway.

- Funding of €2m in 2020 enabled Phase One of the roll-out of the Model of Care for Infertility to commence, with the establishment of four Regional Fertility Hubs at Cork Maternity University Hospital, the Rotunda Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital and the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital.

CANCER SERVICES

There were significant accomplishments for Cancer Services during 2020:

- The North West Cancer Centre at Altnagelvin Hospital, Derry, treated 200 patients from the Republic of Ireland in 2020.
- There was continued engagement throughout 2020 with the EU/Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer.
- A revised GP Referrals process for Symptomatic Breast Disease Clinics was put in place in 2020, to increase the appropriateness of referrals to clinics.
- The Cancer Patient Advisory Committee, established in line with Recommendation 39 of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, met four times in 2020. The Committee provides patient input into the oversight of the implementation of the Strategy and into the development of programmes for patients with cancer. The Committee also considers how patient input into cancer services can be facilitated more broadly in line with the objectives of the National Cancer Strategy.
- Two new National Clinical Guidelines were launched to help healthcare professionals with the diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with colon cancer; and the diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with rectal cancer. The guidelines were developed by multidisciplinary groups supported by the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).
- In 2020, the full transition to the new radiation oncology facility in Cork University Hospital was completed.
- The NCCP collaborated with the voluntary sector to conduct lung cancer public awareness campaigns in September and November 2020 and continues to work with community organisations to develop and promote cancer awareness in local communities.
- A Model of Care for psycho-oncology was completed in September 2020.

ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANT

Funding of €0.283m was provided to HSE Organ Donation and Transplant Ireland (ODTI) for recruitment of posts for transplant services, including a dedicated organ retrieval service. Further funding of €0.213m was provided to ODTI for purchase of transplant equipment. The transplant equipment has multiple benefits for patients and will contribute positively to the overall health service – including a significant reduction in the assessment time for a potential donor, thereby freeing up ICU beds for critically ill patients.

PATIENT SAFETY

The Department of Health has worked to progress the clinical effectiveness agenda and support evidence-based care continued with the finalisation and publication of five National Clinical Guidelines for the healthcare services:

- Department of Health (2020). Irish National Early Warning System V2 (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No.1).
- Department of Health (2020). Nutrition screening and use of oral nutrition support for adults in the acute care setting. (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 22).

- Department of Health (2020). Stratification of clinical risk in pregnancy (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 23).
- Department of Health (2020). Diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with colon cancer (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 24).
- Department of Health (2020). Diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with rectal cancer (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 25).
- Implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017 – 2020 continued, with a particular focus on infection prevention and control.
- The 6th Annual Report of the National Healthcare Quality Reporting System Annual Report (2020) was finalised.
- The National Care Experience Programme, a tripartite initiative of the Department, the HSE and HIQA to capture patient experiences to improve care, conducted Ireland's first National Maternity Experience Survey.
- The Patient Advocacy Service (PAS), commissioned by the Department of Health, commenced its first full year of operations, providing independent advocacy and support to those who wished to make a complaint about the care and treatment they received in public hospitals. In line with the commitment in the Programme for Government: Our Shared Future, PAS also began extending the remit of its services to the community setting.
- The Independent Patient Safety Council held its first meetings and work was conducted and finalised on the Council's Recommendations to the Minister for Health for a National Policy Framework for Open Disclosure in Healthcare in Ireland.

IMPROVING OVERSIGHT AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE SECTOR

The Department of Health ensures that processes, governance structures and regulatory frameworks are in place in the health and social care sector, giving it effective oversight. The Department works in partnership with the HSE, and all our agencies to deliver key strategies and reforms, including through strong performance monitoring and management, with a focus on financial control and outcomes.

GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

- Department of Health/HSE Engagement model was finalised and agreed between the Department and HSE in February 2020
- As part of that model, the Department of Health/HSE performance engagement model became fully operational in March 2020. Operation was interrupted in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic however despite the ongoing challenges the engagement model was fully re-instigated and implemented from July 2020 onwards.
- Engagement with HSE took place on key planning areas:
 - Development of National Service Plan 2021
 - Development of HSE Corporate Plan 2021 -2024
 - HSE Annual Report 2019
- The Final Report of the Expert Group on Tort Reform and the management of clinical negligence claims was submitted to Government and published in December 2020, alongside all papers and submissions made to the Group.
- Payments continued to be made to five women and their 12 legal advisors under the CervicalCheck non-disclosure ex-gratia scheme and the Report of Independent Assessment Panel relating to this scheme was submitted to the Minister in July 2020.
- Resolution was reached in European Court of Human Rights cases on Symphysiotomy.
- 23 payments were made in relation to MDU refusals including settlement costs, plaintiff bill of costs, defendant bill of costs and legal cost accountancy fees.
- Work on the fit out of a suitable space for the CervicalCheck Tribunal which had begun in 2019, was completed at the beginning of March 2020. The space was fitted out specifically to meet the Tribunal's requirements, to facilitate it in hearing and determining claims in a timely and sensitive manner.
- In line with the public health measures being taken at that time to control the outbreak of COVID-19, it was decided to delay the establishment of the Tribunal. The Tribunal was formally established on 27 October 2020 and following a brief 'pause' to allow for discussions with the 221+ Patient Representative Group, establishment was finalised with the appointment by the Minister of the nominated members, with effect from 01 December 2020.
- Approximately 145 appointments were made to State Boards under the Aegis of the Department.
- A Report on compliance with Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies for 19 aegis bodies was completed.
- Three Agency Governance workshops were held for staff in the Department, building Governance and oversight capacity.

STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The Department liaised with counterparts in the HSE, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), and Higher Education Institutions

regarding additional CAO student places on health-related courses in academic year 2020/2021. In total there were more than 330 additional CAO student places on health-related courses including 153 additional places in nursing and midwifery.

- A proposal was developed for a Health and Social Care Workforce Planning Strategy and Workforce Planning Projection Model and sought support under the EU Technical Support Instrument 2021 to develop the project. The proposal was successful, and the Department is currently working with the European Commission Directorate-General Reform to scope out the project and the key deliverables as part of the project to enable Health and Social Care workforce planning demand and supply projections into the future.
- Funding for a significant expansion in the health sector workforce was secured in Budget 21. An additional 16,000 posts were funded across all grades and service areas. This expansion in the workforce will enable the healthcare system to continue to meet the demands of the pandemic and ensure that it is resourced to meet the healthcare needs of the nation.
- The Department of Health Consolidated Salary Scales for 1.1.2020 and 1.10.2020 wqs completed.
- The Department provided support and guidance to the HSE and the NCSAs in relation to the implementation of pension policy in the context of FEMPI unwinding.
- There was ongoing Implementation of the 2019 Nursing Agreement, including:
 - The commencement of the Expert Review Body on Nursing and Midwifery in July 2020;
 - The appointment of over 16,000 eligible nurses and midwives to the Enhanced Nurse Contract during 2020.
- The Department engaged on and participated in the Pay Talks process led by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to ensure that Health Sector priorities could be delivered through the Public Service Stability Agreement 2021-2022 (“Building Momentum”).
- The Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Act 2020 was signed into law by the President on 14 October 2020. The Act amends the five health regulatory Acts (Dentists Act 1985, Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, Pharmacy Act 2007, Medical Practitioners Act 2007, and Nurses and Midwives Act 2011) and introduces important improvements in how those Acts operate particularly in relation to registration and fitness to practice.
- The Department processed 43 complex applications for recognition of foreign qualifications in 2020 in accordance with the challenging timeframes imposed by the Qualifications Directive.
- CORU, the Health and Social Care Professionals Council reached a significant milestone in 2020, having increased the number of health and social care professionals on its registers to over 20,000. A CORU investigation into the improper use of a protected title resulted in a landmark conviction.; ensuring that the public are protecting by preventing unregulated these individuals from continuing to practise.
- CORU continued to make substantial progress towards the regulation of all designated professions in 2020. Significant progress was made in the previous twelve months in preparing the profession of Social Care Worker for regulation with the commencement of the evaluation and approval of the relevant education programmes. Significant progress was also made by the Psychologists Registration Board towards regulating that complex profession. This has included direct engagement with the educators of the profession and the opening of a public consultation. The Podiatrists Registration Board too has taken significant steps towards opening its register with plans in place to open the register on 31 March 2021.

- The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) held three meetings in 2020 (two virtually) and made two recommendations to the Minister for Health:
- ADA -SCID (Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency - Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) was added to the list of conditions screened as part of the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme. Ireland will now screen for nine conditions under this Programme when implemented by the HSE.
- The Diabetic RetinaScreen - the National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme was modified to extend the interval between screens from one to two years for people with diabetes who are at low risk of retinopathy.
- The CervicalCheck Steering Committee continued its work under a new Chair - Professor Anne Scott (appointed in October 2020) - with its first meeting taking place in January 2021.
- Substantial progress was made in implementing the recommendations contained in Dr Scally's Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme, and in progressing the actions contained in the finalised Implementation Plan. By the end of 2020, 148 out of 170 actions were completed, with 22 actions remaining.
- The CervicalCheck Screening Programme made the technical transition to HPV cervical screening on 30 March 2020. The move to HPV cervical screening means that Ireland joins a small group of nations that employs the best-in-class testing to screen their populations for cervical cancer. This improved testing methodology, along with the continued roll-out of HPV vaccinations, means that Ireland can look forward to a significant reduction in the incidence of cervical cancer cases over the next 10-20 years.
- The Department developed a guidance document to assist long-term resident guidance on staffing adjustments during a pandemic. This Guidance Document is intended to support Long Term Residential Care Facilities (LTRCF) for older persons with assessing staffing requirements for nurses and health care assistants as part of COVID-19 preparedness. Preparedness plans are recommended in the Enhanced Public Health Measures for COVID-19 Disease Management issued by NPHE.
- The Department supported the Collin's Report on Short term review of allowances for student nurses and midwives. This report was presented to the Minister on 31 December 2020.
- 2020 was the WHO Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. The Department contributed and ran an online virtual conference in October 2020 that saw 407 nurses and midwives registered for the webinar through Eventbrite. On the day, an average of approx. 270 - 280 logged on throughout the event.

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL - HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

- The first North South Ministerial Council meeting on Health and Food Safety after the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive in January 2020 was held by video-conference on 2 October 2020. Minister Donnelly attended this meeting with the Northern Ireland Minister of Health and a Junior Minister.
- Topics discussed included the response to COVID-19, implications of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, cooperation in the health sector since 2016, child protection and the work of the Food Safety Promotion Board.

BREXIT

- Throughout 2020, the Department of Health worked closely with the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Foreign Affairs, other Government Departments and agencies to

address the many challenges arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU and negotiation of the EU-UK future relationship.

- The Department, in recognition of the significant risks that Brexit posed to the Irish health sector, conducted all Brexit readiness work based on two scenarios: successful negotiation of a limited Free Trade Agreement between the EU and UK or a 'hard' Brexit with the EU and UK trading on WTO terms. The Department's planning aimed to ensure the protection of public health, continuity in the provision of health services and the maintenance of existing services in all circumstances.
- The Department, with the support of the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and other agencies, established dedicated structures to assess the implications of the UK's withdrawal from the EU and to coordinate health sector Brexit preparedness work.
- The Department invested considerable funding in its Brexit-related contingency planning in 2020 to secure additional staff and resources for the health sector, including in the HSE Environmental Health Service.
- Negotiations on a Common Travel Area (CTA) Healthcare MoU with the UK to maintain reciprocal healthcare for residents of Ireland and the UK in the event of a no-deal Brexit were concluded in December 2020.
- The Department welcomed the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement in December 2020, which created a framework for continued cooperation with the UK in a range of health-related areas.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- In 2020, the Women's Health Taskforces continued its work to improve women's health outcomes and experiences of healthcare. Achievements in 2020 include the initiation of a radical listening exercise, the development of proposals for the first set of Taskforce priorities and securing a dedicated €5million 'Women's Health Fund' through Budget 2021 to progress a programme of actions arising from the work of the Women's Health Taskforce. Additional information can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/-womens-health/>.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Supporting good policy practices and governance, the Policy Committee is a forum which offers objective review of policy proposals and provides peer support on the development and finalisation of policy. A total of seven meetings were held in 2020.
- The Department of Health is committed to collaboration and engagement with stakeholders at all stages of policy development. The Workshop Facilitators' Network comprises 38 staff members from across the Department who are trained in managing these engagements. In 2020, the Network facilitated 26 events.
- The Department of Health assembled a cross-divisional project team in 2019 to deliver a report assessing the potential benefits and risks associated with emerging AI & Robotic technologies within the health sector. This report was finalised in 2020 containing recommendations to enable growth in this area into the future.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE/MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

- In 2020, the Department engaged in the review of the Department's approach to the implementation of and adherence to the Public Spending Code (PSC) for projects in the

health sector. The Department liaised with Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) colleagues in the development of the department's PSC procedures.

- The Department liaised with the DPER National Investment Office (NIO) in the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) including work on the NDP project tracker, and attendance and participation on Project Ireland 2040 Coordination Group meetings, which included considerations on impact of COVID-19 on the sector.
- In June 2020, new internal procedures were established to assist the Secretary General, as accounting officer, in his/her duties in relation to public investment decisions, to ensure compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC) for capital projects.

BECOMING AN ORGANISATION FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The Department works to ensure that it has the right capabilities, people, structure and culture to advance its mission.

STRATEGIC HR

- At the end of 2020, there were 595 staff (WTE) employed by the Department. During 2020, 158 new staff members joined the Department and 87 people left, mostly through retirement, moving to different employment or taking a career break.
- The Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey was undertaken in September 2020 and 73% of staff responded to the survey. This response rate compares favourably to the overall Civil Service response rate of 65%. Across 18 of the 22 themes, the Department has seen an upward trend since 2015, reflecting our commitment to continue to tackle areas for development. The areas for development and positive results identified in the report are the same for our Department as those for the wider Civil Service.
- The Strategic HR Unit implemented updated Probation Guidance and Support for line managers and staff to maintain a consistent and robust process for performance reviews and feedback for staff on probation.
- Although the Department's annual flu vaccine programme could not be administered onsite due to pandemic restrictions, staff were encouraged to receive the vaccine via their local GP or pharmacy. Throughout the pandemic and ongoing, staff are provided with timely information and access to a broad range of wellbeing supports, resources and activities.
- The Learning and Development Unit promoted a series of eLearning modules on remote working and wellbeing for staff in the Department.
- Staff continue to complete the Certificate in Health Services and Diploma in Health Services Policy in addition to a range of other technical and professional qualifications.
- The Government has committed to increasing the public service employment target for persons with disabilities to a minimum of 6% by 2024. The Department of Health remains ahead of this target with 7.17% of staff declaring a disability in 2020.
- The Department actively contributed to the overall HR response to the impact of COVID-19 through participation in the Civil Service Sector Group, chaired by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.
- A comprehensive guide entitled 'Department of Health Guidelines for working from home during COVID-19' which was distributed to all staff.

ICT

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on how the Department delivered its work.

- Initially only a small number of staff had limited remote ICT access. By the end of April all staff had been provided with secure remote access to ICT services with the vast majority working remotely
- All Department staff were given access to an encrypted laptop with secure remote access to its infrastructure. The Department also implemented a Mobile Device Management solution. This allowed the Department to remotely manage and secure devices and applications. This was a critical requirement at a time where over 85% of staff were regularly accessing Departmental resources remotely.

STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

- In 2020, the Department initiated work on the development of the Statement of Strategy 2021-2023. A consultative process was followed to set out the Department's vision, mission and strategic priorities for the next 3-year period.
- The Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 establishes the Department's commitment to human rights and equality, in line with the Public Sector Duty (Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014). Committed actions for the 2021-2023 strategic period include the undertaking of a self-assessment, oversight of our aegis bodies, implementation of related national strategies and progress reporting in our Annual Report.

Appendix 1: Corporate Information

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARD 2020

Jim Breslin
*Secretary
General*

Colm O'Reardon
*Deputy Secretary
Policy and Strategy Division*

Paul Bolger
*Director
Resources Division*

Teresa Cody (until June 2020)
*Assistant Secretary
Corporate Division*

Tracey Conroy
*Assistant Secretary
Acute Hospitals Policy Division*

Greg Dempsey
*Deputy Secretary
Governance & Performance Division*

Colm Desmond
*Assistant Secretary
Corporate Legislation, Mental Health, Drugs Policy & Food Safety Division*

Dr Tony Holohan
*Chief Medical Officer
Office of the Chief Medical Officer*

Fergal Goodman
*Assistant Secretary
Primary Care Division*

Rachel Kenna
*Chief Nursing Officer
Nursing/Midwifery, Professional Regulation, Workforce Planning, Allied Health Professionals*

Kathleen MacLellan
*Assistant Secretary
Social care Division*

Laura Magahy
*Executive Director
Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office*

Siobhan O'Halloran (until March 2020)
*Chief Nursing Officer
Nursing/Midwifery, Professional Regulation, Workforce Planning, Allied Health Professionals*

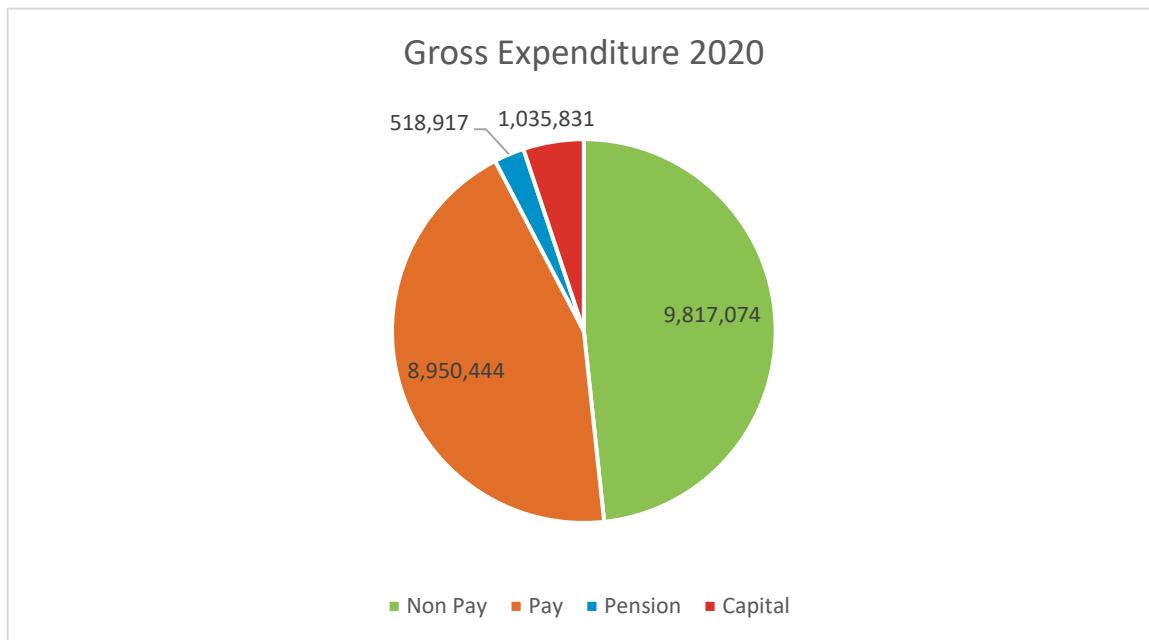
CORPORATE PROFILE

At the end of December 2020, there were 595 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff in the Department of Health. In addition to supporting the Minister for Health, the staff of the Department also supported the three Ministers of State.

The Department managed a gross budget of over €20.90bn in 2020, of which €547.5m was supplied by way of supplementary estimate. Budgeted appropriations-in-aid in the year were €0.46bn, leaving a net budget of €20.44bn.

