



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Department of Health

Annual Report 2021



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INTRODUCTION BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH, STEPHEN DONNELLY

I welcome the publication of the Department's Annual Report for 2021.

All involved in healthcare in 2021 continued to grapple with the significant challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As in 2020, we should rightly be proud of how we met those challenges and delivered safe and effective healthcare for the Irish people.

Ireland's vaccination programme was an enormous success story, with one of the highest uptake rates in the world and was expanded to include booster vaccines to reinforce the protection provided to so many. This clearly played a huge part in saving lives across the country. We implemented, for the first time in the history of the state, mandatory hotel quarantine for visitors, which undoubtedly protected lives and was a phenomenal achievement in such a short time frame.

Throughout this report you will read about the many developments aimed at delivering universal healthcare, which permeates so much of what we do in the Department of Health and in the health service as a whole. 2021 was another record year for expansion of our health services and a record year for recruitment. We delivered 813 extra acute beds, an additional 42 critical care beds, while we hired 6,149 extra staff including 352 doctors, 1,660 nurses, 1,192 Health and Social Care Professionals and 1,946 other healthcare professionals.

We have invested significantly in making access to healthcare fairer and faster and to expand and integrate care in the community. This vital work will continue, to support our goal of a first-rate health service for the people of Ireland.

Our health services faced a challenge of a different kind in May of 2021, when our ICT systems came under serious attack from cybercriminals, causing significant difficulty for both the Department and the HSE in carrying out our work to protect people and keep them healthy. Our people, as always, played a fundamental part in addressing this challenge through hard work, innovative thinking and quick decision making.

I am honoured to be the Minister for Health and would like to sincerely thank all the staff in the Department and across the health and social care services for their continued hard work, passion and unwavering commitment to our public service.



Stephen Donnelly TD
Minister for Health

OVERVIEW

This annual report for the Department of Health outlines the main achievements made during 2021 to deliver on our mission and fulfil our role. This report is set out across five chapters, each reflecting one of the five strategic priorities in the Department of Health's [Statement of Strategy 2021-2023](#).

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.
- 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.
- 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 Priorities

The five priorities in the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 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.

CHAPTER 1

MANAGE COVID-19 AND PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH

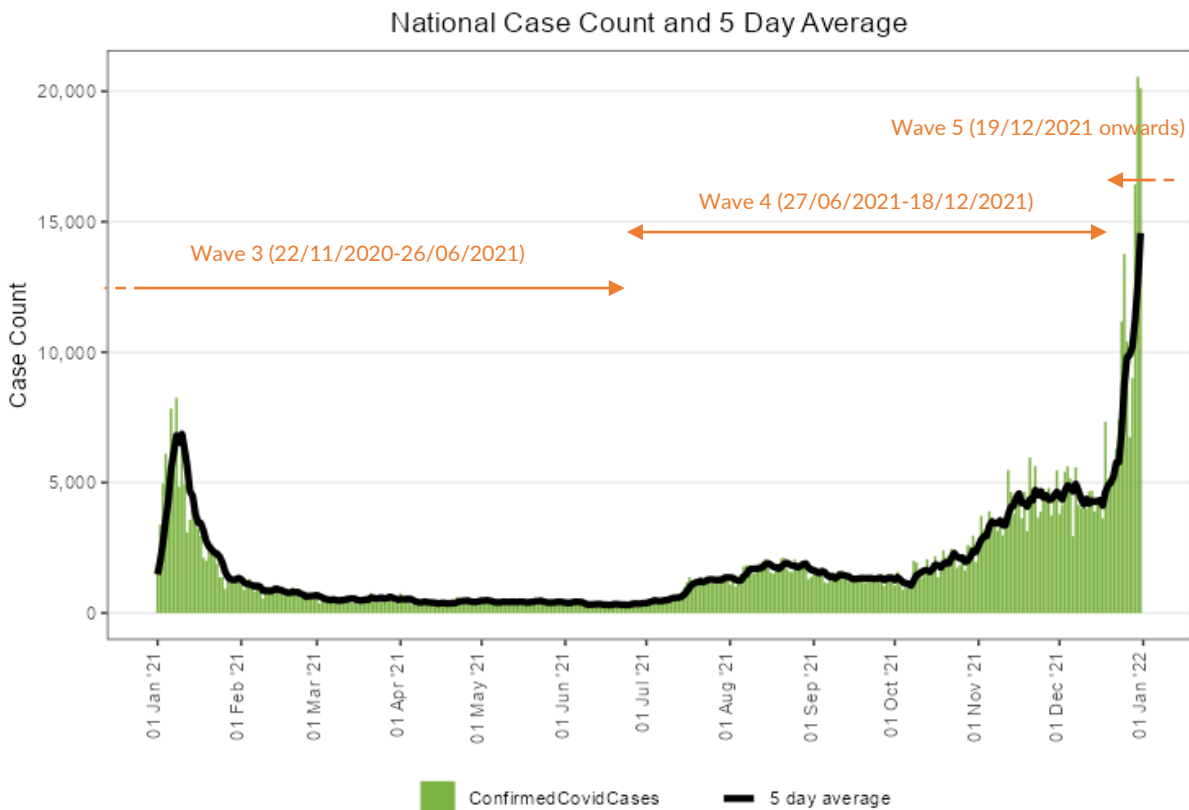
The Department of Health’s overarching priorities in 2021 were to lead the public health response to the threat of COVID-19 and, in tandem, to invest in and develop population health planning, prevention of illness and promotion of health and wellbeing. The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) that was established in January 2020 continued to provide expert advice and support during the pandemic throughout 2021. This section provides an overview of the Department’s significant work and achievements during the year.