Gross expenditure in the year was €20.810bn and appropriations-in-aid were €0.488bn. This resulted in net expenditure of €20.322m

Gross expenditure incurred by the Department of Health in the year represented 29.7% of total general government expenditure in the year. Net expenditure represented 30.2% of central government exchequer issues in the year. €20.475bn of gross expenditure in the year was consisted of disbursements to the HSE, €230m to other agencies with €105m incurred by the Department



Non Pay	Pay	Pension	Capital
€9,817,074	€8,950,444	€518,917	1,035,831

The Department of Health answered almost a quarter of all the Parliamentary Questions posed in 2020.

2020 PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSES AT A GLANCE

Parliamentary Questions (excluding withdrawn/disallowed)	9,261
Of which referred to the HSE for Direct Reply	5,025
Representations Received	12,342
Topical Issues Prepared	129
Topical Issues Selected	44
Seanad Commencement Prepared	69
Seanad Commencement Selected	26

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Department also processed 480 FOI requests in 2020, 299 of which were from the media.

PROMPT PAYMENT

An analysis of the Department's Prompt Payments obligations during 2020 is as follows:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	2,689	12,370,707.72	90.72%
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	186	1,014,138.17	6.27%
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days	89	174,061.68	3.01%
Total payments made in 2019	2,964	13,558,907.57	

The total prompt payment compensation and interest paid by the Department in 2020 was €5,788.89, comprising €1,448.89 in interest payments and €4,340.00 in compensation payments.

ENERGY USAGE IN 2020

The Department continued to work closely with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to achieve targets for energy reduction in its HQ at Miesian Plaza. The building is one of a small number of Platinum LEED accredited buildings in the world. It is an extremely complex environment which incorporates a wide range of energy efficient technologies and measures to minimise the energy footprint of the premises, which is part of a wider campus comprising three buildings, four government departments and two private sector companies.

The technologies utilised across the building enable the Department to achieve greater efficiencies in our energy consumption, and work towards our sustainability goals. These include low energy fan coil units, high efficiency air-conditioning cooling systems including thermal storage and low energy ventilation systems.

The Department established a “Green Team” for its HQ and continues to promote environmental awareness and implement green strategy initiatives across the building as the lead tenant.

For those engaged in purchasing for and on behalf the Department, Green Procurement guidelines have been defined and are reported on centrally. The Department’s green public procurement return to the Environmental Protection Agency for 2020 is set out below.

Green Public Procurement Annual Return 2020

<i>Reference year 2020</i>	<i>A. Total number of contracts issued over €25,000 by priority sector</i>	<i>B. Total value of contracts issued over €25,000 by priority sector</i>	<i>C. Total number of contracts issued over €25,000 by priority sector which have incorporated GPP</i>	<i>D. Total value of contracts issued over €25,000 by priority sector which have incorporated GPP</i>
Priority Sector				
Transport				
Construction				
Energy	1	€81,000		
Food & Catering Services	2	€611,531	2	€611,531
Cleaning Products & Services	2	€3,536,084	2	€3,536,084
Textiles				

IT Equipment	4	€178,900	1	€85,000
Paper				
Other: Consultancy	9	€1,046,819		
Equipment	2	€251,712.00		
Furniture	1	€90,805		
Mobile Phones	2	€238,694	1	€150,000
Printing / Design	5	€755,384		
Research	6	€1,064,797	1	€40,000
Services	15	€3,089,059		
IT software	3	€211,760		
Miscellaneous	1	€313,611		
Stationery	1	€50,000		
Totals	54	€11,520,156	7	€4,422,615

Appendix 2: Agencies under the aegis of the Department

Non-Commercial State Bodies

Dental Council

Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Food Safety Promotion Board - Safefood

Health Information and Quality Authority

Health Insurance Authority

Health Products Regulatory Authority

Health Research Board

Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU)

Health Service Executive

Irish Blood Transfusion Service

Medical Council

Mental Health Commission

National Cancer Registry Board

National Paediatric Hospital Development Board

National Treatment Purchase Fund
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council

Commercial State Bodies

Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI)

Appendix 3: Department of Health Publications

In 2020 the Department produced 104 publications all of which are available for download on our website at <https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/publications/>.



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2020

ÁBHAR

RÉAMHRÁ ÓN AIRE SLÁINTE STEPHEN DONNELLY	1
FORLÉARGAS	2
MISEAN NA ROINNE.....	2
RÓL NA ROINNE	2
CUSPÓIRÍ STRAITÉISEACHA.....	2
COVID-19 A BHAINISTIÚ AGUS SLÁINTE PHOIBLÍ A CHUR CHUN CINN	3
COVID-19 IN NUMBERS	3
Amlíne.....	3
COVID-19 Eipidéimeolaíocht i rith 2020	4
Key Figures.....	5
FREAGRA SLÁINTE PHOIBLÍ AR COVID-19	6
Foireann Náisiúnta Éigeandála Sláinte Poiblí (NPHE) le haghaidh COVID-19	6
Obair NPHE	6
PRÍOMHGHNÓTHACHTÁLACHA FHREAGAIRT SHLÁINTE POIBLÍ AR COVID-19.....	8
Tástáil & Rianú	8
Fórsa Saothair Sláinte.....	9
TCP agus Soláthar Aerálaithe	9
Clár vacsaínithe	9
Beartas Taistil	10
Aip Rianaithe COVID-19.....	12
Mol Sonraí COVID-19 na hÉireann.....	12
Reachtaíocht Sláinte Poiblí	13
Obair Tras-Rialtais	13
Rannpháirtíocht Idirnáisiúnta agus AE méadaithe.....	14
LEANÚNACHAS AGUS OIRIÚNÚ SEIRBHÍSE	14
Seirbhísí Géarmhíochaine	15
Cúram Príomhúil agus Pobail	15
Seirbhísí Cúraim Shóisialaigh agus Meabhairshláinte	16
Tacaíochtaí do Thithe Altranais.....	18
Cuimsiú Sóisialta.....	18
Acmhainní Daonna – Maoirseacht agus Beartas	19
SEIRBHÍS SLÁINTE AGUS CÚRAM SÓISIALTA NÍOS FREAGRÚIL, NÍOS COMHTHÁITE AGUS DÍRITHE AR AN DUINE A CHRUTHÚ	20
Cúram Príomhúil.....	20
Cúram Sóisialta.....	21
Meabhairshláinte	21
Sláintecare.....	22
ROCHTAIN AR CHÚRAM SLÁINTE A DHÉANAMH NÍOS COTHROIME AGUS NÍOS SCIOPHTHA.....	23
Cúram Sceidealta/NeamhSceidealta	23
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna.....	23
Straitéis Máithreachais.....	23
Cancer Services	24
Deonú Orgán agus Trasphlandú.....	24
Sábháilteacht Othar	25

MAOIRSEACHT AGUS COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT SAN EARNÁIL A FHEABHSÚ	26
<i>Rialachas agus Feidhmíocht</i>	26
<i>Pleanáil Straitéiseach Fórsa Saothair</i>	27
<i>An Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas – Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht Bia</i>	28
<i>Brexit</i>	29
<i>Sláinte na mBan.....</i>	29
<i>Forbairt Beartais.....</i>	29
<i>Bonneagar Caipitil/Mórthionscadail Chaipitil</i>	30
EAGRAÍOCHT ATÁ OIRIÚNACH DON TODHCHAÍ A CHRUTHÚ	31
<i>Acmhainní Daonna straitéiseach</i>	31
<i>TFC</i>	31
<i>Ráiteas Straitéise</i>	32
AGUISÍN 1: EOLAS CORPARÁIDEACH	33
<i>Bord Bainistíochta na Roinne Sláinte 2020.....</i>	33
<i>Próifíl Chorparáideach</i>	34
<i>Sracfhéachaint ar Fhreagraí Parlaiminte 2020.....</i>	35
<i>Saoráil Faisnéise</i>	35
<i>Íocaíocht Phras</i>	35
<i>Úsáid fuinnimh i rith 2020</i>	36
AGUISÍN 2: GNÍOMHAIREACHTAÍ FAOI CHOIMIRCE NA ROINNE	37
AGUISÍN 3: FOILSEACHÁIN NA ROINNE SLÁINTE	38

RÉAMHRÁ ÓN AIRE SLÁINTE, STEPHEN DONNELLY

Gabhaim fáilte roimh fhoilseachán Thuarascáil Bhliantúil na Roinne don Bhliain 2020.

Ba bhliain an-dúshlánach í 2020. Ag deireadh 2019 ní bheadh aon duine in ann méid na ndúshlán COVID-19 a bheadh le sárú ag ár seirbhísí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta, an tír agus an domhain a thuar. Tráth mo cheapacháin i mí an Mheithimh 2020, bhíomar - mar Roinn, mar rialtas, mar shochar agus mar thír - i lár an aonaigh leis an bpaindéim a chomhraic, agus chuir se isteach go han-dona ar mhórán daoine. Mar sin féin, spreag sé muid freisin chun go leor gnéithe dár seirbhís sláinte a athdhearadh agus a fheabhsú.

Bhí scála an dúshláin a bhí ann do na seirbhíse sláinte in Éirinn in 2020 gan fasach. D'oibrigh ár ndochtúirí, ár n-altraí, ár ngairmithe gaolmhara sláinte agus gach duine ar fud na seirbhísí cúraim sláinte agus sóisialta go dian dícheallach le linn na paindéime. Cé gur chruthaigh COVID-19 dúshlán shuntasacha dúinn, chuir sé béim ar ár láidreachtaí freisin - lena n-áirítear athléimneacht, gairmiúlacht, misneach agus spiorad nuálaíoch na mban agus na bhfear a dhéanann beart de réir a mbriathair ar son mhuintir na hÉireann gach uile lá.

Ba é clár vacsaínithe na hÉireann, ar cuireadh tús leis an 29 Nollaig 2020, an clár sláinte poiblí ba thábhachtaí i gcuimhne na ndaoine. Chabhraigh a rathúlacht go mór i dtreo an bhrú ar ár seirbhísí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a mhaolú, agus ba léiriú é ar ár n-spiorad mar náisiún freisin.

Táim an-bhródúil as freagairt agus as iarrachtaí mo Roinne, a ndearna a hoifigigh a ndualgas agus i bhfad níos mó na sin dár dtír agus dá muintir. Le linn 2020 léirigh siad paisean, dúthracht agus tiomantas iontach do luachanna na seirbhíse poiblí. Is mór an phribhléid é dom bheith i mo Aire Sláinte agus ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thapú chun buíochas a ghabháil leis an bhfoireann ar fad laistigh den Roinn agus ar fud na seirbhísí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta as a n-obair chrua leanúnach agus dhíograiseach chun tacú le muintir na tíre in amanna dúshlánacha mar sin.



Stephen Donnelly TD
Aire Sláinte

FORLÉARGAS

Sa tuarascáil bhliantúil seo don Roinn Sláinte leagaimid amach ár bpríomhghnóthachtálacha le linn 2020 chun ár Misean a chur i gcrích agus ár ról a chomhlíonadh.

Misean na Roinne

Is é misean na Roinne Sláinte: sláinte agus folláine mhuintir na hÉireann a fheabhsú trí:

- Tacú le daoine saol sláintiúil neamhspleách a bheith acu;
- Chinntiú go seachadtar cúram sláinte agus sóisialta atá ar ardchaighdeán agus sábháilte;
- Seirbhís cúraim shláinte agus shóisialta atá níos freagrúla, níos comhtháite agus atá dírithe ar an duine a chruthú; agus
- Bainistíocht éifeachtach agus éifeachtúil na seirbhíse sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a chur chun cinn agus an luach is fearr a chinntiú ó acmhainní an chórais sláinte.
-

Ról na Roinne

Freastalaíonn an Roinn ar an bpobal agus tacaíonn sí leis an Aire Sláinte, leis na hAirí Stáit agus leis an Rialtas trí:

- Cheannaireacht agus treoir bheartais a sholáthar don earnáil sláinte chun torthaí sláinte a fheabhsú;
- Rialachas agus maoirseacht feidhmíochta a chur ar fáil chun seirbhísí cuntasacha agus ardchaighdeán a chinntiú
- Chomhoibriú chun tosaíochtaí sláinte a bhaint amach agus páirt a imirt maidir le spriocanna sóisialta agus eacnamaíocha i gcoitinne; agus
- Thimpeallacht eagraíochtúil a chruthú ina mbaintear ardfheidhmíocht amach, ina aithnítear luach an chomhoibríthe, agus ina bhforbraítear agus ina ndéantar leas a bhaint as eolas agus as scileanna na foirne.

Cuspóirí Straitéiseacha

Is iad cúig chuspóir straitéiseacha na Roinne:

6. COVID-19 a bhainistiú agus sláinte phoiblí a chur chun cinn.
7. Cúram sa phobal a leathnú agus a chomhtháthú.
8. Rochtain ar chúram sláinte a dhéanamh níos cothroime agus níos scioptha.
9. Maoirseacht agus ar chomhpháirtíocht san earnáil a fheabhsú.

10. Eagraíocht atá oiriúnach don todhchaí a chruthú

COVID-19 A BHAINISTIÚ AGUS SLÁINTE PHOIBLÍ A CHUR CHUN CINN.

Ba í tosaíocht uileghabhálach na Roinne Sláinte in 2020 ná freagairt sláinte poiblí ar an mbagairt ba mhó do shláinte phoiblí le glúin anuas a stiúradh, .i. COVID-19. Cuireadh tús leis an bhfreagra sláinte poiblí an 27 Eanáir 2020 le bunú Fhoireann Náisiúnta um Éigeandáil Sláinte Poiblí (NPHE) le haghaidh COVID-19. Bhí ceannaireacht ar fhreagairt sláinte poiblí ar COVID-19 chun tosaigh maidir le hobair agus acmhainní na Roinne i rith na bliana, agus tionchar aici ar obair gach réimse. Sa chuid seo tá léargas ar obair agus ar ghnóthachtálacha suntasacha na Roinne in 2020.

COVID-19 i bhFigiúirí

AMLÍNE

27 Eanáir 2020	NPHE ar COVID-19 bunaithe
30 Eanáir 2020	Dearbhaíonn an WHO gur éigeandáil sláinte poiblí is ábhar imní idirnáisiúnta í an ráig COVID-19
29 Feabhra 2020	An chéad chás deimhnithe in Éirinn
03 Márta 2020	Bunaíodh struchtúr maoirseachta tras-Rialtais COVID-19
11 Márta 2020	Stádas paindéimeach dearbhaithe ag WHO
11 Márta 2020	An chéad bhás in Éirinn
12 Márta 2020	An chéad dianghlasáil fógartha ag an Taoiseach
18 Márta 2020	Mol Sonraí COVID-19 na hÉireann seolta
01 Bealtaine 2020	Foilsíú <i>Treochlár Rialtais na hÉireann chun Sochaí agus Gnó a Athoscailt</i>
22 Bealtaine 2020	D'fhógair an tAire Sláinte go bhfuil Foirm Aimsithe Paisinéara tugtha isteach
23 Bealtaine 2020	Painéal Saineolaithe ar Thithe Banaltrais bunaithe
05 Meitheamh 2020	<i>Treochlár chun Srianata a mhaolú fógartha ag an Taoiseach</i>
18 Meitheamh 2020	D'fhoilsigh NPHE a chomhairle don Rialtas maidir leis an <i>gCreat Cur Chuige Sláinte Poiblí</i>
07 Iúil 2020	Seoladh Aip Rianaithe COVID-19
21 Iúil 2020	Liosta I taistil bunaithe

23 Iúil 2020	<i>Creat maidir le Freagairt Phaindéimeach COVID-19 Amach Anseo cruthaithe ag NPHET</i>
19 Lúnasa 2020	<i>Tuarascáil an Painéil Saineolaithe ar Thithe Altranais COVID-19 foilsithe</i>
03 Meán Fómhair 2020	<i>D'fhaomhaigh NPHET athbhreithnithe ar an Creat maidir le Freagairt Phaindéimeach COVID-19 Amach Anseo an 24 Iúil 2020</i>
15 Meán Fómhair 2020	<i>Teacht Aniar agus Téarnamh COVID-19 2021 - An Bóthar Amach Romhainn</i>
22 Deireadh Fómhair 2020	Éire bogtha ag an Rialtas go Leibhéal 5 den Chreat Srianta ar feadh sé seachtaine
10 Samhain 2020	Tascfhórsa Ardleibhéil (HLTF) ar Vacsaíniú COVID-19 bunaithe
15 Nollaig 2020	<i>Straitéis Vacsaínithe COVID-19 agus Plean Forfheidhmithe foilsithe</i>
24 Nollaig 2020	Éire bogtha ar ais ag an Rialtas go dtí Leibhéal Srianta 5
29 D Nollaig r 2020	An chéad vacsaín COVID-19 tugtha in Éirinn

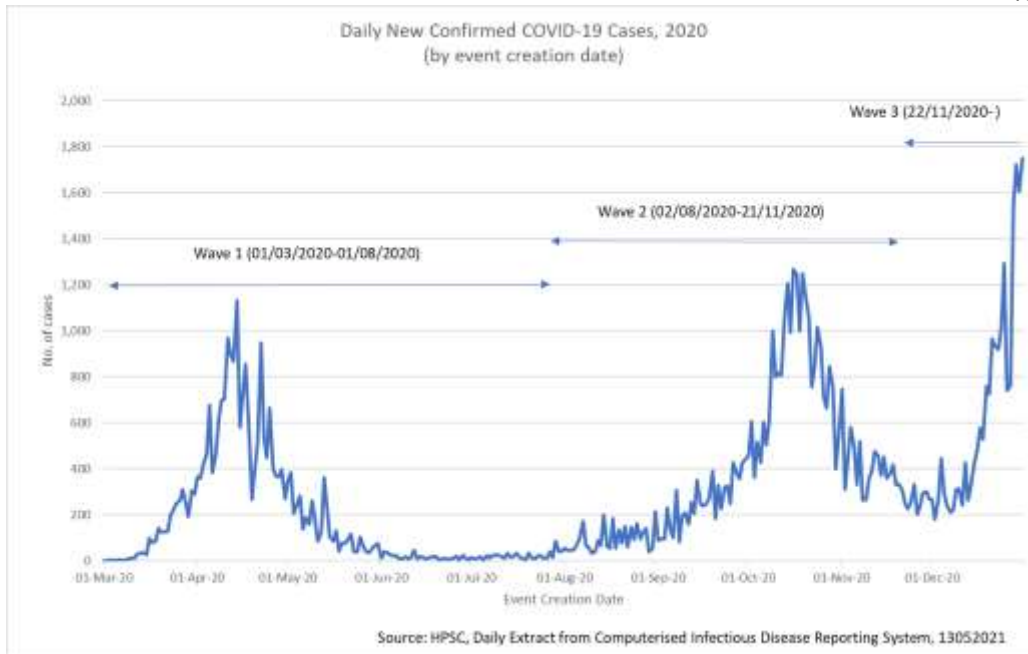
*Ciallaíonn Cló trom obair na Roinne Sláinte

EIPIDÉIMEOLAÍOCHT COVID-19 IN 2020

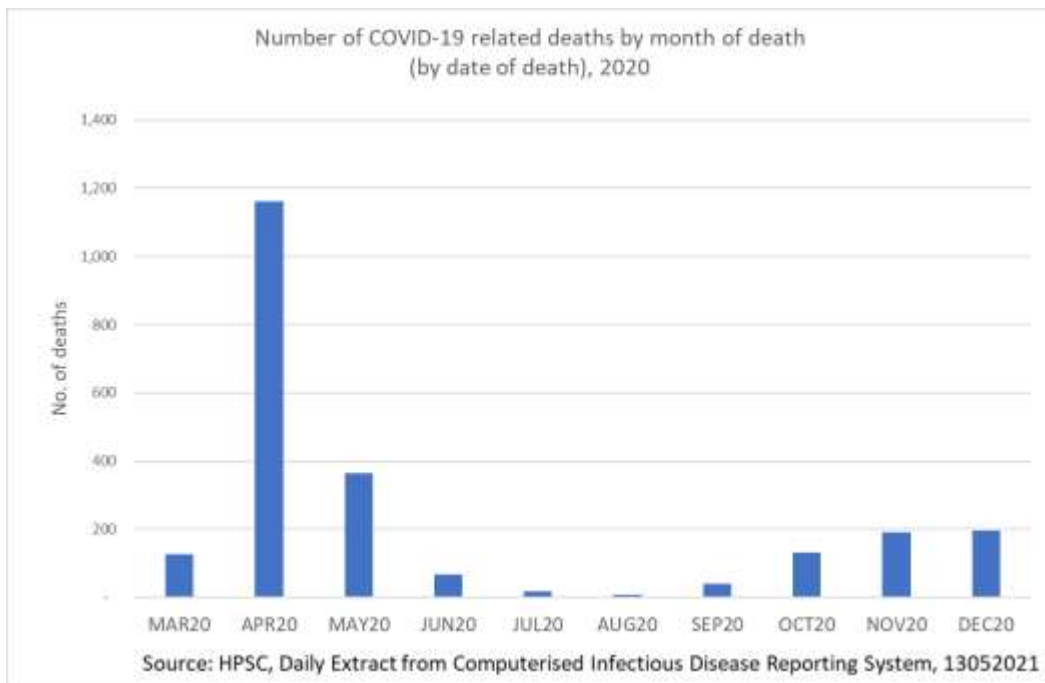
Tuairiscíodh an chéad chás deimhnithe de COVID-19 in Éirinn an 29 Feabhra 2020. Suas go meán oíche an 31 Nollaig 2020 fógraíodh 93,480 cás san iomlán in Éirinn. I rith 2020 bhí trí 'ráig' den ghalar.