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY IN 2021

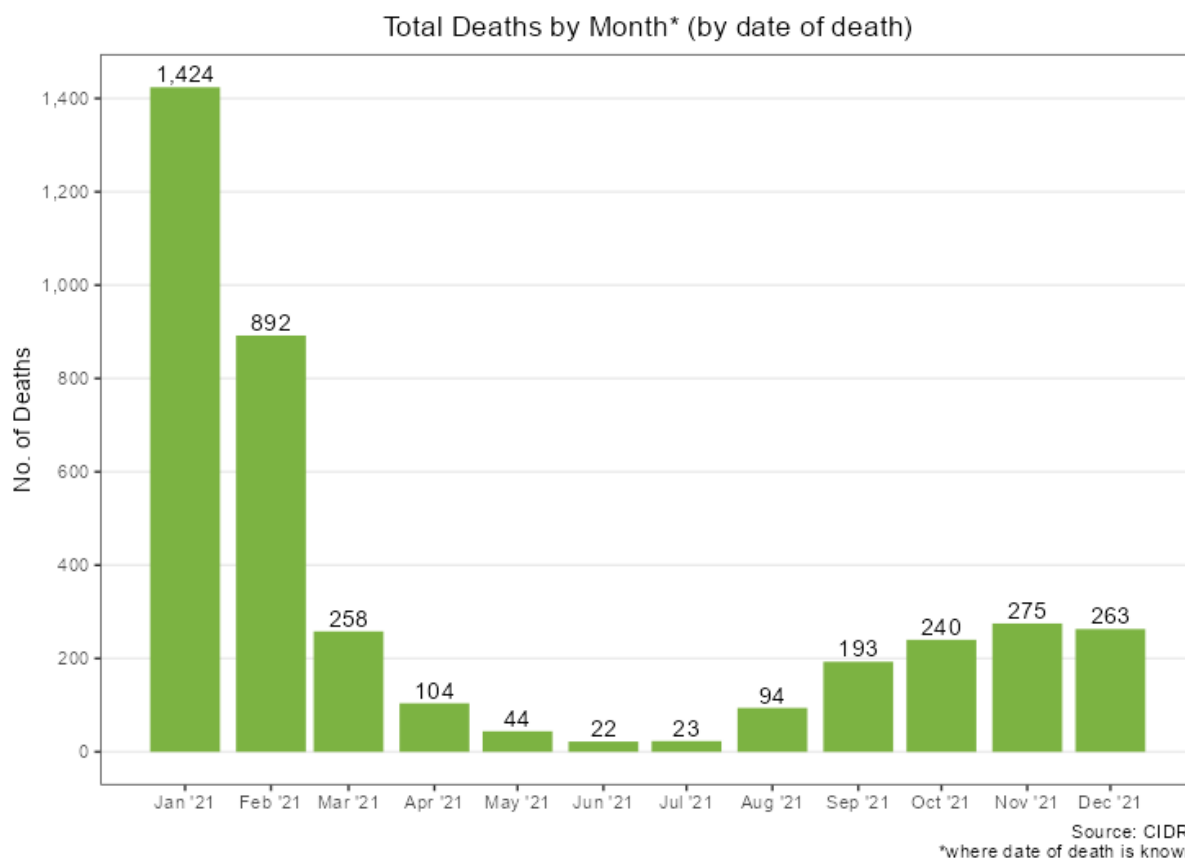
Up to midnight on 31 December 2021 a cumulative total of 763,968 cases had been notified in Ireland, with 87.7% of these cases (669,950) being notified in 2021. There were more cases notified in the first 22 days of 2021 than there were in all of 2020. During 2021 the disease was characterised by three ‘waves’, preceded by two waves in 2020.

Wave 3 of the pandemic lasted from November 2020 until the end of June 2021. The lowest number of cases recorded during the year (242 new cases) was recorded on 14th June. Wave 4 began in late June, and on 18 December the highest number of cases during the fourth wave were recorded (7,333).

A fifth wave of the disease began in mid-December and the highest number of cases recorded in a single day during 2021 was on 30 December, at 20,554.



3,832 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported as occurring in 2021, compared to 2,294 deaths in 2020.¹ The highest number of deaths were reported in January when 1,424 deaths occurred.



By the end of 2021, approximately 81% of the population had completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine.

KEY FIGURES

- 59 Regulations for public health measures to protect people from COVID-19 were completed.
- 7.6 million COVID-19 PCR tests were completed in 2021.
- 832 staff were engaged in the Contact Management Programme (CMP).
- 120 isolation beds were provided for COVID-19 positives and close contacts and 280 shielding beds were made available for people experiencing homelessness.
- 45 community COVID-19 testing centres were in operation by December 2021, overseen by the Health Service Executive (HSE).
- 4 contact tracing centres were maintained to deal with rapidly identifying secondary cases.
- 10,398 people entered the Mandatory Hotel Quarantine (MHQ) system.
- 8 MHQ hotels designated with 1,600+ rooms at peak.
- 26 press conferences were held by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

¹ Note - in 37 COVID-19 related deaths, the date of death is unknown.

The Public Health Response to COVID-19

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

Since Ireland's declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the national response to COVID-19 has been supported by a public health-led, whole-of-government approach. This whole-of-government approach involves cohesive decision making, partnership, expert public health advice, and clarity of communications.

The NPHEM is an established mechanism for coordinating the health sector response to significant public health emergencies. It facilitated the sharing of information between the Department of Health and its agencies. The NPHEM provided direction, guidance, support and expert public health advice for the overall national response to COVID-19. In particular, the NPHEM performed a critical role in leading the national response to the pandemic by tirelessly monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on public health. The NPHEM's advice was informed by the epidemiological status of the disease, modelling projections, international advice and guidance, evolving evidence and practice both nationally and internationally, and the overarching priority of limiting the impact on public health, and in particular protecting the following three core priorities:

- The protection of the most vulnerable.
- the continued resumption of non-COVID health and social care services.
- the need to protect the ongoing delivery of education and childcare.

The NPHEM contributed significantly to the development of the government's strategic COVID-19 plans since March 2020, two of which were published in 2021:

- COVID-19 Resilience & Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead, February 2021, available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c4876-COVID-19-resilience-and-recovery-2021-the-path-ahead/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/ThePathAhead/>
- Reframing the challenge: Continuing our recovery and reconnecting , August 2021, available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f5291-post-cabinet-statement-COVID-19-reframing-the-challenge-continuing-our-recovery-and-reconnecting/>

Commitment to the principle of transparency remained central to the work of the NPHEM, with a strong emphasis placed on the online publication of advice and decision-making material. NPHEM advisory letters, agendas, and adopted minutes are available on the Department of Health's website.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer has engaged extensively with cross-government press and communications teams to ensure important public health information and key messages were clearly conveyed to the public throughout the course of 2021. During this time the Office of the CMO has completed:

Press conferences	26
Social media videos (achieving 1.4m organic views, with at least 5m overall views)	39
Radio interviews	7
TV interviews	6

The NPHEt for COVID-19 was supported by a permanent secretariat within the Office of the CMO. In addition, a NPHEt Policy Unit was established to facilitate and support the NPHEt process. The NPHEt met over 100 times, 28 meetings of which were facilitated in 2021.

The Department helped support positive health behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic and produced various influential papers to support this work including:

- “Review of international evidence on beliefs and intentions with regard to uptake of COVID-19 vaccines”.
- “Predictor analysis of intentions to get a COVID-19 vaccine in Ireland”.
- “A meta-analysis of the impact of individual correspondence on flu vaccination rates: considerations for COVID-19 vaccination”.
- “15 Key Points to Support Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccines”.