Mhair an chéad ráig ó Mhárta go deireadh mhí Iúil 2020 agus tharla an líon cásanna ab airde idir Iár agus deireadh mhí Aibreáin. Taifeadadh an líon ba lú cásanna i rith na bliana (ceithre chás nua) idir an 21 agus an 23 Meitheamh. Thosaigh an dara ráig go luath i mí Lúnasa, agus ar 16 Deireadh Fómhair taifeadadh an líon ab airde cásanna le linn an dara ráig (1,267).

Thosaigh an tríú ráig den ghalar i Iár mhí na Samhna agus ba é an 31 Nollaig, a thaifeadadh an líon ab airde de chásanna in aon lá amháin i rith 2020, 1,750 cás.



Tharla an chéad bás bainteach le COVID-19 an 11 Márta 2020. Tuairiscíodh gur tharla 2,302 bás bainteach le COVID- in 2020. Tharla an líon ab airde básanna i mí Aibreáin nuair a tharla 1,162 bás.



PRÍOMHFIGIÚIRÍ

- 70 cruinniú NPHET
- 11 fhoghrúpa NPHET bunaithe
- 2.3 milliún tástáil COVID-19 curtha i gcrích in 2020
- 39 ionad tástála bunaithe
- Aip Rianaithe COVID-19 bunaithe le breis agus 1 mhilliún íoslódálacha laistigh den chéad 48 uair

- 29 Mol Measúnaithe Pobail bunaithe chun géarmheasúnú clínicíúil pobalbhunaithe tráthúil a sholáthar d'othair a raibh COVID-19 deimhnithe acu
- 324 leaba ospidéil ghéarmhíochaine breise curtha ar fáil
- Méadú ar acmhainn chúraim chriticiúil iomlán go 446 leaba
- Socrú leis na 18 n-ospidéal príobháideacha chun rochtain a thabhairt d'Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (FSS) ar acmhainn ospidéil phríobháideacha dá mba ghá
- €134.5m de mhaoiniú don *Scéim Íocaíochta Cúnaimh Shealadaigh*¹ chuig tithe altranais príobháideacha chun tionchar ráigeanna COVID-19 a chosc agus a bhainistiú.
- Dréachtaíodh 51 Ionstraim Reachtúil

Freagra Sláinte Poiblí ar COVID-19 -19

FOIREANN NÁISIÚNTA ÉIGEANDÁLA SLÁINTE POIBLÍ (NPHE) DO COVID-19

Is í an Fhoireann Náisiúnta Éigeandála Sláinte Poiblí (NPHE) an mheicníocht bhunaithe chun freagairt na hearnála sláinte ar éigeandálaí suntasacha sláinte poiblí a chomhordú. Is struchtúr seanbhunaithe é a úsáideadh le blianta fada anuas chun fóram a chruthú chun cur chuige straitéiseach i leith éigeandálaí sláinte poiblí in Éirinn a stiúradh agus chun na freagraí riachtanacha seirbhíse sláinte a spreagadh.

Bunaíodh NPHE do COVID-19 sa Roinn Sláinte an 27 Eanáir 2020, go gairid tar éis do thuairiscí ar an ngalar atá ag teacht chun cinn sa tSín a bheith sna meáin dhomhanda. Agus an Príomh-Oifigeach Míochaine ina chathaoirleach air ó bunaíodh é, rinne sé maoirsiú agus treoir, tacaíocht agus sainchomhairle a sholáthar don rialtas maidir le forbairt agus cur i bhfeidhm na straitéise sláinte poiblí chun freagairt do COVID-19 in Éirinn.

Téarmaí Tagartha NPHE le haghaidh COVID-19 mar a bunaíodh é an 27 Eanáir 2020:

1. Maoirseacht a dhéanamh agus treoir, treoir, tacaíocht agus sainchomhairle a sholáthar ar fud na seirbhíse sláinte agus na seirbhíse poiblí i gcoitinne, don fhreagairt náisiúnta foriomlán ar an gCoróinvíreas, lena n-áirítear socruithe rialaithe náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha agus socruithe rialaithe ráigeanna eile.
2. Na measúnuithe riosca náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta ba dhéanaí a mheas agus aon impleachtaí don fhreagairt náisiúnta a mheas.
3. de réir mar ba ghá.
4. Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar bhonn leanúnach ar anailísí agus ar mheastóireacht suíomhúil ag féachaint do na tuarascálacha faighte, don tsainchomhairle, don treoir idirnáisiúnta agus don dearbhú maidir le húsáid barrmhaith acmhainní.
5. Idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le heagraíochtaí agus páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha, lena n-áirítear ranna eile Rialtais, gníomhaireachtaí reachtúla agus deonacha, comhlachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus na rialtóirí ábhartha.
6. Córas cumarsáide éifeachtach a stiúradh agus a chinntiú ag na leibhéil áitiúla, réigiúnacha agus náisiúnta.
7. Measúnú a dhéanamh ar bhonn leanúnach ar ullmhacht na seirbhíse sláinte chun srianadh an choróinvírís a bhainistiú agus a choinneáil d'fhonn an NPHE a dhíscaoileadh ag an am cuí, mar a chinneadh an Cathaoirleach i gcomhairle leis an ngrúpa.

Bhí gá le cur chuige uile-rialtais maidir leis an bhfreagairt ar COVID-19 agus bhí an Roinn Sláinte ina príomhpháirtí leasmhar sa phróiseas seo.

OBAIR NPHET

- Tháinig NPHET le chéile ar bhonn an-mhínic (dhá uair sa tseachtain le linn tréimhsí d'obair ba dhéine NPHET agus uaireanta níos minice), reáchtáladh cruinnithe mionsonraithe chun comhairle a thabhairt ar fhreagairt uile-rialtais, bunaithe ar fhianaise agus stiúrtha ag sláinte phoiblí, ar COVID-19 agus chun treoir a sholáthar maidir le gnéithe sláinte poiblí de fhreagairtí na seirbhíse sláinte.
- Chun tacú le riachtanais NPHET, bhunaigh an Roinn rúnaíocht lánaimseartha, faoi cheannas Príomhoifigigh in Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Mhíochaine. Éascaíonn foireann na rúnaíochta cruinnithe NPHET agus tugann siad tacaíocht riaracháin don Chathaoirleach.
- D'éascaigh rúnaíocht NPHET 70 cruinniú NPHET idir an 27 Eanáir agus an 30 Nollaig 2020. Reáchtáladh go leor de na cruinnithe sin go fíorúil, ag teacht le treoir sláinte poiblí.
- Is éard a bhí i gceist leis an éascú ná maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar eagrú cruinnithe NPHET, modhnóireacht, taifeadadh miontuairiscí, moltaí/comhairle NPHET a chur in iúl don Aire Sláinte, agus don FSS de réir mar ba ghá. I gcomhréir le prionsabal na trédhearcahta, foilsíodh príomhdhoiciméid ar www.gov.ie.
- Bhí ionchur ag NPHET i bhforbairt an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta mar Fhreagra ar COVID-19 i mí an Mhárta 2020 agus chuir sé comhairle ar an Rialtas maidir le cur chuige srathach a ghlacadh i leith tabhairt isteach bearta sriantacha sláinte poiblí le linn Mhárta, Aibreán agus Bealtaine 2020.
- Chomh maith leis sin, d'fhorbair NPHET Cur Chuige Creatlach um Shláinte Phoiblí chun comhairle a thabhairt don Rialtas i ndáil le bearta scartha shóisialta a laghdú, a bhí mar bhonn eolais do *Treochlár Rialtas na hÉireann chun Sochaí agus Gnó a Athoscailt* a foilsíodh ar 01 Bealtaine. Thug NPHET comhairle don Rialtas maidir le próiseas cúramach chun bearta sriantacha a mhaolú chun tras-seoladh a chosc chomh héifeachtach agus ab fhéidir.
- Ar 18 Meitheamh, d'fhoilsigh NPHET a chomhairle don Rialtas maidir leis an *gCur Chuige Creatlach um Shláinte Phoiblí* chun bearta sriantacha a laghdú go dhá chéim dheireanacha.
- An 23 Iúil, d'fhoilsigh NPHET *Creat le haghaidh Freagairt ar Paindéim COVID-19 sa Todhchaí* a léirigh an gá atá le straitéis níos fadtéarmaí a fhorbairt chun freagairt an Stáit ar an bpaindéim a bhainistiú.
- An 03 Meán Fómhair, d'fhaomhaigh NPHET roinnt leasuithe ar an *gCreat um Fhreagairt ar Phaindéim COVID-19 sa Todhchaí an 24 Iúil 2020* a thug comhairle don Aire Sláinte agus don Rialtas maidir le freagairt sláinte poiblí ar COVID-19 amach anseo.
- Rinne NPHET tuilleadh mionchoigeartaithe ar an *gCreat* 4-chéim a forbraíodh i mí Iúil go *Creat* 5-Leibhéal do Bhearta Srianta, ag cur san áireamh an méid a foghlaimíodh ó na bearta sriantacha formhéadaithe a bhí i bhfeidhm le linn Lúnasa. Thug sé seo tuilleadh soiléireachta, comhsheasmhachta agus cinnteachta maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na mbeart sláinte poiblí.

Chun tacú le hobair NPHET, bunaíodh 11 fhoghrúpa in 2020. Bhí foireann saineolaithe ábhair mar bhaill de na foghrúpaí sin chun cabhrú le NPHET comhairle láidir a sholáthar don Rialtas chun cabhrú lena chinnteoireacht. Bhí Cathaoirligh na bhfoghrúpaí seo ina mbaill de NPHET freisin.

Seo a leanas liosta d'fhoghrúpaí 2020:

12. An Sainghrúpa Comhairleach (EAG)

13. An Foghrúpa Ullmhachta na nOspidéal Géarmhíochaine
14. An Foghrúpa um Athrú Iompraíochta
15. An Foghrúpa Treorach agus Sintéise Fianaise
16. Grúpa Comhairleach um Shamhaltú Eipidéimeolaíoch na hÉireann (IEMAG)
17. An Foghrúpa Reachtaíochta Sláinte
18. Na Foghrúpaí um Mheasúnú Criticiúlachta Leigheasanna agus Feistí Leighis
19. An Foghrúpa Comhairleach um Eitic Phaindéimeach
20. An Foghrúpa um Dhaoine Leochaileacha
21. An Foghrúpa um Fhórsa Saothair na hEarnála Sláinte
22. An Foghrúpa um Chuir Chuige Tástála Diagnóiseacha

- I dteannta leis na foghrúpaí seo, bunaíodh Fóram na gCeannairí Míochaine i mí an Mhárta 2020 chun teagmháil a dhéanamh le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara cliniúla ar fud na seirbhíse sláinte agus ionchur saineolach a lorg maidir leis an bhfreagairt ar COVID-19. Reáchtáladh deich gcuiníní idir Márta agus Meitheamh 2020, faoi chomhchathaoirleacht an Phríomhoifigigh Mhíochaine agus an Phríomhoifigigh Chliniciúil.
- I rith an tsamhraidh 2020, rinne NPHET scrúdú foirmiúil ar a struchtúir rialachais, a théarmaí tagartha, a fhoghrúpaí, agus a phróisis chun a chinntiú go bhféadfadh sé leanúint ar aghaidh ag oibriú go héifeachtúil agus ag cur go héifeachtach leis an bhfreagairt náisiúnta ar COVID-19 amach anseo. Tá a dtéarmaí tagartha comhlíonta ag tromlach na bhfoghrúpaí agus díscailleadh iad ar an gcoinníoll go bhféadfadh NPHET a cheangal orthu teacht le chéile arís, de réir mar ba ghá, sa todhchaí. Lean an EAG agus IEMAG dá gcuid oibre de réir a dtéarmaí tagartha.
- Leag an measúnú béim ar fhócas láidir NPHET ar a chroí-ról maidir le sláinte phoiblí, ar an gcomhoibriú éifeachtach idir an Roinn Sláinte agus a gníomhaireachtaí agus ar an mbéim láidir ar fhreagairt tras-Rialtais éifeachtach ar COVID-19. Tugadh suntas freisin do thiomantas NPHET do thrédhearacht maidir lena a chuid cruinnithe agus lena chur i bhfeidhm feabhsuithe chun a chinntiú gur scaipeadh agus gur foilsíodh clár oibre agus miontuairiscí agus páipéir na gcruinnithe go tráthúil.

Tá tuilleadh faisnéise maidir le NPHET agus a fhoghrúpaí ar fáil san fhoilseachán *Foireann Náisiúnta Éigeandála Sláinte Poiblí (NPHET) le haghaidh COVID-19: Struchtúir Rialachais*¹¹.

Príomhghnóthachtálacha Fhreagairt Sláinte Poiblí ar COVID-19

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an rannán seo forbheathnú a thabhairt ar an mbailiúchán cuimsitheach atá curtha i gcrích ag an Roinn Sláinte maidir le Paindéim COVID-19 a bhainistiú.

TÁSTÁIL & RIANÚ

D'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le FSS chun oibríocht chuimsitheach, iontaofa agus freagrúil tástála agus rianaithe a acmhainniú agus a fhorbairt, trí chlár iomlán nua a thógáil.

- Cuireadh os cionn 2.3 milliún tástáil COVID-19 i gcrích in Éirinn in 2020.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/de1c30-national-public-health-emergency-team-nphet-for-covid-19-governance/>

- Osclaíodh ionaid tástála ar fud na tíre nuair ba ghá chun freastal ar an éileamh.
- Faoi Nollaig 2020, bhí 39 ionad tástála i bhfeidhm (34 ionad tástála statacha agus cúig phreabionad tástála). Ina theannta sin, cuireadh cláir thástála srathach cuimsitheacha i bhfeidhm in áiseanna cónaithe fadtéarmacha, in áiseanna próiseála bia agus i suíomhanna leochaileacha ardriosca eile.
- Bhí rianú teagmhála lárnach don fhreagairt ar an bpaindéim. Bunaíodh ceithre ionad rianaithe teagmhála chun cásanna tánaisteacha a shainaithint go tapa agus chun tacú le bainistiú cásanna casta déanta ag foirne sláinte poiblí.
- Trí fheachtas suntasach earcaíodh timpeall 1,000 maipíneoirí agus timpeall 800 rianairí teagmhála do na feidhmeanna tástála agus rianaithe. Áiríodh orthu seo meascán d'fhoireann shaincheaptha agus baill foirne ath-implonaithe ó réimsí eile den FSS agus ó ar fud na Seirbhíse Poiblí agus na Státseirbhíse.
- Faoi dheireadh 2020, bhí sé de acmhainn ag an tír suas le 175,000 duine a thástáil in aghaidh na seachtaine, agus úsáideadh saotharlanna sa tír agus lasmuigh den tír chun tástálacha a phróiseáil. Lig sé seo don chóras freagairt go láidir nuair a tháinig méadú easpóntúil ar líon na gcásanna agus na n-atreoruithe le haghaidh tástálacha le linn thréimhse dheireadh na bliana.

FÓRSA SAOTHAIR SLAINTE

Bhí gá le méadú práinneach tapa ar fhórsa saothair riachtanach na hearnála sláinte chun freagairt do na brúnna breise a bhí ann mar thoradh ar an bpaindéim. Cuireadh go leor tionscnamh earcaíochta ar bun chun an méadú seo a éascú agus chun an fórsa saothair reatha a uasmhádú ar fud na hearnála sláinte.

- Mar thoradh ar thionscnaimh earcaíochta tharla méadú 6,357 CL (Coibhéis Lánaimseartha) in 2020. Is é seo an méadú bliantúil is mó ar an bhfórsa saothair ó bunaíodh FSS.
- Nochtadh pleananna uailmhianacha chun an lucht saothair sláinte poiblí a dhúbailt trí 255 buanfhoireann breise a earcú, ar chostas bliantúil de bhreis ar €17m, lena n-áirítear dochtúirí sláinte poiblí, altraí sláinte poiblí, eolaithe agus foireann tacaíochta. Ní hamháin gur freagairt é seo ar an bpaindéim ach is infheistíocht é i bhforbairt ár bhfeidhm Sláinte Poiblí amach anseo.

SOLÁTHAR TCP AGUS AERÁLAI THE

Ar cheann de na dúshlán tosaigh i bhfreagairt na hÉireann ar COVID-19 ná soláthar inbhuanaithe Trealamh Cosanta Pearsanta (TCP) a bhunú.

- D'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le FSS chun línte soláthair a aimsiú agus a bhunú go tapa chun a chinntiú gur soláthraíodh TCP, aerálaithe agus soláthairtí agus trealamh éigeandála eile dár n-ospidéal agus d'oibríthe túslíne mar fhreagra ar an éigeandáil phaindéimeach a bhí ag teacht chun cinn, rud a tharla i margadh domhanda an-luaineach agus dúshlánach.
- Rinne an Roinn a dícheall acmhainn dhúchasach TCP a uasmhádú nuair ab fhéidir agus d'oibrigh sí le Seirbhís Eacnamaíochta agus Meastóireachta Rialtas na hÉireann (IGEES), chomh maith leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe (DPER), chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar conas tosaíocht a thabhairt do chohóirt bunaithe ar prionsabail eiticíúla agus ar cheisteanna eipidéimeolaíochta.