The Department liaised with the HSE with the aim of determining the estimated need for ‘long COVID’ services to support rehabilitation and recovery. Long COVID or ‘post COVID-19 condition’ is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as: “the illness that occurs in people who have a history of probable or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection; usually within three months from the onset of COVID-19, with symptoms and effects that last for at least two months. The symptoms and effects of post COVID-19 condition cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis.”²

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

When COVID-19 hit, the Department mobilised to provide the public health advice that would protect us all from this new disease. The Department did this through:

- Expert-led communications.
- Daily press conferences and extensive media technical briefings.
- Trusted yellow branding - made instantly available to public and private sector.
- Evidence based communication – using weekly surveys and focus groups to listen to the nation.
- Data transparency to explain the rationale behind the public health advice.

By these means the Department provided trusted information, support and advice regarding protective health measures such as mask wearing, social distancing and vaccinations.

Key Achievements of the public health response to COVID-19

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

² [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Post COVID-19 condition \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-post-covid-19-condition)

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The COVID-19 vaccine has grown to become the largest immunisation programme in the history of the State, with more than 95% of adults having received a vaccination. The vaccination was available free of charge during 2021 to all those who wished to receive it and for whom it was deemed clinically safe. Specific achievements include the following:

- Ireland participated in a procurement process operated by the European Commission to secure access to safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccines.
- Ireland entered into seven Advance Purchase Agreements (APAs) with five of the vaccines having been awarded market authorisation.
- Following the completion of the primary programme, the State commenced a substantial booster vaccination programme in October.
- The COVID-19 vaccination programme utilised a variety of delivery channels including the establishment of a vaccination centre in every country, general practice and community pharmacy. The varied delivery channels ensured that the public was able to readily access vaccination.
- The Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) (Amendment) (No. 7) Regulations 2020 came into force in 2021 allowing nurses and midwives to administer COVID-19 vaccinations.

TESTING & TRACING

In its second year of dealing with COVID-19, the Department continued to work closely with the HSE to maintain a reliable and responsive COVID-19 testing and tracing operation and to keep testing policy under continuing review, having regard to the evolving epidemiological situation and to the guidance of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and other international organisations.

- 45 community COVID-19 testing centres were in operation throughout the country by December 2021, overseen by the HSE.
- The Department supported the HSE to increase PCR testing capacity to 300,000 tests per week (increased from 175,000 capacity at the end of 2020) with over 7.6 million COVID-19 PCR tests completed in 2021.
- Comprehensive serial testing programmes continued in long term residential facilities, in food processing facilities and in other high-risk, vulnerable settings.
- The testing strategy was expanded to include the wider use of antigen testing from October 2021, including usage for asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts of any person that tested positive for COVID-19 being provided with free antigen tests provided by the HSE. From November 2021, free antigen tests were also made available to school children and staff who were identified as part of a school pod in which there was a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Contact tracing remained central to the response to the pandemic. Four contact tracing centres were maintained to deal with rapidly identifying secondary cases.
- As of December 2021, 832 staff were engaged in the Contact Management Programme (CMP). 737 of these had been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support contact tracing. The remaining 95 staff were redeployed from the HSE and other public service Roles.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

In order to facilitate the continued expansion of the health sector workforce to address the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the following initiatives were implemented:

- Creation of Pandemic Placement Grant of €100 per week of placement to eligible students, to allow student nurses and midwives to continue their education programmes. The accommodation allowance was also doubled for students.
- A Clinical Placement Oversight Group continued its work in 2021 to support students and review the COVID-19 situation in hospitals and decide if it was safe for student nurses and midwives to progress with their placements.
- Funding was provided to allow for the restoration of a substantial number of nurses and midwives to the register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) to assist in the response to COVID-19 including the vaccination programme.
- Publication of a guidance document on staffing levels and skill mix in surge situations arising from COVID-19, delivering on recommendation 5.5 of the COVID-19 Nursing Home Expert Panel.

COVID-19 PROCUREMENT

The Department continued to work closely with the HSE on their development of channels by which vulnerable patients could access new and emerging COVID-19 therapies. The Department worked to secure essential items and services such as personal protection equipment (PPE), isolation facilities and COVID-19 antiviral drugs and therapeutics. Examples of this include:

- Establishment of a Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) in the HSE in Q4 of 2021 with the purpose of providing clinical advice and recommendations on the use of all existing and emerging approved COVID-19 therapeutic medications. This group also commenced work on establishing the clinical eligibility of members of the public to receive these therapeutics. The TAG kept all new and emerging COVID-19 therapeutics under evaluation and review.
- Commencement of a procurement process for the purchase of individual courses of COVID-19 antiviral and monoclonal antibody treatments.
- Collaboration with the HSE on their development of channels by which vulnerable patients could access new and emerging COVID-19 therapies.

IRELAND'S COVID-19 DATA HUB

Through Ireland's COVID-19 Data Hub³, the Department, along with our collaborating partners, made available to the public daily updates of key COVID-19 indicators. Key measures were presented on local and national COVID-19 case numbers and deaths.

Through the presentation of COVID-19 vaccination data, the progress of Ireland's vaccination programme could be monitored by the public. Daily figures counting the number of people tested and hospital/Intensive Care Unit admissions were also presented to provide the public with a broad picture of the COVID-19 situation in Ireland as it evolved.

³ <https://COVID-19.geohive.ie>

MANDATORY HOTEL QUARANTINE

After a government decision on 26 January 2021, work began immediately to establish a system of MHQ in Ireland as an exceptional public health measure, given the serious risk of importation of variants of concern with potential to overwhelm the health service and undermine the national vaccination programme. Led by the Department of Health, it was a collaborative project that required the involvement of several departments and state bodies.

The Department mobilised a Project Team under three workstreams: legislation; service design; and procurement. MHQ was delivered to mitigate significant public health risks: new legislation was developed and enacted; an entire end-to-end national 24/7 system was designed and mobilised; commercial services and facilities were procured and deployed - all within 6 weeks and successfully operated for 6 months, processing over 10,000 people.

Primary legislation was enacted on 7th March 2021 and the MHQ system became operational on 26th March 2021. The MHQ legislation was extended twice: to 31 July 2021 and to 31 October 2021. The system then ceased operations on 25 September 2021 when the Minister for Health announced the removal of all remaining Designated States.

This work resulted in:

593 positive cases of COVID-19 identified, including variants of concern, removing these infection risks to the general public.

- Comprehensive governance structure implemented involving multiple stakeholders.
- 8 hotels designated with 1,600+ rooms at peak - mobilised with full wrap-around services including security, transportation, medical care, testing, incident response and onsite 24/7 State Liaison Office function.
- Facilities, staff and processes designed and mobilised at ports of entry throughout Ireland – 3 seaports and 6 airports.
- Booking portal launched on 23 March 2021 and a total of 10,398 people entered the MHQ system.
- Independent appeals function established in conjunction with Department of Justice. 30+ barristers reviewed residents' appeals daily with an average turnaround time of under 3hrs.

MHQ was effective in supporting the public health measures to combat COVID-19 in Ireland, and in particular, variants of concern. It contributed to the reduction in case numbers and the creation of space in which a vaccination programme could be rolled out. In turn, this made the gradual and safe opening of society and the economy possible.

TRAVEL POLICY

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

The Department coordinated cross-jurisdictional CMO meetings within the framework of All-Island Cooperation in the Public Health Response to Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Pandemic. It also established a data sharing agreement

with the Public Health Agency NI (Northern Ireland), to share Passenger Locator Form data as part of all-island cooperation on COVID-19.

COMMON APPROACH TO INTRA-EU TRAVEL

The Department provided significant input into EU-level fora and reports, and supported the following:

- EU meetings at Ministerial level.
- The ongoing work of the Health Security Committee.
- EU integrated political crisis response arrangements.

The Department also determined a coordinated approach to intra-EU travel, with consideration to national positions on EU Council Recommendation 2020/1475⁴.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

The Department supported development and implementation of government decisions on Irish travel policy during the COVID-19 emergency. It coordinated development and revisions of legislation to support COVID-19 travel policy, specifically in relation to required health documents, quarantine, and testing. It also supported public health experts in their work on international travel in the context of COVID-19. In addition to the above, the Department also:

- Collaborated with other Departments on public communications aspects of Government travel policy.
- Provided intersectoral collaboration and coordination, as appropriate, on COVID-19.

PASSENGER LOCATOR FORM

The Department led on the legislative and operational rollout of the COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form to support contact tracing and public health engagement with international passengers following arrival to Ireland. The Department also delivered public health communication to international passengers arriving to Ireland, through the Passenger Locator Form contact centre, in line with public health advice.

DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE

The Department coordinated the implementation of the EU Digital COVID Certificate and engaged with the EU Digital COVID Certificate Expert Group on proposed amendments to existing EU Regulations and developed national legislation to support the implementation of the EU Digital COVID Certificate framework. In addition, the Department:

- Supported coordination of public communications to facilitate roll-out of Digital COVID Certificates.
- Developed and provided ongoing operational oversight to the application process for Irish citizens vaccinated in third countries to apply for an Irish Digital COVID Certificate.

⁴ [EUR-Lex - 32020H1475 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Established a Digital Covid Certificate Service Centre in July 2021 to deal directly with queries from members of the public relating to the EU Digital COVID Certificate.
- Supported the technical implementation of Digital Covid Certificates and verification apps to support the free movement of Irish citizens within the EU.
- Expanded the use of the Covid Tracker App to include a wallet function to support citizens to store their EU Digital Covid Certificates.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

As Ireland entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, further public health measures with a statutory underpinning were required. The Department drafted and processed legislation to provide for the various public health measures that were in place throughout 2021. 129 Statutory Instruments (SIs) providing for public health measures to protect people from COVID-19 were processed and resolutions for the consideration of the Houses of the Oireachtas to extend the various COVID-19 Acts were prepared and processed.

The following new COVID-19 related Bills were drafted and processed for consideration by the Houses of the Oireachtas:

- Health (Amendment) Act 2021
- Health (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2021
- Health and Criminal Justice (COVID-19) (Amendment) Act 2021
- Health and Criminal Justice (COVID-19) (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2021

CROSS-GOVERNMENTAL WORK

In addition to the cross-governmental work undertaken through NPHET, colleagues in the HSE's Environmental Health Service (EHS) came together with other regulatory bodies and inspectorates across government in the Regulators Forum, under the Chairmanship of an Taoiseach's Office. It enabled various agencies and bodies to:

- Build partnerships, some for the first time.
- Provide a more efficient way to ensure compliance across the indoor hospitality sector.
- Adopt a harmonised approach which allowed for flexibility across regulatory bodies.

The EHS has welcomed the innovative approach of the forum workshops which promoted engagement with other inspectorates.

INTERNATIONAL AND EU ENGAGEMENT

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 saw increased health activity at EU level. There were eight meetings of EU Health Ministers, with the agenda often centred around COVID-19 and efforts to coordinate EU Member States' public health measures.

Ireland was fully engaged in the negotiations around the European Health Union package of legislative measures progressed in 2021. The development of the European Health Union will build on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the capacity of the EU and its Member States to respond to future health emergencies. In addition, the Department:

- Supported the establishment of a WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to agree an internationally binding legal instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, which was established in December 2021.
- Established an internal Liaison Group on EU4Health - the fourth and largest EU health programme which was adopted in legislation on 24 March 2021.
- Represented Ireland's views in the development of the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) in the European Commission Directorate General. This body aims to ensure adequate medical countermeasures in preparation for future cross-border health emergencies.
- Participated in the Government Taskforce on Emergency Planning, including ensuring health sector priorities were represented in Ireland's negotiation of the EU Critical Entities Resilience Directive.
- Coordinated donations of humanitarian medical supplies to India, Nepal and Brazil, which were required due to a crisis caused by COVID19, using the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- Engaged in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Expert Group on the Economics of Public Health (EGEPH), the International Behavioural Insights and Policy Group, and the WHO Working Group for the Regional Behavioural and Cultural Insights (BCI) Framework.

Service Continuity and Adaptation

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to interrupt normal healthcare activity during 2021. 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.

PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE

Primary Care Practitioners played a central 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 supported this role, for example:

- General practice support payments for COVID-19 related services continued through 2021, supporting General Practitioner (GP) practices and ensuring that patients had access to COVID-19 assessments, testing-referrals, and in-person dedicated COVID-19 related respiratory clinics where appropriate, without charge.
- Participation in the HSE's Community Pharmacy Contingency Planning Forum, to assist the coordination of contingency planning for community pharmacy services in light of COVID-19.

SUPPORTS TO NURSING HOMES

Older people, particularly those who are medically compromised, are at severe risk of poorer outcomes from COVID-19. Therefore, congregated settings such as long-term residential care facilities required particular attention.

Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme (TAPS):

The COVID-19 Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme (TAPS) was established by the Department, in partnership with the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) in 2020. It continued to support nursing homes

into 2021 as part of a package of support measures. TAPS contributed towards the additional costs that private and voluntary nursing homes experienced in preventing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks.