CLÁR VACSAÍNITHE

- D'éiligh forbairt Chlár Vacsaínithe COVID-19 na hÉireann cur chuige seachadta chun castacht/éiginnteacht a láimhseáil, comhoibriú agus rannpháirtíocht a chothú agus obair chomhoibriúch na mílte pearsanra a stiúradh ar fud an Rialtais, FSS, Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit, comhpháirtithe comhairleacha, rialála agus seachadta ar fud an na n-earnálacha príobháideacha poiblí agus deonacha. Mar sin dhear agus chuir an Clár i bhfeidhm próiseas ó cheann ceann othar, lóistíocht, infreastruchtúr, córas faisnéise vacsaínithe saincheaptha agus earcaíodh na mílte pearsanra le haghaidh oibriú sábháilte, éifeachtach agus comhtháite an chlár vacsaínithe.
- Le haghaidh clár faoi stiúir an tsoláthair, forbraíodh *Treochlár um Pleanáil Cláir* (PPR) nuálach chun tacú le próiseas pleanála oiriúnaitheach agus chun é a chumasú. Chruthaigh an PPR cumas chun samhaltú fairsing agus anailís chásanna a dhéanamh i gcomhthéacs éiginnteacht suntasach, réamh-mheas a dhéanamh ar thionchar na n-athruithe a bhfuiltear ag súil leo, eolas a roinnt agus eolas a mhéadú.
- Tá an Roinn Sláinte ag déanamh ionadaíochta ar son mhuintir na hÉireann i gCleachtadh Soláthair AE arna oibriú ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach thar ceann na mballstát chun vacsaíní oiriúnacha, sábháilte agus éifeachtacha a fháil i gcainníochtaí leordhóthanacha, chun dul i ngleic le COVID-19. Ghlac an Roinn agus an FSS páirt ghníomhach i gcruinnithe an Bhoird Stiúrtha, faoi chathaoirleacht an Choimisiúin, a chruthaíonn an croífhóram rialachais agus comhairliúcháin do phróiseas soláthair an AE.
- Tá na socrúithe beartaithe lena chinntiú go ndéanfar gníomhaíocht chomhordaithe ag an leibhéal Eorpach chun daonra an AE a vacsaíniú. Faoi dheireadh 2020, chinn Éire glacadh le Chomhaontú Réamhcheannaigh (APA) leis an déantóir drugaí Briotanach-Sualainneach AstraZeneca, a bhí i gcomhpháirtíocht le hOllscoil Oxford agus a bhí ag smaoineamh ar an dara APA (Sanofi-Pasteur) a thairgeadh do bhallstáit.
- Ba í an vacsaín Pfizer/BioNTech an chéad vacsaín údaraithe le húsáid in Éirinn tar éis don Choimisiún Eorpach an vacsaín a údarú an 21 Nollaig 2020, de bhun moladh dearfach ón nGníomhaireacht Leigheasra Eorpach.
- Tugadh an chéad vacsaín in Éirinn an 29 Nollaig 2020.

BEARTAS TAISTIL

Ba í aidhm an bheartais taistil mar fhreagairt ar COVID-19 ná sláinte phoiblí a chosaint. Mar sin, d'fhan a fhorbairt le linn na paindéime solúbtha agus frithghníomhach, bunaithe ar an staid epidéimeolaíoch agus ar fhianaise eolaíoch atá ag teacht chun cinn.

Cur chuige coiteann maidir le taisteal laistigh den AE

Ó thús na paindéime, tá roinnt beart glactha ag ballstáit an AE chun sláinte phoiblí a chosaint.

- Chun deighilt agus cur isteach ar sheirbhísí a sheachaint agus chun trédharcacht agus intuarthacht a chinntiú do shaoránaigh agus do ghnólachtaí ghlac Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh, an 13 Deireadh Fómhair 2020, le moladh maidir le cur chuige comhordaithe chun saorghluaiseacht a shrianadh mar fhreagairt ar phaindéim COVID-19. Ghlac Éire le gnéithe den Mholadh seo mar chuid de bhearta taistil náisiúnta.
- Ghlac an Roinn páirt ghníomhach i bhforbairt agus i leasú leanúnach an mholta seo ón gComhairle ag teacht le forbairt na staide epidéimeolaíoch .

Tabhairt isteach Riachtanais Taistil Sláinte Poiblí

Ó Mhárta 2020, tá athbhreithniú leanúnach á dhéanamh ar na bearta sláinte poiblí maidir le taisteal idirnáisiúnta, agus rinneadh nuashonruithe tábhachtacha mar seo a leanas:

- An 6 Iúil, chinn an Rialtas go ndrúachtófaí 'liosta glas' de tíortha a raibh staideanna eipidémeolaíochta acu atá incomparáide nó níos fearr ná staid na hÉireann agus nach mbeadh gá le gluaiseacht srianta ó thaistealaithe ó na tíortha sin. Bhí an cur chuige chun an liosta glas a fhorbairt bunaithe ar an modheolaíocht a d'úsáid an AE chun measúnuithe a dhéanamh ar thríú tíortha, oiriúnaithe do chomhthéacs na hÉireann. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar Liosta Glas an Rialtais gach seachtain chun tíortha an AE/LEE a raibh rátaí teagmhas 25 in aghaidh 100,000 nó níos lú den daonra acu a chur san áireamh.
- Glacadh ag an gComhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta an 13 Deireadh Fómhair leis an Moladh ó Chomhairle an AE maidir le cur chuige comhordaithe i leith srianadh saorghluaiseachta mar fhreagairt ar phaindéim COVID-19. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an moladh seo deighilt agus cur isteach a sheachaint, agus trédhearcacht agus intuarthacht a mhéadú do shaoránaigh agus do ghnólachtaí.
- Mar fhreagra ar athraitheach nua de COVID-19 a aithint, cuireadh cosc ar gach eitilt isteach go hÉirinn ón mBreatain Mhór ó mheán oíche 20 Nollaig 2020 go dtí 06 Eanáir 2021. Cuireadh an toirmeasc sealadach eiltile i bhfeidhm go docht ar neamhchónaitheoirí, saoránaigh Éireannacha san áireamh. Mar gheall ar theacht chun cinn na gcineálacha athraitheacha nua de COVID-19, tugadh isteach réamhchúraimí breise do thaistealaithe ón mBreatain Mhór, ón Afraic Theas agus ó Mheiriceá Theas. Cuireadh ceanglas go dteaspeánfaí toradh diúltach/'neamhbhraite' ó thástáil um imoibriú slabhrúil polaiméaraíse (PCR) COVID-19 réamh-eiltile déanta tráth nach mó ná 72 uair an chloig roimh theacht go hÉirinn in ionad an choisc eiltile tosaigh ar 08 Eanáir.

Foirm Aimsithe Paisinéara

Tugadh isteach Foirm Aimsithe Paisinéara (PLF) COVID-19 na hÉireann an 24 Aibreán 2020 chun tacú le rianú teagmhála agus teachtaireachtaí sláinte poiblí chun cabhrú leis na hiarrachtaí náisiúnta chun dul i ngleic leis an víreas.

- Tar éis chinneadh an Rialtais an 15 Bealtaine 2020, rinneadh ceanglas éigeantach den PLF do phaisinéirí go hÉirinn ó thar lear agus bunaíodh rialacháin tacaíochta.
- Rinneadh roinnt athleagan den Fhoirm Aimsithe Paisinéara COVID-19 le lin na bliana, lena n-áirítear tabhairt isteach leagan leictreonach de bhreis ar na foirmeacha páipéir an 26 Lúnasa 2020 agus rinneadh na rialacháin a nuashonrú arís agus arís eile chun na hathruithe riachtanacha a léiriú.

Cumarsáid Sláinte Poiblí

In 2020, reáchtáil an Roinn Sláinte raon feachtas agus tionscnamh cumarsáide ceaptha chun tacú le paindéim COVID-19 in Éirinn a bhainistiú, agus chun freagairt iomlán sláinte poiblí a neartú. I gcás paindéime, tá cumarsáid phoiblí éifeachtach ar cheann de na codanna is tábhachtaí de phlean freagartha foriomlán géarchéime an náisiúin. Bhí sé ríthábhachtach tuiscint an phobail a fheabhsú agus iompraíochtaí nua sábháilte a spreagadh trí chumarsáid chun sláinte daoine a chosaint agus chun dul i ngleic leis an mbagairt víreasach nua seo, agus gan aon vacsaín ann ag an am. Ba é cur chuige cumarsáide straitéiseach na Roinne:

- Cumarsáid thrédhearcach agus oscailte leis an bpobal treoraithe ag guthanna saineolaithe iontaofa;

- Teachtaireachtaí comhordaithe, simplithe agus comhsheasmhacha, agus fíricí, sonraí agus rochtain fíor-ama ar fhaisnéis mar bhonn agus mar thaca acu;
- Branda nua a chruthú- an chomhairle bhuí um shláinte phoiblí COVID-19 – chun scála na héigeandála poiblí a chur in iúl agus chun saoránaigh a threorú chuig eolas iontaofa, scaipthe ar bhealach comhordaithe trí chomhpháirtithe tras-rialtais agus trasearnála; agus
- Cumarsáid fianaisebhunaithe, tacaíthe ag sonraí lena n-áiríodh taighde seasta margaidh, anailís lucht éisteachta/léimh agus rianú dhearcthaí an phobail.

Ó Mhárta go Meitheamh 2020, rinne an Roinn Sláinte:

- 6 fheachtas buí éagsúla COVID-19 a chruthú, agus póstaer ar fáil ar www.gov.ie d'eagraíochtaí san earnáil phoiblí agus san earnáil phríobháideach le híoslódáil agus le húsáid.
- 2 mhilliún leabhrán faisnéise COVID-19 a sheachadadh, ceann do gach teaghlach sa tír.
- Breis is 75 preasagallamh a reáchtáil chun an náisiún a chur ar an eolas maidir le chun cinn an ghalair.
- Breis is 30,000 suirbhé cainníochtúil, 32 fócasghrúpa agus 32 agallaimh dhomhain a reáchtáil, ag éisteacht leis an náisiún agus iad ag dul i dtáthí ar an bpaindéim agus ár gcumarsáid á hoiriúniú mar ba chúil.

Idir Meitheamh 2020 agus Nollaig 2020, d'eagraigh an Roinn:

- Breis is 2 mhilliún póstaer dátheangach ar conas do lámha a ní i gceart;
- Feachtas "Fan sa Bhaile. Bí sábháilte. Coinnígí a chéile Slán." chun tacú le treoir nuashonraithe um mhaolú srianta Chéim 2, comhairle iompraíochta agus eolas maidir le comharthaí COVID-19;
- feachtais réigiúnacha a chuimsigh na meáin, na meáin shóisialta íoctha agus fógraíocht chun tacú le bearta réigiúnacha "Fan sa Bhaile";
- Sraith d'fheachtais chruthaitheacha sóisialta agus digiteacha íoctha dírithe ar an aos óg ar conas buaileadh go sóisialta le daoine go sábháilte i rith an tsamhraidh agus an gheimhridh; agus
- Feachtas "Bí Sábháilte" chun tacú le srianta a tugadh isteach arís i mí na Nollag 2020.

AIP RIANAITHE COVID-19

Príomh-nuálaíocht i bhfreagairt na hÉireann ar an bpaindéim ba ea forbairt an Aip Rianaithe COVID-19.

- Seoladh Aip Lorgaire COVID-19 na hÉireann i mí Iúil 2020 agus rinneadh breis agus 1 mhilliún íoslódálacha air laistigh den chéad 48 uair.
- Ba í Éire an chéad tír ar domhan a bhain idir-inoibritheacht aipe rianaithe teagmhála uile-oileáin amach i mí Iúil agus Aip Rianaithe COVID-19 idir-inoibritheach le haip STOPCOVIDNI Thuaisceart Éireann.
- Mar aon leis an nGearmáin agus an Iodáil, bhí Éire ar cheann de na chéad tíortha san Eoraip a ghlac páirt i nGeata Idir-Inoibritheachta an AE a chuaigh beo an 19 Deireadh Fómhair 2020, rud a lig d'aipeanna náisiúnta rianaithe teagmhála 'labhairt lena chéile', rud a chiallaíonn nach gá aip áitiúil a íoslódáil agus tú ag taisteal chuig na tíortha rannpháirteacha.

- Nuashonruithe aipe chun sonraí ar chásanna deimhnithe agus rátaí minicíochta 14-lá de réir contae a chur san áireamh agus sonraí ar líon na vacsaínithe chéad dáileoige agus dara dáileoige, de réir cineáil vacsaíne.

MOL SONRAÍ COVID-19 NA HÉIREANN

Tá trédhearcacht agus oscailteacht ina bpríomhchodanna de chumarsáid éifeachtach sláinte agus, chuige sin, forbraíodh Mol Sonraí COVID-19 chun go mbeadh sé níos easca don phobal agus do pháirtithe leasmhara eile teacht ar eolas.

- Go luath i mí an Mhárta 2020, bhí an Roinn Sláinte mar chuid den Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Freagairte COVID-19 GeoHive a bunaíodh chun freagairt go tapa don éileamh seo. Ag baint úsáide as an ardán GeoHive a bhí ann cheana féin, é á bhainistiú ag Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann, seoladh Mol Sonraí COVID-19 na hÉireann ar 18 Márta 2020.
- Tionscadal an-chomhoibrítheach a bhí i bhforbairt an Mhoil idir an Roinn Sláinte, Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann, an Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh, an Lárionad Faire um Chosaint Sláinte (HSPC), Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, an tAonad Faisnéise Sláinte, an tIonad Breathnaithe um Thaighde Uile-Éireann agus go leor eile. Ar dtús bhí sonraí ann ar chásanna agus ar bhásanna COVID-19 (ó HPSC), chomh maith le sonraí ospidéal (ó FSS) agus líon na ndaoine san ICU (ón Oifig Náisiúnta um Iniúchadh Cliniciúil) agus tástáil saotharlainne (ó HPSC).
- Ar an mol tá limistéar slán freisin a bhfuil rochtain ag NPHET air, a chabhraíonn leis an bpróiseas náisiúnta déanta beartas.
- De réir mar a tháinig an phaindéim chun cinn, bhí níos mó sonraí ar fáil agus tháinig méadú ar éileamh an phobail ar fhaisnéis. Bhunaigh an tAonad Staidrimh agus Anailíse laistigh den Roinn Sláinte Grúpa Comhordaithe Sonraí COVID-19 chun gníomhaíochtaí na gcomhlachtaí seirbhíse poiblí a raibh baint acu le sonraí maidir le COVID-19 a bhailiú agus a scaipeadh in Éirinn a stiúradh agus chun maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leathnú an Mhoil Sonraí.
- Gné lárnach ón tús ná go mbeadh na sonraí go léir inrochtana mar shonraí oscailte go díreach tríd an mol agus trí Thairseach Sonraí Oscailte na hÉireann. Laghdaíonn sreafaí sonraí uathoibríthe an Mhoil an t-ualach oibre ata ar na soláthraithe sonraí agus méadaítear an luach d'úsáideoirí sonraí. Lig sé seo do go leor úsáideoirí a gcuid léirshamlaithe agus seirbhísí féin a chruthú cosúil leis na staitisticí a úsáideann Aip Rianaithe COVID-19 FSS, Deais RTÉ agus go leor eolaithe sonraí sa phobal.
- Mar a thosaigh mar fhreagairt éigeandála ar COVID-19, ta sé de chumas aige fás ina chur chuige atá ag éirí níos comhordaithe agus níos oscailte maidir le sonraí sláinte a roinnt agus a fhoilsiú in Éirinn.

REACHTÁIÓCHT SLÁINTE POIBLÍ

De réir mar a thug Éire aghaidh ar ghéarchéim nach bhfacthas riamh roimhe, bhí sé riachtanach bearta sláinte poiblí a thacú le bonn reachtúil. B'ionann é seo agus corpas suntasach oibre a thug an Roinn faoi agus a chuir sí i gcrích é i rith 2020.

- In 2020 dhréachtaigh an Roinn dhá phíosa éagsúla de Reachtaíocht Phríomhúil agus rinne sí maoirsiú orthu tríd an Oireachtas: an tAcht Sláinte (Caomhnú agus Cosaint agus Bearta Éigeandála eile ar mhaithe le Leas an Phobail) 2020, agus an tAcht Sláinte (Leasú) 2020.

Foráiltear leis na hAchtanna seo do chumhachtaí éigeandála d'fhonn éifeacht a thabhairt do bhearta sláinte poiblí chun sláinte agus saolta daoine a chosaint le linn phaindéim COVID-19.

- Dhréachtaigh an Roinn 51 Ionstraim Reachtúil faoi na cumhachtaí éigeandála seo. Tugann na Rialacháin seo éifeacht do na bearta sláinte poiblí a chomhaontaigh an Rialtas.
- Dhréachtaigh agus rinne an Roinn maoirsiú ar dhá rún chomhphárteacha Oireachtais i bhFómhar 2020 freisin, a thug síniú ama do na cumhachtaí éigeandála COVID-19 ón dáta éagtha bunaidh, 09 Samhain 2020 go 09 Meitheamh 2021.

OB AIR TRAS-RIALTAIS

Chomh maith leis an obair thras-rialtasach a rinneadh trí NPHET, rinneadh an obair thras-rialtas shuntasach seo a leanas:

- Agus í ag obair leis an gCoimisiún um Iomaíocht agus Cosaint Tomhaltóirí agus leis an Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann, stiúir an Roinn gur i gcrích agus cur i bhfeidhm mholtaí NPHET ar úsáid maisc bhacainne nó clúdaigh aghaidhe ag an bpobal i gcoitinne.
- Chuaigh an Roinn i gcomhairle freisin le Ranna Rialtais eile chun a chinntiú:
 - Go raibh rochtain ag Seirbhís Fuilistriúcháin na hÉireann (IBTS) ar scoileanna dá gclinicí fola;
 - Go raibh foireann SFAÉ díolmhaithe ó shrianta sláinte poiblí agus iad ag taisteal chuig agus ón obair; agus
 - Go bhféadfadh baill den phobal a dteach a fhágáil chun freastal ar chlinic fola.
- Thug an Roinn faoi obair fhairsing i gcomhar leis an nGníomhaireacht um Éilimh ar an Stát, an FSS agus gníomhaireachtaí agus soláthraithe seirbhíse eile chun roinnt gnéithe d'obair COVID-19 a struchtúru ar bhealach cuí chun clúdach leordhóthanach dliteanais a chinntiú do gach páirtí.
- Chuaigh an tAonad Bia & Sláinte Comhshaoil i gcomhairle leis an Roinn Fiontair, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, an tÚdarás Sábháilteachta Sláinte (HSA) agus Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil (EHS) an FSS chun socrúithe a chomhaontú agus a thabhairt chun críche maidir le baint an EHS leis an bprótacal um Fhilleadh ar an Obair go Sábháilte de chuid an HSA. Prótacal. Áiríodh leis an EHS feasacht ar an bPrótacal a mhéadú i measc gnólachtaí bia mar chuid dá réimeas cigireachta leanúnach. Tugadh faoi 11,854 cuairt in 2020.

RANPHÁIRTÍOCHT IDIRNÁISIÚNTA AGUS AE MÉADAITHE

Tháinig méadú mór ar rannpháirtíocht idirnáisiúnta na Roinne le linn 2020 de réir mar a bhunaigh an AE struchtúir nua agus a neartaigh sé na cinn a bhí ann cheana féin chun an fhreagairt ar fud na mBallstát a chomhordú ar bhealach níos fearr. Tháinig Airí Sláinte an AE le chéile go minic sa dara leath de 2020 chun an phaindéim a phlé agus chun an fhreagairt a neartú.

- Mhéadaigh rannpháirtíocht agus oibleagáidí AE agus idirnáisiúnta na Roinne agus a hualach oibre reachtaíochta AE go suntasach mar fhreagairt ar Phaindéim COVID-19 ó Mhárta 2020.
- Thug an Roinn faoi sheirbhísiú an Bhoird Stiúrtha Vacsaínithe (cruthaithe ar bhonn eisceachtúil) ag leibhéal saineolaithe, agus ar phointí teagmhála náisiúnta iomadúla do shruthanna oibre faoin Ionstraim Tacaíochta Éigeandála agus, le gníomhachtú iomlán an mheicníocht Freagartha Comhtháite ar Ghéarchéim Pholaitiúil (IPCR) d'fhonn fhreagairt thrasearnála an AE ag leibhéal Attaché a chomhordú.