TAPS had two elements: Standard Assistance and Outbreak Assistance. Standard Assistance was available to all nursing homes with additional costs relating to COVID-19 prevention, Outbreak Assistance provided support to nursing homes to manage outbreaks when they occurred. By the end of 2021, over €134.5million had been made available to nursing homes under TAPS.

- The report of the COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel included 86 recommendations in total, over 15 thematic areas, with associated timelines for implementation over the short, medium, and long-term which require a mix of ongoing operational response to COVID-19 and longer-term strategic reform. The Department led and provided oversight to the implementation process, including the development of a third progress report in September 2021, highlighting the substantial progress being made by all stakeholders, with a specific focus on the short to medium-term recommendations required for the immediate COVID-19 response.
- The Department collaborated with HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC), the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and other key partners to ensure clear guidance was made available and kept up to date on visitation and infection prevention and control measures in nursing homes and long-term residential care services.
- Development of formal support structures to the nursing homes sector were commenced, utilising the community support structures set up in direct response to COVID-19.
- The Department commissioned an international evidence review on Clinical Governance Frameworks and Resident Safety Models from the Health Research Board (HRB) to support considerations in relation to the clinical governance framework for nursing homes.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Targeted supports were put in place to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on socially excluded groups in congregated settings and in the community, including the prioritisation of socially excluded groups under the COVID-19 vaccination programme and the provision of 120 isolation beds for Covid positives and close contacts and 280 shielding beds for people experiencing homelessness.

Promotion of Public Health

The Department continued to develop and invest in population health planning, prevention of illness and the promotion of health and wellbeing, and to support people to live healthier lives by launching a variety of health initiatives.

- The Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan was published in May 2021. The plan was developed across government and builds on the work and progress of Healthy Ireland. The plan provides for how we can continue to work together to bring about good health, access to services, healthy environments, and the promotion of resilience. This ensures that everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential.
- The “Keep Well Campaign” supported the population with their health and wellbeing through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. The focus then switched to post-COVID-19 communications strategies, with two

campaigns launched in late 2021. These were the [Sport Ireland “Let’s Get Back”](#) campaign, in partnership with Healthy Ireland which encouraged the Irish population to get back to sport and physical activity with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The Healthy Ireland [“Let’s Get Set”](#) campaign promoted the key messages of healthy eating, physical activity and mental wellbeing.

- Implementation of the National Physical Activity Plan continued through support for the Active School Flag programme and key initiatives, supported by Healthy Ireland through Sport Ireland, to support walking, running, cycling and swimming, research, monitoring and evaluation of sport and physical activity, and other initiatives, such as development of the National Amenities Database.
- Implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy continued with expansion of the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis programme, the introduction of online testing for STIs/HIV (available in 20 counties by the end of 2021) and the promotion of safer sex messages to the public via a range of websites and social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and participation in the HIV Fast Track Cities initiative.
- The Healthy Campus Framework was delivered in partnership with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) with allocated seed funding for all campuses to promote health and wellbeing among third level staff and students.
- The Healthy Ireland at Work Framework was published to provide strategic direction and practical resources to support all workplaces improve the health and wellbeing of their staff.
- A “Roadmap for Food Product Reformulation in Ireland” was published. The Roadmap sets targets for the reduction in levels of saturated fats, sugar, salt and calories in processed foods. Dedicated funding was provided for a Food Reformulation Task Force (situated within the Food Safety Authority of Ireland) to implement the Roadmap.
- The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme was launched. Focussed on areas of greatest need for additional support and services, 19 areas have been selected. The Healthy Communities will receive social prescribing services, supports to quit smoking, parenting courses, practical nutrition advice and training for local healthcare staff (including 19 dedicated Community Food and Nutrition positions) from the HSE and community partners. In addition, the Department is working together with each local authority to provide a Local Development Officer to address the wider determinants of health in each community.
- Commencement of multiple sections of Public Health (Alcohol) Act including section 11 on Minimum Unit Pricing.
- The International Leadership Summit on Tobacco Control was held on 18 October 2021. An Taoiseach introduced the Summit with the Minister for Health a keynote speaker.

FOOD SAFETY

Under the Farm to Fork Strategy, the agri-food component of the European Green Deal announced in May 2020, the European Commission intends to revise the Food Information to Consumer (FIC) Regulation to support healthy and sustainable food purchasing decisions and reduce food waste. The Regulation is being revised in respect of five elements, four of which are being revised under the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and one under Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

To establish an Irish position, the Department commenced the development of a policy position on the European Commission’s food labelling revision package.

- A roadmap for cross-government collaboration was established to facilitate a strong evidence base to support the options favoured in this position.

- In Q1 2021, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) hosted a public consultation on behalf of the Department of Health calling for views and feedback on these proposals to revise the FIC Regulation.
- The Department of Health coordinated this work and worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, as well as relevant agencies under the remit of all four Departments.

As a consequence of Brexit, additional physical infrastructure was put in place at Dublin Port, Rosslare Europort and Dublin Airport to ensure Ireland can effectively manage the requirements for checks and controls on trade with the UK. The Department, in conjunction with the HSE Environmental Health Service worked with multiple Departments and Agencies to support efficient and effective food safety control systems are operational across the various State facilities minimising impact on public health and the facilitation of trade.

A legislative programme is developed annually by the Department and revised quarterly in consultation with the HSE EHS and the FSAI. In 2021, Food Unit introduced 8 SIs and processed some 35 EU Food Regulations.

CHAPTER 2

EXPAND AND INTEGRATE CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

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

The Department continued to deliver on its commitment to expand capacity and to reform service delivery within the primary care sector, thus driving the shift in the model of healthcare and supporting more comprehensive care for people within their local communities. Progress toward this goal in 2021 included:

- Significant investment in the Enhanced Community Care programme to establish 49 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) and 17 Community Specialist Teams for Older Persons and Chronic Disease Management.
- Launch of the GP Direct Access to Diagnostics scheme which delivered over 138,000 radiology scans during the year.
- Expansion of Community Intervention Teams (CIT) so that, for the first time, the service covers the entire country with a total of 21 teams in place.
- Continued delivery of Primary Care Centres (PCCs) across the country, with nine new PCCs opening in 2021, bringing the total number of operational centres to 147.
- An interim administrative arrangement was prioritised and operationalised in early 2021 to facilitate expanding access to medical cards for persons who are terminally ill, pending legislation.

GENERAL PRACTICE (GP)

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the 2019 GP Agreement on Contractual Reform and Service Development continued to be implemented where possible. Significant increases in investment in general practice were made to make this a more attractive career option for doctors, to increase the number of GPs working in the State and therefore to improve access for patients.