- Tháinig méadú freisin ar leibhéil rannpháirtíochta le struchtúir reatha mar shampla, ag leibhéal saineolaíche, an Coiste Slándála Sláinte agus an Líonra rShláinte, COREPER ag leibhéal na nAmbasadóirí agus, ag leibhéal na nAí, an Chomhairle um Fhostaíocht, Beartas Sóisialta, Sláinte agus Gnóthaí Tomhaltóir an Chomhairle Fostaíochta, Beartais Shóisialta, Sláinte agus Gnóthaí Tomhaltóirí (EPSCO).
- Mar léiriú ar fheiceálacht pholaitiúil mhéadaithe na saincheisteanna sláinte, ba mhinic a bhí an fhreagairt phaindéimeach ar chlár oibre na Comhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta (GAC) agus na Comhairle Eorpaí (EUCO) agus tugadh faisnéisiú chun rannpháirtíocht a chumasú.
- Síníodh Meabhrán Tuisceana (MoU) i mí Aibreáin 2020 chun comhoibriú Thuaidh/Theas ar an bhfreagairt sláinte poiblí ar COVID-19 a neartú agus síníodh MT eile chun dul i ngleic le comhoibriú agus tacaíocht fhrithpháirteach i seachadadh cúraim chriticiúil i mí na Samhna 2020. Tharla plé go minic idir an Roinn agus a comhghleacaithe i dTuaisceart Éireann maidir leis an staid eipidéimeolaíoch agus an fhreagairt sláinte poiblí.

Leanúnachas agus Oiriúnú Seirbhíse

Mar thoradh ar phaindéim COVID-19 cuireadh isteach ar ghnáthghníomhaíochtaí cúraim sláinte ar scála nach bhfacthas riamh, agus cuireadh isteach ar gach suíomh cúram sláinte le linn 2020. Ina ainneoin sin, lean an Roinn Sláinte ag tacú agus ag stiúradh na earnála sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta chun a chinntiú, a mhéid a bhí indéanta, go leanfaí le seirbhísí chur ar fáil do mhuintir na hÉireann i rith Phaindéim COVID-19.

SEIRBHÍSÍ GÉARMHÍOCHAINÉ

- Cuireadh ar fail 324 leaba géarmhíochaine breise.
- Thángthas ar chomhaontú trí mhí le Cumann na nOspidéal Príobháideach suas le 100% de acmhainn na n-ospidéal príobháideach a úsáid chun brúnna na paindéime ar chóras na n-ospidéal poiblí a mhaolú.
- D'aontaigh an Roinn agus an FSS socrú nua leis na 18 n-ospidéal phríobháideacha chun rochtain ar acmhainn ospidéal phríobháideacha a sholáthar don FSS chun socrú líontáin sábhála a chuimsiú le haghaidh aon bhorradh breise de chás COVID-19 in 2021 tar éis fhoirceannadh an chomhaontaithe bhunaidh leis na hospidéal phríobháideacha i mí an Mheithimh 2020.
- Forbraíodh plean straitéiseach ilbhliantúil le haghaidh acmhainn bhreise cúraim chriticiúil i gcomhpháirt le FSS, agus leis an gClár Cliniciúil Náisiúnta um Chúram Criticiúil. Leagann an plean seo amach dhá chéim den leathnú acmhainne chun:
 - ullmhacht an chórais sláinte a chinntiú maidir le soláthar cúraim chriticiúil d'othair COVID-19 agus neamh-COVID-19 mar chuid den fhreagairt leanúnach ar an bpaindéim COVID-19; agus
 - tacú leis an sprioc straitéiseach fhadtéarmach uailmhianach maidir le hacmhainn iomlán cúraim chriticiúil a mhéadú go 446 leaba, ag dul i ngleic go hiomlán leis na moltaí maidir le cúram chriticiúil san Athbheithniú Acmhainne ar na Seirbhíse Sláinte.
- Bunaíodh líonra de Mhoil Mheasúnaithe Pobail chun géarmheasúnú cliniciúil pobalbhunaithe tráthúil a sholáthar d'othair COVID-19 (dóchúla agus deimhnithe) ina gceantar áitiúil. Le linn na tréimhse ba mheasa COVID-19, bhí 29 mol i bhfeidhm, agus d'athraigh líon na mol a bhí ag feidhmiú ag aon am amháin le linn na bliana de réir leibhéil athraitheacha an éilimh.
- Cuireadh bearta i bhfeidhm chun a chinntiú go raibh an Binsé Cúitimh Heipitéas C & VEID in ann feidhmiú le linn na paindéime:

- Bhí foireann an Bhinse díolmhaithe ó shrianta agus iad ag taisteal chuig agus ón obair.
- Shínigh an tAire Ordú Aireachta, ag ainmniú an Bhinse mar Chomhlacht Stáit chun críche cruinnithe agus éisteachtaí cianda a thionól, de réir an Achta um an Dlí Sibhialta agus um an Dlí Coiriúil (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2020.

CÚRAM PRÍOMHÚIL AGUS POBAIL

Bhí ról lárnach ag Cleachtóirí Cúraim Phríomhúil maidir le freagairt do riachtanais sláinte an phobail le linn ghéarchéim COVID-19. Thacaigh rannpháirtíocht idir an Roinn Sláinte, FSS, agus na comhlachtaí gairmiúla agus rialála éagsúla leis an ról seo.

Cógaisíocht Phobail

- Athraíodh córas Healthmail FSS le gur féidir oidis a aistriú go díreach chuig cógaslann.
- Aithníodh cógaiseoirí pobail agus a bhfoirne mar phríomhoibrithe chun rochtain ar thástáil tosaíochta don víreas COVID-19 agus rochtain tosaíochta ar vacsaíniú a chinntiú.
- Cuireadh S.I. Uimh. 401 i bhfeidhm chun go bhféadfadh cógaiseoirí vacsaíniú an fhlíú a thabhairt in áiteanna seachas áitribh an ghnó cógaisíochta miondíola. Laghdaigh sé seo bacainní ar pháirt a ghlacadh san fheachtas Náisiúnta um vacsaíniú Fliú.

Sláinte Bhéil

- Bhí Cleachtais Fiaclóireachta ar cheann de na chéad seirbhísí a athosclaíodh tar éis na 'dianghlasála' tosaigh an 18 Bealtaine 2020. Tharla seo mar gheall ar thacaíocht ó threoir an Lárionaid Faire um Chosaint Sláinte (HPSC) a choimisiúnaigh an Roinn agus a cuireadh i bhfeidhm chun tacú le hathoscailt seirbhísí.
- D'oibrigh an Roinn leis an HPSC agus leis an gComhairle Fiaclóireachta chun an treoir seo a fhorbairt agus a athbhreithniú le linn 2020.
- Tugadh dara tosaíocht d'fhiaclóirí agus dá bhfoirne maidir le vacsaíní COVID-19 a fháil.
- Leasaíodh IR 698 de 2020 i mí Feabhra 2021 chun fiaclóirí agus radharceolaithe cláraithe a chur le liosta na ngairmithe a fhéadfaidh vacsaíniú COVID-19 a sholáthar agus a thabhairt.

Cleachtadh Ginearálta

- Tugadh isteach sraith beart, comhaontaithe leis an IMO, chun tacú le cleachtadh ginearálta, ó Mhárta 2020, chun a chinntiú go raibh Dochtúirí Teaghlaigh in ann leanúint ar aghaidh ag soláthar seirbhísí riachtanacha, idir COVID-19 agus neamh-COVID-19. Rinne an pacáiste seo foráil do mheasúnuithe COVID ó dhochtúirí agus d'atreoruithe tástála gan táille do gach othar. Anuas ar na tacaíochtaí seo, tugadh isteach socrú freisin chun tacú le seirbhísí DT Lasmuigh d'Uaireanta Gnó.
- Athraíodh an Clár um Bainistiú Galar Ainsealach (CDM), ar cuireadh tús leis ag deireadh mhí Eanáir 2020, chun ligean do DT ann athbhreithniú othair a dhéanamh go cianda chomh maith le hathbhreithnithe lialanna de réir mar ba ghá go clínicíúil. Lig an Clár CDM Athraithe do 120,000 othar os cionn 70 bliain d'aois leas a bhaint as an gclár in 2020, seachas na 43,000 othar os cionn 75 a bhí beartaithe ar dtús don bhliain sin, rud a chuidigh leis an gcúram do ghalair ainsealacha a choinneáil sa phobal.
- Leathnaíodh an clár vacsaínithe fliú in Éirinn do shéasúr an fhlíú 2020/2021 ionas go mbeadh rochtain gan táille ag gach duine sna grúpaí i mbaol atá sainithe ag FSS ó 6 mhí d'aois suas, agus gach leanbh idir 2 agus 17 mbliana d'aois agus na haoiseanna sin san áireamh, ar vacsaíniú. Bhí méadú suntasach ar líon na vacsaíní a tugadh mar thoradh ar an gclár.

Scagthástáil

- Cuireadh na ceithre chlár scagthástála ar fad (BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen agus Diabetic RetinaScan) atá á reáchtáil ag an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála (NSS) ar ceal ar feadh tamaill in 2020 mar gheall ar COVID-19. Atosaíodh na seirbhísí scagthástála go léir ar bhonn céimneach le linn 2020. Le linn an tsosa, bhí an fhoireann chliniciúil ag tacú le seirbhísí cíche siomptómacha ina n-ospidéal óstacha, agus iad ag soláthar cúraim, diagnóisice, cóireála agus máinliachta d'othair a atreoraíodh chuig an tseirbhís shiomptómach.

SEIRBHÍSÍ CÚRAIM SHÓISIALAIGH AGUS MEABHAIRSHLÁINTE

- Rinneadh maoirseacht leanúnach ar sheachadadh seirbhíse, ag díriú ar atosú seirbhísí FSS a dúnadh ag tús na paidéime.
- Cinntíodh gur díriodh ar sheirbhísí cúraim mhaolaithigh agus seirbhísí cúraim um dheireadh saoil a chuir ar fáil le linn COVID-19 agus forbraíodh tograí chun tacú le leithdháileadh €7.7m don earnáil ospíse dheonach agus €10m don earnáil cúraim mhaolaithigh i gcoitinne sa chomhthéacs seo.
- D'oibrigh FSS agus príomh-chomhpháirtithe leis an Roinn chun a chinntiú gur coinníodh seirbhísí do dhaoine a bhfuil néaltrú orthu agus cúramóirí teaghlaigh le linn COVID-19 agus chinntigh sé seo go raibh freagairtí nuálacha COVID-19, cosúil le cúram lae sa bhaile do dhaoine a bhfuil néaltrú orthu agus faoiseamh éigeandála do chúramóirí teaghlaigh, lárnach i bPlean Seirbhíse Náisiúnta 2021.
- D'oibrigh an Roinn le FSS agus leis an Údarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte (HIQA) chun a chinntiú gur cuireadh seirbhísí cónaithe ar fáil go sábháilte do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas le linn COVID-19.
- Eagraíodh babhta bailithe tuairimí do chúramóirí teaghlaigh chun a n-eispéiris ar chúram roimh COVID-19 agus ina dhiaidh a phlé.
- Soláthraíodh seirbhísí cónaithe míchumais iomlána ar feadh na paidéime.
- Thacaigh FSS, HIQA agus soláthraithe seirbhísí míchumais leis an Roinn chun soláthar tacaíochtaí a chinntiú lena n-áiríodh trealamh TCP, treoir um ionfhabhtuithe a chosc agus a rialú, agus foirne freagartha COVID-19, rud a chinntigh gur baineadh amach cosaint shuntasach do chónaitheoirí saoráidí cónaithe cúraim míchumais.
- Foilsíodh *Seirbhísí míchumaisiullmhacht agus freagairt leanúnach ar COVID-19*.
- Tacaíodh le breis is 7,000 duine fásta faoi mhíchumas nuair a dúnadh láithreacha seirbhíse Lae um Aosaigh faoi Mhíchumas, trí mheascán de thacaí cianda agus for-rochtana lae, ag baint leasa as bealaí nuálacha oibre agus tacaíochtaí teicneolaíochta. Lean 4,000 duine fásta breise le roinnt seirbhísí duine-le-duine a fháil, lena n-áiríodh thart ar 900 úsáideoir seirbhíse tosaíochta a lean le tacaíochta a fháil ag láithreacha seirbhíse lae, laistigh de threoirlínte sláinte poiblí.
- Tugadh €7.5m breise i Meán Fómhair 2020 chun seirbhísí lae a mhéadú 1 lá sa tseachtain do 14,940 úsáideoir seirbhíse lae agus faoi dheireadh mhí na Samhna bhí soláthar seirbhíse méadaithe go 51% den bhunseirbhís. Cuireadh leis seo le méadú ar thacaí cianda mar gheall ar an infheistíocht sa teicneolaíocht.
- Tugadh isteach reachtaíocht éigeandála (Cuid 5 den Acht um Bearta Éigeandála ar Mhaithe le Leas an Phobail (COVID-19) 2020) chun a chur ar chumas an Choimisiúin Mheabhair-Shláinte (MHC) binsí meabhair-shláinte a reáchtáil le hidirghníomhú pearsanta teoranta.

- Tugadh isteach reachtaíocht thánaisteach chun aistriú othar ón bPríomh-Ospidéal Meabhair-Ghalar (CMH) Dún Droma go dtí saoráidí nua i bPort Reachrann a éascú, ionas gur féidir cóireáil chuí a chur ar othair eile atá i mbaol ag an CMH.
- Bunaíodh grúpa maoirseachta tríphárteach, comhdhéanta d'Aonad Meabhair-Shláinte na Roinne, Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte FSS agus an MHC chun monatóireacht agus nuashonrú a dhéanamh ar fhreagairtí ar COVID-19.
- Tugadh breis agus €2 mhilliún do raon réiteach ríomh-mheabhairshláinte agus teile-mheabhairshláinte, rud a chuir ar ár gcumas seirbhís mheabhair-shláinte níos cumaiscthe, níos cothroime le dáta a thairiscint chun déileáil le héilimh agus le cúinsí athraitheacha.

TACAÍOCHTAÍ DO THITHE ALTRANAIS

Tá sé léirithe ag fianaise in Éirinn agus ar fud an domhain go bhfuil daoine scothaosta, go háirithe iad siúd atá i mbaol míochaine nó atá níos laige, go bhfuil siad i mbaol mór torthaí níos measa ó COVID-19, agus go raibh tionchar mór ar shuíomhanna comhchónaithe ar nós saoráidí cúraim cónaithe fadtéarmacha.

- Forbraíodh agus cuireadh i bhfeidhm pacáiste cuimsitheach freagraí beartais agus bearta tacaíochta chun tacú le seirbhísí tacaíochta i dtithe altranais agus sa bhaile le linn na paindéime.
- De bhun mholadh NPHET, bhunaigh an tAire Sláinte *Painéal Saineolaithe COVID-19 ar Thithe Altranais* i mí na Bealtaine 2020. Foilsíodh tuarascáil an Phainéil Saineolaithe² i mí Lúnasa 2020 ina raibh pacáiste moltaí agus creat don fhreagairt leanúnach ar COVID-19 i dtithe altranais.
- Bunaíodh struchtúir forfheidhmithe, lena n-áirítear maoirseachta foireann ilghníomhaireachta agus grúpa tagartha páirtithe leasmhara, chun moltaí na Tuarascála a chur chun cinn.
- Foilsíodh an chéad Tuarascáil ar Dhul Chun Cinn i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2020, inar leagadh amach an príomh dul chun cinn luath ar raon de phríomh-mholtaí náisiúnta.
- D'fhorbair an Roinn, i gcomhar le FSS agus NTPF, an *Scéim Íocaíochta Cúnaimh Shealadaigh* agus fuair sí suas le €134.5m de mhaoiniú, chun tacaíocht airgeadais a thabhairt do thithe altranais príobháideacha chun tionchar ráigeanna COVID-19 a chosc agus a bhainistiú.
- Thug an Roinn tacaíocht fhairsing don fhreagairt ar bhainistiú tionchar na géarchéime COVID-19 i dtithe altranais, lena n-áirítear freastal ar na héilimh shuntasacha a tháinig chun cinn mar gheall ar an leibhéal ard imní poiblí agus parlaiminte.

CUIMSIÚ SÓISIALTA

- Chomhordaigh an Roinn an freagairt sláinte poiblí a chomhordú do ghrúpaí atá eisiata go sóisialta i suíomhanna comhchónaithe agus sa phobal lena n-áirítear daoine a úsáideann drugaí, daoine gan dídean, an Lucht Siúil, an pobal Romach, agus cónaitheoirí in ionaid soláthair dhírih.
- Chomhoibrigh an Roinn le ranna rialtais, le FSS agus leis an tsochaí shibhialta chun tionchar foriomlán COVID-19 ar ghrúpaí atá eisiata go sóisialta a íoslaghdú trína chinntiú go bhfuair siad gníomh tosaíochta maidir le brath, bainistíocht cásanna agus rianú teagmhála. Baineadh úsáid as cur chuige mear agus solúbtha maidir le cásanna casta sna pobail seo, rud a laghdaigh a leathadh ina dhiaidh sin.
- Thacaigh an Roinn leis an bhfreagairt ar COVID-19 faoi stiúir FSS, i measc daoine gan dídean as a dtáinig maoiniú breise de €3m i bPlean Geimhridh FSS le haghaidh seirbhísí feabhsaithe

cúraim sláinte do dhaoine gan dídean, lena n-áirítear 300 duine a chosaint i lóistín agus a ndoras féin acu.

- D'oibrigh an Roinn, an FSS agus eagraíochtaí deonacha agus pobail le chéile chun seirbhísí drugaí agus alcóil a athchóiriú do dhaoine a bhfuil spleáchas ar úsáid substaintí orthu. Cuireadh maoiniú breise de €500,000 ar fáil do thascfhórsaí drugaí agus alcóil chun cabhrú le soláthraithe seirbhíse a gcuid seirbhísí a oiriúnú chun dul i ngleic le srianta COVID-19.
- Cuireadh treoir sláinte poiblí ar fáil i bhformáid inrochtana do dhaoine a úsáideann drugaí agus dóibh siúd a bhfuil spleáchas orthu ar alcól. Cuireadh treoir ar fáil freisin chun tacú le hoibriú leanúnach na ngrúpaí agus na gclár tacaíochta drugaí agus alcóil.
- Rinneadh mearmheasúnú tionchair ar thionchar COVID-19 ar sheirbhísí drugaí agus alcóil agus ar dhaoine a úsáideann drugaí², i gcomhar le Seirbhísí Eacnamaíochta agus Meastóireachta Rialtas na hÉireann agus an Lárionad Monatóireachta Eorpach um Dhrugaí agus Gníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann le Drugaí.

ACMHAINNÍ DAONNA - MAOIRSEACHT AGUS BEARTAS

- Cruthaíodh meicníocht shealadach chun ligean d'athcheapadh tapa cleachtóirí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a bhí ar scor chuig cláir ghairmiúla le linn Éigeandáil COVID-19.
- Sainithníodh i nGníomh 6 den Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta ar COVID-19 ath-earcú oibrithe ar scor ón earnáil sláinte chun an líon gairmithe sláinte cláraithe atá ar fáil chun an paindéim a chomhrac a uasmhéadú. Tar éis dul i gcomhairle leis na sé rialtóirí gairmeacha sláinte agus cúraim shóisialaigh, leasaíodh cúig cinn de na hAchtanna rialála leis an Acht um Bearta Éigeandála chun foráil a dhéanamh do mhearmheicníocht chun a bheith athcheaptha don chlár saor in aisce, chun críche sainiúil aghaidh a thabhairt ar Éigeandáil COVID-19.
- Cuireadh tacaíocht ar fáil do Céim 1 den Chreat Foirnithe Sábháilte in ospidéal Múnla 4. Leithdháileadh €5m in 2020. Tá Comhordaitheoirí Foirnithe Sábháilte i ngach ospidéal Múnla 4 anois chun tacú leis an gcur i bhfeidhm.
- Síndh an conradh TF chun tacú le rolladh amach an Chreata Foirnithe Sábháilte.
- Chuir Céim 2 den Chreat um Sholáthar Foirne Sábháilte, ata dírithe ar shuíomhanna cúraim éigeandála, earcaíocht chuig na láithreáin phíolótacha i gcrích. Earcaíodh 45.5 CL san iomlán chuig na suíomhanna píolótacha. Cuireadh an chéad athrú iar-earcaíochta i gcrích in 2020 agus tá an dara ceann fós ar siúl agus áireofar leis roinnt de thionchair COVID-19.
- Cuireadh tús le Céim 3 den Chreat Foirnithe Sábháilte, atá dírithe ar shuíomhanna cúraim chónaitheacha fadtéarmacha, agus bronnadh €1m ar an bhfoireann taighde chun tacú leis an Tascfhórsa Náisiúnta. Thiomsaigh an fhoireann taighde an t-athbhreithniú fianaise ar an litríocht idirnáisiúnta atá ar fáil maidir le measúnú ar leibhéal chuí foirne sa suíomh cúraim chónaithe.