Following large increases in previous years, the number of doctors that entered GP training increased to 233 in 2021. In addition, the transfer of GP training from the HSE to the Irish College of General Practitioners was concluded, which will allow for the further expansion of GP training capacity in the years ahead.

The GP Chronic Disease Management (CDM) programme, having commenced in 2020, was expanded to include General Medical Services patients aged 65 years and older with one or more of the conditions specified. The CDM programme helps move care for patients with chronic diseases into the community and closer to home, reducing the need for hospital attendance.

SCREENING

The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) continued with three meetings taking place in 2021 and its first Annual Report was published, detailing progress made since its establishment in 2019. In 2021 the Committee finalised and adopted processes for assessing new applications for population-based screening programmes in Ireland and for changes to existing programmes. Following the adoption of these processes:

- The first Annual Call was launched at the end of 2021.
- It was open to members of the public, HSE, clinicians and anyone who had an interest in making a proposal.
- 53 submissions were received that are currently being reviewed by the Committee.

The expansion of newborn screening programmes continued to be a priority for NSAC and, at the Committee's request, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) conducted a review of processes in use internationally to inform their expansion. Consequently, the HIQA 'Review of processes in use to inform the expansion of newborn bloodspot screening programmes' was published in July 2021.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- €1million was provided to Mental Health Ireland to manage a grant scheme on behalf of the Department, providing grants for the development and implementation of locally led actions from community and voluntary agencies promoting mental health and wellbeing.
- Implementation of the national mental health policy 'Sharing the Vision' was progressed, with the establishment of structures such as the HSE Implementation Group and Specialist Groups on Women's Mental Health, Youth Mental Health Transitions and Acute Bed Capacity.
- Telehealth services were fully established and provided as part of a blended service delivery, while maintaining client preference was treated as a priority. The majority of these telehealth supports are available seven days per week, with some providing 24-hour support. Seven-day telehealth services include YourMentalHealth.ie, the information line 1800 111 888, the crisis textline 50808 and NGO partners' online supports. Traffic to all of these services increased during COVID-19.
- Development of National Clinical Programmes continued in 2021, including those for Eating Disorders, Early Intervention in Psychosis and Specialist Perinatal Services and ongoing expansion of supports such as Talking Therapies, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and counselling.

SOCIAL CARE

- An international evidence review commissioned from the HRB on 'Linking care-bands to resource-allocation for home-support and long-term residential care' was published in July 2021.
- A report commissioned from the ESRI on the 'Demand for the Statutory Home Care Scheme' was published in March 2021.
- Government approval was obtained in April 2021 to draft the general scheme and heads of bill for the establishment of a licensing framework for home support providers.

- The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Amendment) Act 2021, was signed into law on 22 July 2021 and took effect on 20 October. The change, known as the “three-year cap”, means that a family farm or business is no longer included in the assessment after the resident has been in care for three years, providing that certain conditions are met. This supports the transfer of family farms and businesses between generations, increasing the sustainability of small family enterprises. The Act also extended the three-year cap to the proceeds of sale of a principal residence. This is expected to lead to vacant homes going back onto the housing market, helping to increase overall housing supply.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Disability Services are considered an essential service and have remained open throughout 2021. However, in line with public health guidelines, capacity was reduced in most areas.
- New and innovative ways of delivering day services for adults with a disability were developed to allow people with disabilities to continue to interact and participate with the wider community.
- Personal Assistance and Home Support services continued to operate, exceeding delivery targets.
- 135 people with disabilities were moved from congregated settings to more appropriate homes in the community, meaning that fewer than 1,600 people remained in congregated settings, against over 4,000 initially identified.
- A total of 14 people under 65, who were inappropriately placed in a nursing home, moved to a new home in the community.
- Four new respite centres were delivered, with five more due to open in early 2022.
- 1,368 young adults with a disability left school and entered a day service, deferred a place, or entered a rehabilitative training course.
- In 2021, 100 development posts were allocated to the 91 Children’s Network Disability Teams. In June 2021, a further 85.49 posts were allocated to protect the in-school services provided in some special schools. These posts were allocated to the relevant lead agencies for recruitment. At the end of December 2021, 54 of the posts were filled with a further 46 at an advanced stage of recruitment.
- The HSE Social Prescribing Framework was launched in July 2021, bringing the total number of HSE funded social prescribing (community referral) sites across the country to 31.

SLÁINTECARE

The progress achieved in delivering Sláintecare reforms in 2021 amid the unprecedented challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the major cyber-attack on the health services is testament to the commitment and drive within the Department of Health and the HSE to realising this ambitious programme of reform.

Some major achievements during 2021 include:

- An additional **42 critical care, 813 acute and 73 sub-acute beds** were fully funded and opened in 2020/2021.
- **147 Primary Care Centres** in operation; 9 opened in 2021 and a further 28 in construction

- **Sláintecare Integration Fund** facilitated the testing and evaluation of innovative models of care, 106 out of 123 projects were mainstreamed by the end of 2021. Overall, these projects resulted in 15,370 reduced referrals, 18,914 acute bed days avoided and 8,268 patients off waiting lists.
- **Healthy Age Friendly Homes** - an innovative programme, funded by Sláintecare and delivered directly by local government through its Age Friendly Ireland shared service, aims to enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home best suited to their needs. Over 7 months this programme received 800 referrals, undertook 630 home assessment visits, and progressed 1,295 interventions for older people.
- **GP Access to Diagnostics** – The GP Direct Access to Diagnostics scheme went live in January 2021, providing GPs with access to radiology scans through a number of private providers. Over 138,000 radiology tests were delivered in the community in 2021, reducing pressure on acute hospital services.
- **Home Support** - Approx. 20.5million hours were delivered in 2021 with over 55,000 people receiving the service. This is about 2.9 million (17%) more hours compared to 2020.
- **Waiting List Action Plan** - The short-term plan (September – December 2021) resulted in a 5.4% reduction in overall waiting lists from 760,700 to 720,056, which was in line with the target reduction.
- **49 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs)**, 15 specialist teams for Older Persons and two Chronic Disease Management teams were established and made operationally viable, which are key to delivering enhanced community care.
- The government approved Sláintecare’s **National Elective Ambulatory Care Strategy**, which will change the way in which scheduled procedures, surgeries, scans and outpatient services can be better arranged to ensure greater capacity in the future and help to address waiting lists through the provision of dedicated, standalone Elective Hospitals in Cork, Galway and Dublin catering for up to 977,000 procedures annually.
- **A Regional Health Areas (RHAs) Advisory Group** was established, chaired by Mr Leo Kearns, to provide support and guidance to the Department of Health and HSE in relation to planning for this transition. The six RHAs will ensure the alignment of hospital, community and primary healthcare services at a regional level, based on defined populations and their local needs. This is key to delivering the Sláintecare vision for an integrated health and social care service.
- **The Proof-of-Concept Report of the Community Virtual Ward (CVW)** was published in June 2021. The CVW operates similarly to a hospital ward, but care is provided virtually in the patient’s own home.
- The Department undertook a Focused Policy Assessment of **‘Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: An analysis of expenditure and performance in the area of drug and alcohol misuse’** as part of the mid-term review of the strategy.