SEIRBHÍS SLÁINTE AGUS CÚRAM SÓISIALTA NÍOS FREAGRÚIL, NÍOS COMHTHÁITE AGUS DÍRITHE AR AN DUINE A CHRUTHÚ

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do dhaoine a choinneáil folláin sa bhaile, nó gar don bhaile, trí chúram príomhúil agus cúram sóisialta atá ar fáil sa phobal a leathnú agus a mhéadú, laistigh de shamhail chomhtháite cúraim ar fud na suíomhanna go léir.

CÚRAM PRÍOMHÚIL

- Tháinig naoi nlonad Cúraim Phríomhúil nua i bhfeidhm, rud a chiallaíonn go raibh 138 ar an iomlán faoi dheireadh 2020.
- Fuarthas €150m in airgead forbartha nua chun clár Cúraim Pobail Bhreithe a mhaoiniú in 2021, lena n-áirítear forbairt Líonraí Sláinte Pobail agus sainfhoirne pobail do dhaoine scothaosta agus dóibh siúd a bhfuil galar ainsealach orthu.
- Fógraíodh €25m de mhaoiniú breise chun Rochtain Struchtúrtha DT ar Dhiagnóisic a fhorbairt.
- Achtaíodh an tAcht Sláinte (An tAcht Sláinte (Seirbhís Lia-Chleachtóirí Ginearálta agus Critéir Incháilitheachta a Athrú), 2020, an 02 Lúnasa 2020 a rinne foráil d'ardú ar na teorainneacha ioncaim seachtainiúla comhlán um chártaí leighis do dhaoine 70 bliain d'aois agus níos sine ó 01 Samhain 2020. Cruthaíonn an tAcht an creat dlíthiúil freisin le haghaidh leathnú céimnithe ar chúram DT gan táillí do leanaí suas go dtí 12 bliana d'aois, faoi réir dáta tosaithe oiriúnach.
- Foilsíodh Tuarascáil deiridh Ghrúpa Comhairleach Cliniciúil an FSS (CAG), a bunaíodh chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar incháilitheacht do chártaí leighis i gcásanna tinnis fhoirceanta, i mí na Samhna 2020. Tá clár oibre cuimsitheach á leanúint chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar thorthaí thuarascáil CAG, i.e. lena n-áirítear creat reachtach a fhorbairt chun incháilitheacht do dhaoine a bhfuil tinneas foirceanta orthu a leathnú. I mí na Nollag 2020 d'fhaomh an Rialtas cur i bhfeidhm Scéime Cúraim Sláinte Pleanáilte i dTuaisceart Éireann chun a chinntiú gur féidir le daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu sa Stát leanúint de rochtain a fháil ar chúram sláinte ó sholáthraithe príobháideacha i dTuaisceart Éireann agus go bhfaighidh FSS cúiteamh as an gcúram sin tar éis dheireadh Idirthréimhse Brexit (31 Nollaig 2020).
- Cuireadh idirbheartaíocht i gcrích maidir le MT um Cúram Sláinte sa Chomhlimistéar Taistil leis an RA chun cúram sláinte cómhálartach a choinneáil do chónaitheoirí na hÉireann agus na Ríochta Aontaithe i gcás Brexit gan aon chomhaontú faoi dheireadh 2020.
- Dréachtaíodh reachtaíocht phríomha le haghaidh omnibus an Rialtais maidir leis an Acht um Tharraingt Siar na Ríochta Aontaithe as an Aontas Eorpach. Chruthaigh forálacha sláinte an Achta seo bonn reachtach don MT um Chúram Sláinte sa CTA agus, i gcás Brexit gan aon chomhaontú, ta foráil déanta freisin do scéim chun na costais chúram sláinte riachtanacha a aisíoc do chónaitheoirí áirithe i dTuaisceart Éireann le linn dóibh a bheith ag fanacht go sealadach i mBallstát de chuid an AE. Ullmhaíodh agus dréachtaíodh reachtaíocht thánaisteach maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na bhforálacha sláinte faoin Acht um Tharraingt Siar na Ríochta Aontaithe as an Aontas Eorpach.

CÚRAM SÓISIALTA

- Fuarthas méadú gan fasach de bheagnach €400m ar mhaoiniú do Sheirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta le linn phróiseas na Meastachán, lena n-áirítear maoiniú do 5 mhiliún uair breise tacaíochta baile.
- Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar leasú ar an Scéim Tacaíochta um Thithe Altranais d'fheirmeoirí agus d'úinéirí gnóthas beag.
- Tacaíodh le cur i bhfeidhm leanúnach an ráitis bheartais um *Roghanna Tithíochta do Dhaoine Scothaosta*.
- Cuireadh forbairt an bheartais náisiúnta nua um chosaint aosach san earnáil sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta chun cinn, lena n-áirítear foilsíú aiseolais ó pháirtithe leasmhara, taighde grúpa fócais d'úsáideoirí seirbhíse coimisiúnaithe tugtha chun críche agus athbhreithniú ar fhianaise idirnáisiúnta coimisiúnaithe tugtha chun críche.
- Coimisiúnaíodh athbhreithniú fianaise idirnáisiúnta ar '*bhandaí cúraim a nascadh le leithdháileadh acmhainní do thacaíocht baile agus cúram cónaitheach fadtéarmach*' ón HRB.
- Cuireadh tús le tionscadal céimnithe chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an gcreat rialála a rialaíonn ionaid ainmnithe do dhaoine scothaosta, lena n-áirítear bunú Grúpa Tionscadail Déthaobhach, chun feabhsuithe eatramhacha reachtaíochta a mheas.
- Rinne an Roinn maoirsiú ar dhul chun cinn leanúnach FSS in 2020 maidir le sainseirbhísí míchumais.
- D'aistrigh thart ar 126 duine ó shuíomhanna comhchónaithe míchumais go dtí cónaí sa phobal.
- Ó Mheán Fómhair ar aghaidh, thosaigh os cionn 1,300 fágálaí scoile lena seirbhís lae nua.
- Seachadadh 1.78 milliún uair an chloig de Cúnamh Pearsanta in 2020 do 2,552 duine, méadú 6.7% ar an sprioc sa Phlean Seirbhíse Náisiúnta (NSP).
- 3.1m Seachadadh uaireanta tacaíochta baile do 7,130 duine faoi mhíchumas.
- Leanadh le dul chun cinn ar thionscadal tástála píolótach um Buiséid Phearsanaithe.
- Coimisiúnaíodh an HRB chun fianaise idirnáisiúnta achomair a sholáthar ar bheartais um chúram maolaitheach san Astráil, sa Nua-Shéalainn, in Albain agus san Ísiltír chun tacú leis an Nuashonrú ar Chúram Maolaitheach.
- Lean Aonad Dlí na Roinne i dteagmháil leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe maidir leis an athbhreithniú na hEarnála maidir le hInbhuanaitheacht Airgeadais agus Rialachas Corparáideach.
- Leanadh leis an maoirseacht ar sholáthar seirbhísí cónaithe míchumais agus cuireadh nuashonruithe tráthúla agus rialta ar fáil d'Airí ar sholáthraithe míchumais a bhfuil dúshlán airgeadais agus rialachais chorparáidigh ag dul i bhfeidhm orthu.
- Ó Mheán Fómhair i leith, thosaigh 1,300 fágálaí scoile lena seirbhís lae nua

MEABHAIRSHLÁINTE

- Seoladh *Comhroinnt na Físe - Beartas Meabhairshláinte do Chách*, beartas meabhairshláinte 10 mbliana an 17 Meitheamh 2020. Bunaíodh Coiste Monatóireachta Forfheidhmithe Náisiúnta chun cur i bhfeidhm an bheartais a stiúradh.
- Tugadh méadú €50m don bhuiséad meabhairshláinte náisiúnta do 2021, le hiomlán breis agus €1.1 billiún ann anois.
- Cuireadh síneadh ama 4 bliana le *Connecting for Life: an Straitéis Náisiúnta chun Féinmharú a Laghdú* go dtí 2024 agus cur i bhfeidhm nuashonraithe go dtí 2022 aige, é foilsithe ag Oifig Náisiúnta FSS um Fhéinmharú a Chosc i mí na Nollag.
- Cuireadh an t-athbhreithniú ar an Acht Meabhair-Shláinte chun cinn.

- Achtaíodh an tAcht um an bPríomh-Ospidéal Meabhair-Ghalar (Athshuíomh) 2020 i mí na Nollag 2020 chun ligean don CMH athlonnú go Port Reachrann in 2021.
- D'oscail Jigsaw a 13ú suíomh i mBré, Cill Mhantáin i mí na Nollag 2020.

SLÁINTECARE

- Tá teachtaireacht láidir faoin tábhacht a bhaineann le cosc léirithe trí obair Éire Shláintiúil agus rolladh amach an fheachtais Athléimneachta *Coinnigh Folláin*.
- Rinneadh beart comhfhiosach i dtreo cúram níos comhtháite a chur i bhfeidhm, ag cur acmhainní ar fáil do níos mó líonraí cúraim, trí líonraí cúram sláinte pobail a bhunú, chomh maith le moil bhainistíochta um dhaoine scothaosta agus um ghalair ainsealacha.
- Tá an sprioc maidir le daoine a choinneáil amach as ospidéal a oiread agus is féidir curtha chun cinn ag Sláintecare trí chomhaontú le Dochtúirí Teaghlaigh go soláthróidh siad Clár Náisiúnta Bainistíochta um Ghalair Ainsealacha. Cabhróidh sé seo le daoine a bhfuil riochtaí ainsealacha orthu fanacht folláin, an t-ospidéal a sheachaint agus tuilleadh cúraim a fháil sa phobal.
- Ba léiriú iad cur i bhfeidhm na rochtana teileasláinte ar sheirbhísí DY le haghaidh comharthaí COVID-19, comhtháthú seirbhísí ar fud an ghéarmhíochaine agus an phobail, an fócas ar an oiread cúraim agus is féidir a chur ar fáil sa phobal agus rolladh amach tapa réiteach ríomhshláinte, mar shampla, ar méid is féidir a bhaint amach nuair a d'oibrigh na páirtithe leasmhara go léir sa chóras sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta le chéile chun dul i ngleic leis na dúshlán a bhí le sárú de bharr na paindéime. Tháinig méadú ollmhór ar rochtain teileasláinte ar sheirbhísí DT, rud a ligeann do dhaoine labhairt lena ndochtúir ar an bhfón nó le físchomhdháil i bhfad níos éasca.
- In 2020, rolladh réitigh ríomhshláinte amach go tapa – ó sheachadadh tapa oidis go cógaslanna, go coinní ar nós seisiún fisiteiripe nó clár aclaíochta ar líne.
- Tríd an gCiste Lanpháirtíochta Sláintecare a bhfuil luach €20mair, tá Sláintecare ag maoiniú breis is 100 tionscadal nuálaíochta ar fud na tíre – faoi stiúir comhpháirtithe amhail ospidéal, grúpaí ospidéal, eagraíochtaí pobail agus eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, Ionaid Chúraim Phríomhúil, ollscoileanna – atá ag obair chun cúram comhtháite a fheabhsú agus chun cúram a aistriú, don phobal nuair is cuí. Léirigh na tionscadail seo slí nua chun cúram a sholáthar.

ROCHTAIN AR CHÚRAM SLÁINTE A DHÉANAMH NÍOS COTHROIME AGUS NÍOS SCIOBTHA

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do phrionsabal na sláinte agus an chúram shóisialta atá bunaithe ar riachtanas agus ní ar chumas íoctha. Tá sé seo bunaithe ar chur chuige uilechórais chun tacú le torthaí sláinte níos fearr a bhaint amach trí chúram ceart a sholáthar san áit cheart ag an am ceart, ag tabhairt aghaidh ar neamhionannais bhunúsacha sláinte. Tá gnóthachtálacha 2020 faoin gcuspóir seo leagtha amach faoi na ceannteidil seo a leanas:

The Department is committed to the principle of health and social care based on need and not on ability to pay. This is based on a whole of system approach to support better health outcomes through the right care delivered in the right place at the right time, addressing fundamental health inequalities. The 2020 achievements under this objective are outlined under the following headings:

CÚRAM SCEIDEALTA/NEAMHSCEIDEALTA

- Rinne an Roinn maoirsiú ar chur i gcrích agus ar chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Geimhridh 2019/20 FSS agus ar fhorbairt Phlean Geimhridh 2020/21 FSS a raibh luach €600m air.
- D'oibrigh an Roinn leis an FSS chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht na Rannóg Éigeandála, ag cinntiú go raibh cúram éigeandála ar fáil dóibh siúd a raibh sé ag teastáil uathu le linn na paindéime.
- Rinne an Roinn maoirsiú ar fhorbairt phlean Rochtana ar Chúram 2020, ina leagadh síos spriocanna gníomhaíochta don FSS agus don Chiste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóireála (NTPF), leis an bpríomhaidhm feabhas a chur ar amanna feithimh do chúram sceidealaithe.
- Mar thoradh ar chur i bhfeidhm bealaí mionathraithe chuig cúram agus trí mhodhanna nuálaíochta a úsáid chun cúram sceidealaithe a sholáthar, rinneadh an treocht fáis ar liosta feithimh na nOthar Cónaitheach/Cás Lae a chur ina cheart agus thit an líon a bhí ag feitheamh le coinne/gnáthamh ospidéal faoi 17% ó mhí na Bealtaine go dtí mó na Nollag 2020.

AN TSEIRBHÍS NÁISIÚNTA OTHARCHARRANNA

Le tacaíocht ó leithdháileadh maoinithe €1m in NSP 2020, lean an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna ag tógáil acmhainne agus ag cur feabhsuithe seirbhíse i bhfeidhm de réir an phlean athchóirithe straitéisigh, *Fís 2020*. Áiríodh ar na príomhghnóthachtálacha a baineadh amach:

- Leithdháileadh acmhainní tacaíochta cliniciúla agus speisialtóra i Mol Cliniciúil an Lárionaid Náisiúnta um Oibríochtaí Éigeandála (NEOC), a éascaíonn úsáid mhéadaithe de bhealaí cúraim mhalartacha agus seachaint ospidéal.
- Úsáid níos forleithne bainte as tionscnaimh phobail agus seirbhísí “féach agus cóireáil”, ina mbíonn foirne otharchairr ag freagairt glaonna 999 agus, nuair is cuí, ag cur cóir leighis ar na hothair ag an láthair seachas iad a iompar chuig rannóga éigeandála ospidéal.
- Tuilleadh forbartha ar sheirbhísí cúraim chriticiúil agus téarnaimh, ag tacú le rolladh amach tionscnamh straitéiseach náisiúnta, lena n-áirítear tráma agus cúram criticiúil.

STRAITÉIS MÁITHREACHAIS

Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an Straitéis Máithreachais a chur i bhfeidhm, ag díriú ar leathnú leanúnach an chonair chúraim tacaíthe ar fud na seirbhísí máithreachais.

- Tugadh maoiniú 12 Ardchleachtóir Cnáimhseachais (AMP) breise chun tacú le rolladh amach breise an Mhúnla Chúraim, ag cinntiú go bhfuil ar a laghad AMP amháin ag gach ceann de na 19 seirbhís mháithreachais.
- Rinneadh an chéad Suirbhé ar Eispéireas Máithreachais riamh in Éirinn agus foilsíodh é in 2020 agus bhí na torthaí an-dearfach ar an iomlán agus Pleananna Feabhsúcháin Cáilíochta forbartha ag gach ospidéal.
- Chun rochtain ar sheirbhísí gíniceolaíochta a fheabhsú, d'fhorbair Clár Náisiúnta Sláinte na mBan agus na Naíonán an FSS Samhail Chúraim um Ghíniceolaíocht Shiúlach a dhírigh ar chlinicí ilfhreastail “féach agus cóireáil”. Cuireadh tús le rolladh amach Chéim a hAon den tSamhail Chúraim nua le linn 2020, nuair a bunaíodh na chéad trí chlinic i mBaile Átha Cliath (Rotunda), i gCorcaigh agus i nGaillimh.
- Chuir maoiniú de €2m in 2020 ar ár gcumas Céim a hAon de rolladh amach na Samhail Chúraim le haghaidh Neamhthorthúlachta a thosú, le bunú ceithre Mhol Torthúlachta Réigiúnacha ag Ospidéal Ollscoile Máithreachais Chorcaí, Ospidéal an Rotunda, an tOspidéal Náisiúnta Máithreachais agus Ospidéal Ollscoile an Choim do Mhná agus do Naíonáin.

SEIRBHÍSÍ AILSE

Baineadh gnóthachtálacha suntasacha amach do Sheirbhísí Ailse le linn 2020:

- Chuir Ionad Ailse an Iarthuaiscirt in Ospidéal Alt na nGealbhan, Doire cóireáil ar 200 othar ó Phoblacht na hÉireann in 2020.
- Bhí rannpháirtíocht leanúnach ann le linn 2020 leis an AE/Comhpháirtíocht Nuálaíochta um Ghníomhaíocht in Aghaidh na hAilse.
- Cuireadh próiseas athbhreithnithe Atreoraithe Dochtúra Teaglaigh do Chlinicí Siomptómacha Cíche i bhfeidhm in 2020, chun oiriúnacht na n-atreoruithe chuig clinicí a mhéadú.
- Tháinig an Coiste Comhairleach um Othair Ailse, a bunaíodh i gcomhréir le Moladh 39 den Straitéis Náisiúnta Ailse 2017-2026, le chéile ceithre huair in 2020. Cuireann an Coiste ionchur othar ar fáil maidir le maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise agus i bhforbairt clár d'othair ailse. Breithníonn an Coiste freisin conas is féidir ionchur othar i seirbhísí ailse a éascú ar bhonn níos leithne de réir chuspóirí na Straitéise Náisiúnta Ailse.
- Seoladh dhá Threoirlíne Chliniciúla Náisiúnta nua chun cabhrú le gairmithe cúram sláinte le diagnóis, céimniú agus cóireáil othar a bhfuil ailse drólainne orthu; agus diagnóis, céimniú agus cóireáil othar a bhfuil ailse reicteach orthu. D'fhorbair grúpaí ildisciplíneacha na treoirlínte le tacaíocht ó Chlár Náisiúnta Rialaithe Ailse FSS (NCCP).
- In 2020, cuireadh i gcrích an t-aistriú iomlán chuig an tsaoráid nua oinceolaíochta radaíochta in Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.
- Chomhoibrigh an NCCP leis an earnáil dheonach chun feachtais feasachta poiblí ailse scamhóg a reáchtáil i mí Mheán Fómhair agus i mí na Samhna 2020 agus leanann sé ag obair le heagraíochtaí pobail chun feasacht ailse a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn i bpobail áitiúla.
- Cuireadh i gcrích Múnla Chúraim don tsíocoinceolaíocht i Meán Fómhair 2020.