CHAPTER 3

MAKE 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 grounded in 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. Achievements and information in this area from 2021 are outlined below.

ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES

The management of critical care capacity required a strong focus throughout 2021 and, in particular, during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health engaged continuously with the HSE to ensure that all patients who required critical care could receive it, including through the use of surge capacity, and the transfer of patients between hospitals by the Critical Care Retrieval Services. While this was an extremely challenging period for the critical care community, the outcome of this work was that critical care units were not overwhelmed, as was seen in some other countries.

Prior to the pandemic, Ireland had an acknowledged deficit in critical care capacity. €52million in funding was provided in 2021 to progress the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Critical Care. A total of 42 additional critical care beds were opened on a permanent basis in 2021, allowing national capacity to increase from 255 beds in early 2020 to 297 by the end of 2021. In comparison, critical care capacity increased by a total of 18 beds between 2017 and 2019.

In November 2021, Minister Donnelly officially opened Children’s Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght. This is the second of two satellite centres of the new children’s hospital (NCH), CHI at Connolly, having opened in July 2019. The opening of CHI at Tallaght was another key milestone in the NCH project, and the associated reforms which have brought three children’s hospitals into one, consolidating expertise and research excellence to ensure the best outcomes for the children of Ireland. Services that are now being offered in the new building include a 24/7 Emergency Care Unit, general paediatrics clinics, neurodisability and neurodevelopmental clinics and radiology, while specialist therapy units for children have also relocated to these new purpose-built facilities.

SCHEDULED CARE

The Department implemented the short-term Waiting List Action Plan (September–December 2021), developed in conjunction with the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to lessen the impact which the pandemic and the May 2021 cyberattack on the HSE had on waiting list patients. It was published on 7 October 2021 and focused on five areas:

- Waiting list management.
- Delivering immediate capacity in the scheduled care system.
- Improving and modernising patient care pathways.
- Doing the groundwork for introducing maximum waiting time targets.
- Improving data and information.

The short-term Waiting List Action Plan reduced acute scheduled care waiting lists overall by 5.4%, from 760,700 people on active waiting lists in September 2021 to 720,056 in December 2021, a reduction of over 40,000 patients on waiting lists.

UNSCHEDULED CARE

- 2021 saw an increase in Emergency Departments (ED) activity following a drop in attendances in 2020 due to Covid, with total ED Attendances in 2021 of 1,266,888, an increase of 11.3% on 2020 (1,138,288). This was 6.1% lower than 2019 attendance. (1,348,999).
- Attendances for the over 75 age group in 2021 were 167,313, an increase of 9.6% on 2020 (152,629) and a decrease of 0.8% on 2019 (168,725).
- The Winter Plan for 2020/21 set out an approach which maintained COVID-19 services, accounted for winter pressures and provided continuity of non-COVID-19 services. The plan centred around the key objectives of ED avoidance, improved patient flow and hospital egress. It provided additional home support hours, GP out of hours supports, transitional care beds, acute diagnostics supports and community initiatives.
- Funding of €1.1bn was provided in Budget 2021 to increase hospital bed capacity, increase services and support reform. As part of this, a commitment was made to provide 1,146 additional permanent inpatient acute hospital beds and 73 permanent sub-acute beds, over the number available on 31 December 2019. This increased the capacity of the acute hospitals system to meet the growing demand for acute care. 813 additional acute beds, and 73 sub-acute beds were provided by the end of 2021.
- €77m was invested in the 2021/22 Winter Plan to provide appropriate, safe and timely care for patients and to account for winter pressures and the additional challenge posed by the presence of COVID-19.

NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Department oversaw the continued provision of essential support by the National Ambulance Service (NAS) in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining its normal emergency response service. This included carrying out in the region of 1.6 million COVID-19 tests in a number of different settings, including residential care settings, prisons and factories. The NAS was also deployed to locations around the country to establish dedicated pop-up testing clinics to address serious local outbreaks of the disease wherever they occurred.

- The NAS supported the roll-out of the HSE vaccination programme, administering around 18,000 vaccinations in 2021. This involved both administering vaccinations in residential settings and establishing temporary vaccination clinics.
- The Department supported the NAS with the allocation of €10million in funding for new strategic service developments in 2021. This enabled the NAS to recruit additional staff to enhance its community initiative capability to reduce hospital attendances and improve patient experiences over the longer term. A total of 18,140 patients were treated by NAS Alternative Care Pathways during 2021, of which over 44% were treated in a home or community setting and did not need to be conveyed to Hospital.

NATIONAL MATERNITY STRATEGY

Throughout 2021, maternity services continued to operate fully, providing quality care on a 24/7 basis while at the same time protecting women, babies, and staff from COVID-19. Maternity services performed very well in that regard, in what were often very challenging circumstances, which differed significantly depending on variations in case load, complexity and infrastructure in each individual unit. There were some changes made in

how services were delivered, with some units/hospitals delivering more services in a community setting and others undertaken in virtual clinics.

- The National Maternity Strategy (2016-2026) continued to be implemented, with a focus on the on-going expansion of the supported care pathway across maternity services. Community-based midwifery services were further developed, including enhanced postnatal care and early transfer home services. All 19 maternity units had midwifery led clinics with 24% of women booked on the supported care pathway.
- Development funding of €12million provided in Budget 2021 for maternity and gynaecology services represented a very significant investment, helping to ensure the continued implementation of the National Maternity Strategy as well as improved gynaecology services nationally.
- The €7.3million allocated to progress the National Maternity Strategy provided for an additional 96.5 Whole Time Equivalents (WTEs) for maternity services, improving access to specialist services, including obstetric, endocrinology, perinatal pathology, neonatology, and perineal services, as well as improving access to allied health professional services and supports.
- The revised implementation plan for the National Maternity Strategy was published, with 86% of actions either complete or on target.
- A national foetal MRI service was developed and a national clinical guideline development group for obstetrics and gynaecology was established.
- The new Obstetric Event Support Team was established in 2021 and is focused on improving the quality of adverse event reviews and creating a national process for sharing learning.
- Advanced midwife practitioners were present in all 19 maternity services, with an additional six funded in 2021.
- There were 15 maternity services offering early transfer home in 2021 and 12 maternity services had Home-from-Home rooms, facilitating birthing in less clinical delivery rooms.
- Lactation consultants in place in all 19 maternity services, 7.5 WTE of these were funded through funding provided to the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) in 2021.