DEONÚ ORGÁN AGUS TRASPHLANDÚ

Tugadh maoiniú €0.283m do Dheonú Orgán FSS agus do Thrasphlandú Éireann (ODTI) chun poist a earcú do sheirbhísí trasphlandaithe, lena n-áirítear seirbhís tiomnaithe aisghabhála orgán. Cuireadh maoiniú breise €0.213m ar fáil don ODTI chun trealamh trasphlandaithe a cheannach. Tá buntáistí iomadúla ag an trealamh trasphlandaithe d'othair agus cuirfidh sé go dearfach leis an tseirbhís sláinte foriomlán – lena n-áirítear laghdú suntasach ar an am measúnaithe do dheontóir ionchasach, agus ar an gcaoi sin déantar leapacha ICU a shaoradh d'othair atá go dona tinn.

SÁBHÁILTEACHT OTHAR

D'oibrigh an Roinn Sláinte chun an clár oibre um éifeachtacht chliniciúil a chur chun cinn agus lean sí le tacaíocht a thabhairt do chúram fianaisebhunaithe trí chúig Threoirlíne Chliniciúla Náisiúnta do na seirbhísí cúram sláinte a chur i gcrích agus a fhoilsiú:

- An Roinn Sláinte (2020). Córas Réamhrabhadh Náisiúnta na hÉireann V2 (Treoirlíne Chliniciúil Náisiúnta NCEC Uimh. 1).
- An Roinn Sláinte (2020). Scagadh cothaithe agus tacaíocht cothaithe béil a úsáid le dhaoine fásta sa suíomh géarchúraim. (Treoirlíne Chliniciúil Náisiúnta NCEC Uimh. 22).
- An Roinn Sláinte (2020). Srathú riosca cliniciúil le linn toirchis (Treoirlíne Chliniciúil Náisiúnta NCEC Uimh. 23).
- An Roinn Sláinte (2020). Diagnóis, céimniú agus cóireáil othar a bhfuil ailse drólainne orthu (Treoirlíne Chliniciúil Náisiúnta NCEC Uimh. 24).
- An Roinn Sláinte (2020). Diagnóis, céimniú agus cóireáil othar a bhfuil ailse reicteach orthu (Treoirlíne Chliniciúil Náisiúnta NCEC Uimh. 25).
- Leanadh ar aghaidh le Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta na hÉireann ar Fhrithsheasmhacht Fhrithmhiocróbach 2017 – 2020 a chur i bhfeidhm, agus béim ar leith ar chosc agus ar rialú ionfhabhtuithé.
- Cuireadh an 6ú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil den Chóras Tuairiscithe Náisiúnta um Cháilíocht Cúraim Sláinte (2020) i gcrích.
- Rinne an Clár Eispéireas Cúraim Náisiúnta, tionscnamh tríphárteach de chuid na Roinne, FSS agus HIQA chun eispéiris othar thaifead d'fhonn cúram a fheabhsú, an chéad Suirbhé Náisiúnta ar Eispéireas Máithreachais in Éirinn a réachtáil.
- Chuir an tSeirbhís Abhcóideachta Othar (PAS), arna choimisiúnú ag an Roinn Sláinte, tús lena chéad bhliain iomlán d'oibríochtaí, ag déanamh abhcóideachta agus ag tabhairt tacaíochta neamhspleách dóibh siúd ar mhian leo gearán a dhéanamh faoin gcúram agus faoin gcóireáil a fuair siad in ospidéal phoiblí. Ag teacht leis an ngealltanais i gClár an Rialtais: Ár dTodhchaí le Chéile, thosaigh PAS freisin ar shainchúram a seirbhísí a leathnú sa phobail.
- Thionóil an Chomhairle Neamhspleách um Shábháilteacht Othar a céad cruinnithe agus rinne siad agus chríochnaigh siad obair ar Mholtaí na Comhairle don Aire Sláinte maidir le Creat Beartais Náisiúnta um Nochtadh Oscailte i gCúram Sláinte in Éirinn.

MAOIRSEACTH AGUS COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT SAN EARNÁIL A FHEABHSÚ

Cinntíonn an Roinn Sláinte go bhfuil próisis, struchtúir rialachais agus creataí rialála i bhfeidhm san earnáil sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil maoirseacht éifeachtach déanta uirthi. Oibríonn an Roinn i gcomhpháirtíocht le FSS, agus lenár ngníomhaireachtaí go léir chun príomhstraitéisí agus athchóirithe a bhaint amach, lena n-áirítear trí mhonatóireacht agus bainistíocht feidhmíochta láidir, ag díriú ar rialú airgeadais agus ar thorthaí.

RIALACHAS AGUS FEIDHMÍOCHT

- Tugadh múnla Rannpháirtíochta na Roinne Sláinte/FSS chun críche agus é comhaontaithe ag an Roinn agus FSS i mí Feabhra 2020.
- Mar chuid den mhúnla sin, tháinig samhail rannpháirtíochta feidhmíochta na Roinne Sláinte/FSS i bhfeidhm go hiomlán i mí an Mhárta 2020. Cuireadh isteach ar a oibríocht go luath i bpaindéim COVID-19, áfach, in ainneoin na ndúshlán leanúnach áfach cuireadh ar bun arís é agus cuireadh an tsamhail rannpháirtíochta i bhfeidhm go hiomlán ó mhí Iúil 2020 i leith.
- Tharla rannpháirtíocht le FSS ar phríomhréimsí pleanála:
 - Forbairt Phlean Seirbhíse Náisiúnta 2021
 - Forbairt Phlean Corparáideach FSS 2021 -2024
 - Tuarascáil Bhliantúil FSS 2019
- Cuireadh Tuarascáil Deiridh an Ghrúpa Saineolaithe ar Athchóiriú Tort agus bainistiú éileamh as faillí chliniciúil faoi bhráid an Rialtais agus foilsíodh í i mí na Nollag 2020, in éineacht le gach páipéar agus aighneacht a cuireadh faoi bhráid an Ghrúpa.
- Leanadh le híocaíochtaí a dhéanamh le cúigear ban agus lena 12 chomhairleoir dlí faoin scéim ex-gratia neamhnocht CervicalCheck agus cuireadh Tuarascáil an Phainéil Mheasúnaithe Neamhspleách a bhaineann leis an scéim seo faoi bhráid an Aire i mí Iúil 2020.
- Thángthas ar réiteach i gcásanna de chuid na Cúirte Eorpaí um Chearta an Duine maidir le Shiomfiseatóime.
- Rinneadh 23 íocaíocht i ndáil le diúltaithe MDU lena n-áirítear costais socraíochta, bille costas gearánaí, bille costas an chosantóra agus táillí dlíthiúla cuntasáíochta costála.
- Cuireadh an obair ar fheistiú spás oiriúnach don Bhinse CervicalCheck i gcrích, é tosaithe in 2019, ag tús mhí an Mhárta 2020. Feistíodh an spás go sonrach chun freastal ar riachtanais an Bhinse, chun éascú a dhéanamh dó éilimh a éisteacht agus a chinneadh ar bhealach tráthúil agus íogair.
- Ag teacht leis na bearta sláinte poiblí a bhí i bhfeidhm um an tráth sin chun ráig COVID-19 a smachtú, socraíodh moill a chur ar bhunú an Bhinse. Bunaíodh an Binse go foirmiúil an 27 Deireadh Fómhair 2020 agus tar éis 'sosa' gairid chun deis a cghruthú chun plé leis an nGrúpa Ionadaithe Othair 221+ duine, tugadh bunú an Bhinse chun críche nuair a cheap an tAire na comhaltaí ainmnithe, le héifeacht ó 01 Nollaig 2020.
- Rinneadh thart ar 145 ceapachán ar Bhoird Stáit atá faoi choimirce na Roinne.
- Cuireadh Tuarascáil i gcrích maidir le comhlíonadh an Chóid Chleachtas um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit ag 19 gcomhlacht faoinár gcoimirce.
- Reáchtáladh trí cheardlann um Rialachas Gníomhaireachta d'fhoireann na Roinne, a mhéadaigh ar chumas rialachais agus maoirseachta.

PLEANÁIL STRAITÉISEACH FÓRSA SAOTHAIR

- Bhí idirchaidreamh ag an Roinn le comhghleacaithe san FSS, sa Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta (DFHERIS), agus le hInstitiúidí Ardoideachais maidir le háiteanna breise CAO do mhic léinn ar chúrsaí bainteach le sláinte sa bhliain acadúil 2020/2021. Ar an iomlán bhí níos mó ná 330 áit bhreise CAO ar fáil ar chúrsaí sláinte do mhic léinn lena n-áirítear 153 áit bhreise san altranas agus sa chnámhseachas.
- Forbraíodh togra le haghaidh Straitéis Pleanála Fórsa Saothair Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh agus Samhail Tuartha Pleanála Fórsa Saothair agus lorgaíodh tacaíocht faoi Ionstraim Tacaíochta Teicniúla an AE 2021 chun an tionscadal a fhorbairt. D'éirigh leis an togra, agus tá an Roinn ag obair faoi láthair le hArd-Stiúrthóireacht Athchóirithe an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh chun an tionscadal agus na príomh-spriocanna insólathartha a scoipeáil mar chuid den tionscadal chun go mbeidh an lucht saothair Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh in ann réamh-mheastacháin éilimh agus soláthair a phleanáil as seo amach.
- Fuarthas maoiniú le haghaidh méadú suntasach ar fhórsa saothair na hearnála sláinte i mBuiséad 21. Maoiníodh 16,000 post breise ar fud gach céime agus gach réimse seirbhíse. Cuirfidh an méadú seo ar an bhfórsa saothair ar chumas an chórais cúraim sláinte leanúint ar aghaidh ag freastal ar éilimh na paidéime agus a chinntiú go mbeidh acmhainní aige chun freastal ar riachtanais chúram sláinte na tíre.
- Cuireadh i gcrích Scálaí Tuarastail Comhdhlúite na Roinne Sláinte do 1.1.2020 agus 1.10.2020.
- Thug an Roinn tacaíocht agus treoir don FSS agus do na NCSAanna maidir le cur i bhfeidhm beartas pinsin i gcomhthéacs leachtú FEMPI.
- Cuireadh Comhaontú Altranais 2019 i bhfeidhm go leanúnach, lena n-áirítear:
 - Tosú feidhme an tSainchomhlachta Athbhreithnithe ar Altranas agus Cnámhseachas i mí Iúil 2020;
 - Ceapachán breis agus 16,000 altra agus cnámhseach incháilithe don Chonradh Altra Breisithe le linn 2020.
- Ghlac an Roinn páirt sna cainteanna Pá stiúradh ag an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe chun a chinntiú go bhféadfaí tosaíochtaí na hEarnála Sláinte a bhaint amach trí Comhaontú Cobhsaíochta na Seirbhíse Poiblí 2021-2022 ("Móiminteam a Thógáil").
- Shínigh an tUachtarán an tAcht um Ghairmithe Rialaithe (Cúram Sláinte agus Sóisialach) (Leasú) 2020 ina dhlí an 14 Deireadh Fómhair 2020. Leasaíonn an tAcht na cúig Acht um Rialáil Sláinte (Acht na bhFioclóirí 1985, an tAcht um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh 2005, an tAcht Cógaisíochta 2007, Acht na Lia-Chleachtóirí 2007, agus Acht na nAltraí agus na gCnámhseach 2011) agus tugann sé isteach feabhsuithe tábhachtacha ar an gcaoi a bhfeidhmíonn na hAchtanna sin go háirithe maidir le clárú agus le hoiriúnacht chun cleachtadh.
- Phróiseáil an Roinn 43 iarratas casta ar aitheantas cáilíochtaí eachtracha in 2020 de réir na bhfrámaí ama dúshlánacha a fhorchuirtear leis an Treoir um Cháilíochtaí.
- Bhain CORU, an Chomhairle um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh sprioc thábhachtach amach in 2020, tar éis di líon na ngairmithe sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta ar a cláir a mhéadú go breis agus 20,000. Tharla ciontú suntasach mar thoradh ar imscrúdú CORU ar úsáid mhíchuí teidil chosanta; ag cinntiú go bhfuil an pobal cosanta trí na daoine neamhrialaithe seo a chosc ó chleachtadh.
- Lean CORU de dhul chun cinn suntasach a dhéanamh in 2020 i dtreo na ngairmeacha ainmnithe go léir a rialáil. Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach le linn an dá mhí dhéag roimhe sin maidir leis an ngairm Oibrí Cúraim Shóisialaigh a ullmhú le haghaidh rialúcháin nuair a cuireadh tús le meastóireacht agus le faomhadh na gclár oideachais ábhartha. Rinne Bord Clárúcháin na

Síceolaithe dul chun cinn suntasach freisin i dtreo an ghairm chasta sin a rialú. Áiríodh leis seo teagmháil dhíreach le hoideachasóirí na gairme agus trí chomhairliúchán poiblí a oscailt. Tá céimeanna suntasacha glactha ag an mBord Clárúcháin Coslianna freisin chun a chlár a oscailt agus tá pleananna i bhfeidhm chun an clár a oscailt an 31 Márta 2021..

- Thionóil an Coiste Comhairleach Náisiúnta Scagthástála (NSAC) trí chruinniú in 2020 (dhá cheann ar líne) agus rinne dhá mholadh don Aire Sláinte:
- Cuireadh ADA -SCID (Uireasa Adenosine Deaminase - Uireasa Imdhíonachta Comhcheangailte Trom) le liosta na riocht a ndearnadh scagthástáil orthu mar chuid den Chlár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Spota Fola Nuabheirthe. Déanfar scagthástáil anois le haghaidh naoi gcoinníoll faoin gClár seo nuair a chuirfidh FSS i bhfeidhm é.
- Athraíodh an Diaibéitis RetinaScreen - an Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Reitineach Diaibéiteach chun an tréimhse idir scagthástálacha a mhéadú ó bhliain amháin go dhá bhliain do dhaoine a bhfuil diaibéiteas orthu agus atá i mbaol íseal reitineapaite.
- Lean Coiste Stiúrtha CervicalCheck lena chuid oibre faoi Chathaoirleach nua - an tOllamh Anne Scott (ceaptha i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2020) - agus réachtáladh chéad chruinniú i mí Eanáir 2021.
- Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na moltaí i bhFiosrúchán Scópála an Dr Scally ar an gClár Scagthástála CervicalCheck, agus i gcur chun ghníomhartha an Phlean Forfheidhmithe atá críochnaithe. Faoi dheireadh 2020, bhí 148 as 170 gníomh curtha i gcrích, agus 22 gníomh fágtha.
- Rinne an Clár Scagthástála CervicalCheck an t-aistriú teicniúil go scagthástáil ceirbheacs HPV an 30 Márta 2020. Ciallaíonn an t-aistriú go scagthástáil ceirbheacs HPV gur ball í Éire de grúpa beag tíorth a úsáideann an tástáil dhea chleachtas chun a ndaonraí a scagadh le haghaidh ailse cheirbheacsach. Ciallaíonn an mhodheolaíocht fheabhsaithe tástála seo, mar aon le rolladh amach leanúnach na vacsaínithe HPV, gur féidir le hÉirinn a bheith ag tnúth le laghdú suntasach ar mhinicíocht cásanna ailse ceirbheacs thar na 10-20 bliain amach romhainn.
- D'fhorbair an Roinn treoircháipéis chun cabhrú le treoir fhadtéarmach do chónaitheoirí maidir le coigeartuithe foirnithe le linn paindéime. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an Treoircháipéis seo tacú le Saoráidí Cúraim Chónaithe Fadtéarmaigh (LTRCF) do dhaoine scothaosta d'fhonn measúnú a dhéanamh ar riachtanais foirnithe d'altraí agus do chúntóirí cúram sláinte mar chuid d'ullmhacht COVID-19. Tá pleananna ullmhachta molta sna Bearta Sláinte Poiblí Breisithe eisithe ag NPHET maidir le Galar COVID-19 a Bhainistiú.
- Thacaigh an Roinn le Tuarascáil Collin maidir leis an Athbhreithniú Gearrthéarmach ar liúntais altraí agus cnáimhseoirí faoi oiliúint. Cuireadh an tuarascáil seo faoi bhráid an Aire an 31 Nollaig 2020.
- Ba í 2020 Bliain an Altra agus na Cnáimhseach de chuid EDS. Bhí an Roinn páirteach agus réachtáil sí comhdháil fhíorúil ar líne i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2020 inar cláraíodh 407 altra agus cnáimhseach don seimineár gréasáin trí Eventbrite. Ar an lá, ar an meán bhí thart ar 270 - 280 logáilte isteach le linn na hócáide.

AN CHOMHAIRLE AIREACHTA THUaidh THEAS - SLÁINTE AGUS SÁBHÁILTEACTH BIA

- Réachtáladh an chéad chruinniú den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas ar Shláinte agus Shábháilteacht Bhia tar éis athbhunú Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann i mí Eanáir 2020 trí fhíschomhdháil an 2 Deireadh Fómhair 2020. D'fhreastail an tAire Donnelly ar an gcruinniú seo le hAire Sláinte Thuaisceart Éireann agus Aire Sóisearach .

- I measc na n-ábhar a pléadh bhí an fhreagairt ar COVID-19, impleachtaí tharraingt siar na RA ón AE, comhoibriú san earnáil sláinte ó 2016, cosaint leanaí agus obair an Bhoird um Chur Chun Cinn na Sábháilteachta Bia.

BREXIT

- I rith 2020, d'oibrigh an Roinn Sláinte go dlúth le Roinn an Taoisigh, leis an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha, le Ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí eile Rialtais chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin iomadúla a d'eascair as tarraingt siar na RA ón AE agus idirbheartaíocht ar an gcaidreamh AE-RA amach anseo.
- Mar aitheantas ar na rioscaí suntasacha don earnáil sláinte na hÉireann mar gheall ar Brexit, rinne an Roinn an obair ullmhachta Brexit go léir bunaithe ar dhá chás: idirbheartaíocht rathúil ar Chomhaontú Saorthrádála teoranta idir an AE agus an RA nó Brexit 'crua' leis an AE. agus an RA ag trádáil ar théarmaí an WTO. Bhí sé mar aidhm ag pleanáil na Roinne cosaint na sláinte poiblí, leanúnachas i soláthar seirbhísí sláinte agus cothabháil na seirbhísí reatha a chinntiú i ngach cás.
- Bhunaigh an Roinn, le tacaíocht ó Fheidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (FSS), ón Údarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte (HPRA), ó Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (ÚSBÉ) agus ó ghníomhaireachtaí eile, struchtúir thiomanta chun na himpleachtaí a bhainfeadh le tarraingt siar na Ríochta Aontaithe ón gComhairle AE a mheas agus obair ullmhachta Brexit san earnáil sláinte a chomhordú.
- D'infheistigh an Roinn maoiniú suntasach ina pleanáil theagmhasach Brexit in 2020 chun foireann agus acmhainní breise a fháil don earnáil sláinte, lena n-áirítear i Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil FSS.
- Cuireadh idirbheartaíocht i gcrích i mí na Nollag 2020 maidir le MT Cúram Sláinte sa Chomhlíonmáireacht Taistil (CTA) leis an RA chun cúram sláinte cómhálartach a choinneáil do chónaitheoirí na hÉireann agus na Ríochta Aontaithe i gcás Brexit gan aon chomhaontú.
- D'fháiltigh an Roinn roimh thabhairt chun críche Chomhaontú Trádála agus Comhair idir an AE agus an RA i mí na Nollag 2020, a chruthaigh creat le haghaidh comhar leantach leis an RA i raon réimsí sláinte.

SLÁINTE NA MBAN

- I In 2020, lean Tascfhórsaí Sláinte na mBan lena gcuid oibre chun torthaí sláinte na mban agus eispéiris ar chúram sláinte a fheabhsú. I measc na ngnóthachtálacha in 2020 bhí tús a chur le cleachtadh éisteachta radacach, forbairt moltaí don chéad shraith de thosaíochtaí an Tascfhórsa agus 'Ciste Tiomnaithe um Shláinte na mBan' €5 mhilliún faighte trí Bhuiséad 2021 chun clár gníomhaíochtaí a eascróidh as obair Thascfhórsa Sláinte na mBan a chur chun cinn. Is féidir eolas breise a fháil ag <https://www.gov.ie/ga/campaigns/-womens-health/>.

FORBAIRT BEARTAIS

- Ag tacú le dea-chleachtais agus le rialachas beartais, is fóram é an Coiste Beartais a éascaíonn athbhreithniú oibiachtúil ar mholtaí beartais agus a thugann piarthacaíocht d'fhorbairt agus do thabhairt chun críche beartais. Tionóladh seacht gcruinniú san iomlán in 2020.
- Tá an Roinn Sláinte tiomanta do chomhoibriú agus do rannpháirtíocht le páirtithe leasmhara ag gach céim d'fhorbairt beartais. Tá Líonra Éascaitheoirí Ceardlainne ann a chuimsíonn 38 ball foirne ó ar fud na Roinne agus iad oile i mbainistiú na rannpháirtíochtaí sin. In 2020, d'éascaigh an Líonra 26 imeacht.
- Chuir an Roinn Sláinte foireann tionscadail tras-rannóige le chéile in 2019 chun tuarascáil mheasúnaithe a ullmhú ar na tairbhí agus na rioscaí féideartha bainteach le teicneolaíochtaí IS

& Róbataic atá ag teacht chun cinn laistigh den earnáil sláinte. Cuireadh an tuarascáil seo a]i gcrích in 2020 agus tá moltaí inti maidir fás sa réimse seo a chumasú amach anseo.

BONNEAGAR CAIPITIL/MÓRTHIONSCADAIL CHAIPITIL

- In 2020, rinne an Roinn athbhreithniú ar chur chuige na Roinne maidir le cur i bhfeidhm agus comhlíonadh an Chóid Chaiteachais Phoiblí (PSC) do thionscadail san earnáil sláinte. Chuaigh an Roinn i gcomhairle le comhghleacaithe de chuid Sheirbhís Eacnamaíochta agus Meastóireachta Rialtas na hÉireann (IGEES) chun nósanna imeachta CPS na Roinne a fhorbairt.
- Chuaigh an Roinn i gcomhairle le hOifig Infheistíochta Náisiúnta DPER (NIO) maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta (NDP) lena n-áiríodh obair ar rianaitheoir tionscadail an NDP, agus freastal ar agus páirt a ghlacadh i gcruinnithe Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Thionscadal Éireann 2040, lena áiríodh measúnú ar thionchar COVID-19 ar an earnáil.
- I mí an Mheithimh 2020, bunaíodh nósanna imeachta inmheánacha nua chun cabhrú leis an Ard-Rúnaí, mar oifigeach cuntasaíochta, ina chuid dualgas maidir le cinntí infheistíochta poiblí, chun comhlíonadh an Chóid Chaiteachais Phoiblí (CPS) do thionscadail chaipitil a chinntiú.

EAGRAÍOCHT ATÁ OIRIÚNACH DON TODHCHAÍ A CHRUTHÚ

Oibríonn an Roinn lena chinntiú go bhfuil na cumais, na daoine, an struchtúr agus an cultúr ceart aici chun a misean a chur chun cinn

AD STRAITÉISEACH

- Amhail deireadh 2020, bhí 595 ball foirne (WTE) fostaithe ag an Roinn. Le linn 2020, tháinig 158 ball foirne nua isteach sa Roinn agus d'fhág 87 duine, an chuid is mó ag dul ar scor, ag bogadh go fostaíocht eile nó ag glacadh le sos gairme.
- Rinneadh Suirbhé ar Rannpháirtíocht Fostaithe na Státseirbhíse i Meán Fómhair 2020 agus d'fhreagair 73% den fhoireann an suirbhé. Is fearr an ráta freagartha seo i gcomparáid le ráta foriomlán freagartha na Státseirbhíse 65%. Thar 18 de na 22 téama, tá treocht aníos aimsithe ag an Roinn ó 2015, rud a léiríonn ár dtiomantas maidir le leanúint le dul i ngleic le réimsí forbartha. Is ionann na réimsí forbartha agus na torthaí dearfacha atá sainaitheanta sa tuarascáil dár Roinn agus iad atá sainaitheanta don Státseirbhís i gcoitinne.
- Chuir an tAonad Straitéiseach AD Treoir agus Tacaíocht Promhaidh nuashonraithe i bhfeidhm do bhainisteoirí líne agus don fhoireann chun próiseas comhsheasmhach agus láidir a chothabháil le haghaidh athbhreithnithe feidhmíochta agus aiseolais do bhaill foirne atá ar phromhadh.
- Cé nach bhféadfaí clár vacsaínithe fliú bliantúil na Roinne a dhéanamh ar an láthair mar gheall ar shrianta paindéime, spreagadh an fhoireann an vacsaín a fháil trína ndochtúir teaghlaigh áitiúil nó tríd an gcógaslann. Le linn na paindéime agus fós, tugtar eolas tráthúil don fhoireann chomh maith le rochtain ar raon leathan de thacaíochtaí, d'acmhainní agus de ghníomhaíochtaí folláine.
- Chuir an tAonad Foghlama agus Forbartha sraith modúl r-Fhoghlama ar cianobair agus folláine chun cinn don fhoireann na Roinne.
- Leanann an fhoireann ar aghaidh chun an Teastais i Seirbhísí Sláinte agus an Dioplóma i mBeartas Seirbhísí Sláinte a bhaint amach chomh maith le raon cáilíochtaí teicniúla agus gairmiúla eile.
- Tá an Rialtas tiomanta do sprioc fostaíochta na seirbhíse poiblí um dhaoine faoi mhíchumas a mhéadú go dtí 6% ar a laghad faoi 2024. Tá an Roinn Sláinte fós chun tosaigh ar an sprioc seo agus 7.17% den fhoireann ag dearbhú míchumais in 2020.
- Chuir an Roinn go gníomhach le freagairt fhoriomlán AD ar thionchar COVID-19 trí rannpháirtíocht i nGrúpa Earnála na Státseirbhíse, a bhfuil an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe ina cathaoirleach air.
- Scaipeadh treoir chuimsitheach dar teideal 'Treoirlínte na Roinne Sláinte maidir le hobair ón mbaile le linn COVID-19' ar gach ball foirne.

TFE

Bhí tionchar suntasach ag paindéim Covid-19 ar an mbealach a chuir an Roinn a cuid oibre i gcrích.

- Ar dtús ní raibh ach cianrochtain TFC teoranta ag líon beag foirne. Faoi dheireadh mhí Aibreáin bhí cianrochtain slán ar sheirbhísí TFC curtha ar fáil do gach ball foirne agus d'fhormhór mór na ndaoine a bhí ag obair go cianda
- Tugadh rochtain do gach ball foirne de chuid na Roinne ar ríomhaire glúine criptithe le cianrochtain slán ar a bhonneagar. Chuir an Roinn réiteach Bainistíochta um Ghléasanna Soghluaiste i bhfeidhm freisin. Lig sé seo don Roinn gléasanna agus feidhmchláir a bhainistiú go cianda agus iad a dhaingniú. Ba riachtanas ríthábhachtach é seo tráth a raibh breis agus 85% den fhoireann ag baint úsáid chianda as acmhainní na Roinne.

RÁITEAS STRAITÉISE

- In 2020, thosaigh an Roinn ag obair ar fhorbairt an Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023. Leanadh próiseas comhairliúcháin chun fíis, misean agus tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha na Roinne don tréimhse 3 bliana amach romhainn a leagan amach.
- Bunaíonn an Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023 tiomantas na Roinne do chearta an duine agus don chomhionannas, i gcomhréir le Dualgas na hEarnála Poiblí (Alt 42 d'Acht na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas 2014). I measc na ngníomhaíochtaí ata geallta don tréimhse straitéiseach 2021-2023 tá féinmheasúnú, maoirseacht ar chomhlachtaí faoinár gcoimirce, cur i bhfeidhm straitéisí náisiúnta gaolmhara agus tuairisciú ar dhul chun cinn inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil.

Aguisín 1 Faisnéis Chorparáideach

BORD BAINISTÍOCHTA NA ROINNE SLÁINTE 2020

Jim Breslin

Ard-Rúnaí

Colm O'Reardon
Leas-Rúnaí
An Rannán Beartais agus Straitéise

Paul Bolger
Stiúrthóir
An Rannán Acmhainní

Teresa Cody (go dtí Meitheamh 2020)
Rúnaí Cúnta
An Rannán Corparáideach

Tracey Conroy
Rúnaí Cúnta
Rannán an Bheartais um Ospidéal Ghéarmhíochaine

Greg Dempsey
Leas-Rúnaí
An Rannán Rialaithe agus Feidhmiúcháin

Colm Desmond
Rúnaí Cúnta
An Rannán Reachtaíochta Corparáidí, Meabhairshláinte, Beartais Drugaí agus Sábháilteachta Bia

Dr Tony Holohan
Príomhoifigeach Leighis
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Leighis

Fergal Goodman
Rúnaí Cúnta
Rannán an Chúraim Phríomhúil

Rachel Kenna
Príomhoifigeach Altranais
Altranais/Cnáimhseachas, an Rialáil Ghairmiúil, an Phleanáil don Fhórsa Saothair, Gairmithe Sláinte Gaolmhara

Kathleen MacLellan
Rúnaí Cúnta
Rannán an Chúraim Shóisialaigh

Laura Magahy
Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin
Oifig Chlár Forfeidhmíthe Sláintecare

Siobhan O'Halloran (go dtí Márta 2020)
Príomhoifigeach Altranais
Altranais/Cnáimhseachas, an Rialáil Ghairmiúil, an Phleanáil don Fhórsa Saothair, Gairmithe Sláinte Gaolmhara

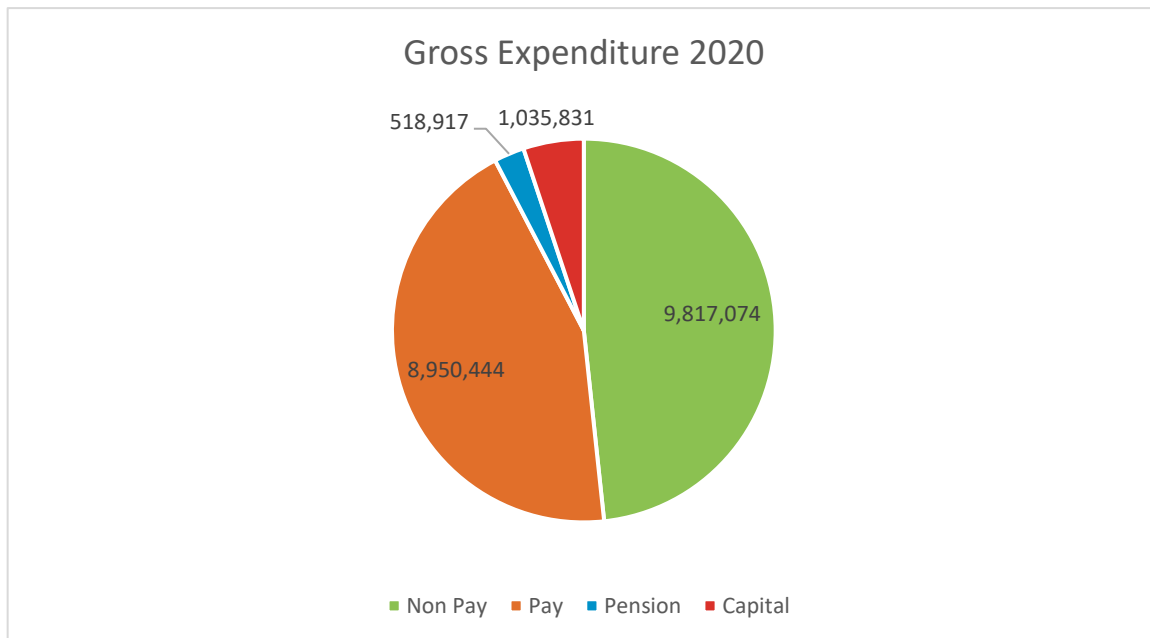
PRÓIFÍL CHORPARÁIDEACH

Ag deireadh mhí na Nollag 2020, bhí 595 ball foirne coibhéise lánaimseartha (WTE) sa Roinn Sláinte. Chomh maith le tacaíocht a thabhairt don Aire Sláinte, thug foireann na Roinne tacaíocht freisin do na trí Aire Stáit.

Rinne an Roinn bainistíocht ar ollbhuiséad ar bhreis is €20.90bn in 2020, agus soláthraíodh €547.5m de mar mheastachán forlíontach. B'ionann na leithreasáí i gcabhair buiséadaithe don bhliain agus €0.46bn, rud a d'fhág glanbhuiséad €20.44bn.

Ba é an caiteachas comhlan don bhliain ná €20.810bn agus b'ionann leithreasáí i gcabhair agus €0.488bn. Bhí glanchaiteachas €20.322m ann mar thoradh air seo

B'ionann an t-ollchaiteachas a thabhaigh an Roinn Sláinte sa bhliain agus 29.7% de chaiteachas iomlán an rialtais ghinearálta sa bhliain. B'ionann an glanchaiteachas agus 30.2% de shaincheisteanna státchiste an rialtais láir sa bhliain. Bhí €20.475bn d'ollchaiteachas na bliana comhdhéanta d'eisíocaíochtaí chuig FSS, €230m chuig gníomhaireachtaí eile agus bhí €105m tabhaithe ag an Roinn.



Neamhphá	Pá	Pinsean	Caipiteal
€9,817,074	€8,950,444	€518,917	1,035,831

D'fhreagair an Roinn Sláinte beagnach an ceathrú de na Ceisteanna Parlaiminteacha go léir a cuireadh in 2020.

SRACFHÉACHAINT AR FHREAGRAÍ PARLAIMINTE 2020

Ceisteanna Parlaiminte (nár aistarraingeadh / dícheadadh iad)	9,261
Ar tharcuireadh don FSS iad le haghaidh Freagra Díreach	5,025
Aighneachtaí a Fuarthas	12,342
Ceisteanna Tráthúla Ullmhaithe	129
Ceisteanna Tráthúla Roghnaithe	44
Tosach an tSeanaid Ullmhaithe	69
Tosach an tSeanaid Roghnaithe	26

SAORÁIL FAISNÉISE

Rinne an Roinn 480 iarratas um Shaoráil Faisnéise a phríoiseáil in 2029, agus 299 ceann acu a tháinig ó na meáin.

ÍOCAÍOCHT PHRAS

Seo a leanas anailís ar oibleagáidí Íocaíochtaí Pras na Roinne le linn 2020:

Mionsonraí	Líon	Luach (€)	Céatadán (%) de líon iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí arna n-íoc
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí déanta laistigh de 15 lá	2,689	12,370,707.72	90.72%
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí déanta idir 16 lá agus 30 lá	186	1,014,138.17	6.27%
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí déanta tar éis 30 lá	89	174,061.68	3.01%
Iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí déanta in 2020	2,964	13,558,907.57	

Is ionann an méid cúitimh agus úis íocaíochta pras iomlán a d'íoc an Roinn in 2020 agus €5,788.89, méid a chuimsigh €1,448.89 in íocaíochtaí úis agus €4,340.00 in íocaíochtaí cúitimh.

AN tÍDIÚ FUINNIMH I RITH 2020

Lean an Roinn ag obair go dlúth le hÚdarás Fuinnimh Inbhuanaithe na hÉireann (SEAI) chun spriocanna a bhaint amach i ndáil le laghdú san ídiú fuinnimh ina Ceannteathrú ag Miesian Plaza. Tá an foirgneamh ar cheann de líon beag foirgneamh creidiúnaithe Platanam LEED ar domhan. Is timpeallacht thar a bheith casta é a chuimsíonn raon leathan de theicneolaíochtaí atá tíosach ar fhuinneamh agus bearta chun lorg fuinnimh an áitribh a íoslaghdú, ta an foirgneamh mar chuid de ollchampas ina bhfuil trí fhoirgneamh, ceithre roinn rialtais agus dhá chuideachta ón earnáil phríobháideach lonnaithe.

Ligeann na teicneolaíochtaí a úsáidtear ar fud an fhoirgnimh don Roinn níos mó éifeachtúlachta a bhaint amach maidir lenár n-ídiú fuinnimh, agus muidne ag obair i dtreo ár spriocanna inbhuanaitheachta. Ina measc seo tá aonaid gaothráin agus corna ísealfhuinnimh, córais fuaraithe aerchóirithe ardéifeachtúlachta lena n-áirítear teirmeastóráil agus córais aerála ísealfhuinnimh.

Bhunaigh an Roinn “Foireann Ghlas” dá Ceannteathrú agus leanann sí ag cur feasacht comhshaoil chun cinn agus ag cur tionscnaimh straitéise glasa i bhfeidhm ar fud an fhoirgnimh mar phríomhthionónta.

Dóibh siúd atá ag plé cheannach ar son agus thar ceann na Roinne, tá treoirlínte um Sholáthar Glas leagtha síos againn agus tuairiscítear orthu go lárnach. Tá tuairisceán um sholáthar poiblí glasa na Roinne chuig an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil don bhliain 2020 leagtha amach thíos.

Tuairisceán Glas Bliantúil um Sholáthar Poiblí 2020

<i>Bliain tagartha 2020</i>	<i>A. Líon iomlán na gconarthaí os cionn €25,000 a eisíodh de réir earnáil tosaíochta</i>	<i>B. Luach iomlán na os cionn €25,000 a eisíodh de réir earnáil tosaíochta</i>	<i>C. Líon iomlán na gconarthaí os cionn €25,000 a eisíodh de réir earnáil tosaíochta inár ionchorpraíodh SPG</i>	<i>D. Luach iomlán na gconarthaí os cionn €25,000 a eisíodh de réir earnáil tosaíochta inár ionchorpraíodh SPG</i>
<i>Earnáil Tosaíochta</i>				
Iompar				
Tógáil				
Fuinneamh	1	€81,000		
Seirbhísí Bia & Lónadóireachta	2	€611,531	2	€611,531

Earraí agus Seirbhísí Glantacháin	2	€3,536,084	2	€3,536,084
Teicstílí				
Trealamh TF	4	€178,900	1	€85,000
Páipéar				
Eile: Comhairliúchán	9	€1,046,819		
Trealamh	2	€251,712.00		
Troscán	1	€90,805		
Fóin Phóca	2	€238,694	1	€150,000
Clódóireacht/ Dearadh	5	€755,384		
Taighde	6	€1,064,797	1	€40,000
Seirbhísí	15	€3,089,059		
bogearraí TF	3	€211,760		
Ighnéitheach	1	€313,611		
Stáiseanóireacht	1	€50,000		
Iomlán	54	€11,520,156	7	€4,422,615

Aguisín 2 Gníomhaireachtaí atá faoi choimirce na Roinne

Comhlachtaí Stáit Neamhthráchtála

An Chomhairle Fiaclóireachta

Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann

An Bord um Chur Chun Cinn na Sábháilteachta Bia - Bia Sábháilte

An tÚdarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

An tÚdarás Árachas Sláinte

An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte

An Bord Taighde Sláinte

An Chomhairle um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh (CORU) Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Seirbhís Fuiláistriúcháin na hÉireann

Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
An Coimisiún Meabhair-Shláinte
Bord na Clárlainne Náisiúnta Ailse
Bord Forbartha an Ospidéal Náisiúnta Péidiatraicigh
An Ciste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóir Leighis
Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann
Cumann Cógaiseoirí na hÉireann
An Chomhairle um Chúram Éigeandála Réamh-Ospidéal

Comhlachtaí Stáit Tráchtála

Árachas Sláinte Saorálach (VHI)

Aguisín 3: Foilseacháin na Roinne Sláinte

In 2020 chuir an Roinn 104 le chéile agus tá gach aon cheann díobh ar fáil le híoslódáil ar ár suíomh gréasáin ag <https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/publications/>.