GYNAECOLOGY SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

The €4.7million allocated for gynaecology-related service developments provided for:

- The development of 9 additional “see and treat” ambulatory gynaecology clinics around the country, as part of the ongoing implementation of the Ambulatory Gynaecology Model of Care.
- The establishment of the remaining two Regional Fertility Hubs in Galway and Nenagh (under the governance of University Maternity Hospital Limerick), which will facilitate the completion of Phase One of the roll-out of the Model of Care for Infertility.
- The opening of multidisciplinary specialist services for women suffering from mesh complications across two sites at Cork University Hospital and the National Maternity Hospital, following on from the recommendations in the CMO’s 2018 Report on The Use of Uro-Gynaecological Mesh in Surgical Procedures.

NATIONAL TRAUMA STRATEGY

In April 2021, government approved the designation of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) as the Major Trauma Centre for the Central Trauma Network, and St. Vincent’s University Hospital and Tallaght

University Hospital as the Trauma Units for Dublin. It was also announced that Cork University Hospital (CUH) would be designated as the Major Trauma Centre for the South Trauma Network as soon as the recommended service specifications are met.

These developments marked a crucial step in the development of a national trauma system for Ireland. The Major Trauma Centre will provide all major specialist services relevant to the care of major trauma, leading to better outcomes for severely injured patients. The Trauma Units will deliver trauma care for less complex cases or patients with injuries that are considered time critical and where direct transfer to the Major Trauma Centre is not possible within the necessary timeframe.

CANCER SERVICES

There were significant accomplishments for Cancer Services during 2021, including:

- The Department oversaw the continued provision of cancer care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing to drive the implementation of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026. Attendances at Rapid Access Clinics (breast, lung & prostate cancer) increased to 102% of pre-Covid levels (2019) and Radiation Oncology was operating at 87%, Medical Oncology at 95% and Surgical Oncology at 96% of 2019 levels.
- The Department and the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) worked collaboratively to deliver on prevention initiatives under the National Cancer Strategy, including the development of early detection of lung cancer resources for community health workers and a national social media public awareness campaign that commenced in October 2021.
- To ensure the continued delivery of care as close to home as possible, the Department and counterparts in Northern Ireland worked collaboratively to ensure the continued delivery of radiotherapy services for patients in the North West at the North West Cancer Centre at Altnagelvin. 253 patients resident in the state were treated in Altnagelvin in 2021, an increase from 200 patients in 2020.
- Under the National Cancer Strategy, the Department and the NCCP worked with St. James's Hospital to repatriate Adult Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) advanced cell therapy services ensuring that patients no longer have to travel overseas for this treatment.
- The Department represented Ireland in a European Joint Action under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on the development of Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks across the EU (CraNE). This ties in with the development of comprehensive cancer networks as envisioned under the National Cancer Strategy.
- The Cancer Patient Advisory Committee, established in line with Recommendation 39 of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, met four times in 2021. The Committee provided patient input into the oversight of the implementation of the Strategy and into the development of programmes for patients with cancer. The Committee also considered how patient input into cancer services can be facilitated more broadly in line with the objectives of the National Cancer Strategy.

ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANT

- The Department provided for the recruitment of a Consultant Surgeon for the National Kidney Transplant Service and a Consultant Respiratory and Lung Transplantation Physician to improve specialist services for cystic fibrosis transplant patients.
- The Department provided for the expansion of the Histopathology and Immunology Service to facilitate overseas organ donors and the production of a report on a Potential Donor Audit system.

- The Department funded an additional 5 WTE Theatre Nurses to provide a 24/7 service, avoiding the cancellation of other hospital services, and allowing for the expansion of the National Abdominal Organ Retrieval Service.
- The Department funded an additional 4 WTE Organ Donor Nurse Managers, enhancing existing organ donor staffing and infrastructure.

PATIENT SAFETY

- Ireland's second *One Health National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021- 2025*, known as *iNAP2*, was jointly published by the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 18 November 2021. *iNAP2* is the successor plan to Ireland's *National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2020*, known as *iNAP1*.
- *iNAP2* builds on the learning and progress of *iNAP1* and includes learning from both the Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacterales (CPE) and COVID-19 Public Health Emergencies.
- Both *iNAP* plans adopt a *One Health* approach and align to the five Strategic Objectives as outlined in the *WHO Global Action Plan (2015)* and the requirements of the *European Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)* which was published in 2017.
- *iNAP2* includes 90 actions specific to human health in addition to 15 *One Health* Actions across the human health, animal health and environment sectors. *One Health* is a collaborative approach, working at local, regional, national, and global levels to achieve optimal health and wellbeing outcomes, recognising the interconnections between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. The *One Health* approach is recognised internationally as best practice in addressing AMR.

The following National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) National Clinical Guidelines were published:

- No. 26 Sepsis Management for Adults (including maternity).
- No.27 Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- The National Healthcare Quality Reporting System 2020 Annual Report.

PRIMARY CARE

- Development of and funding for a Primary Care Psychology Waiting List Initiative targeting children and young people.
- The Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme has been in effective operation since 1 January 2021. The new scheme enables persons resident in the State to access and be reimbursed for private healthcare in Northern Ireland by the HSE, provided such healthcare is publicly available within Ireland.

CervicalCheck

- 166 out of 170 actions arising from Dr Scally's Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck screening programme were completed at the end 2021.
- Support was provided for a project within the National Screening Service (NSS) to bring Ireland closer to realising the aim of eliminating cervical cancer and the Department is now progressing the collaborative initiative between the NSS the Department and WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer to develop best practice guidance related to cervical screening, including audit and communications.

- Despite challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, the CervicalCheck programme operated normally and was up to date with invites for screening. By the end of 2021 the programme screened the same number of people as in any other two-year period.

BreastCheck

- Despite the many restrictions due to COVID-19, the National Screening Service successfully achieved the maximum invitation rate for screening that is compatible with a safe and controlled follow-up assessment and treatment capacity within the health service.
- Implementation of the BreastCheck extension to those aged 69, with the programme inviting women aged 69 for screening.

Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS)

- In 2020 the NSAC recommended the modification to DRS to extend the interval between screens from one to two years for people with diabetes who are at low risk of retinopathy, in line with international best practice.
- The two-yearly screening pathway is now in place and of those screened approximately 85% will remain on the 2-yearly pathway.

Bowelscreen

- Despite ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, all BowelScreen units were scheduling cases, albeit at reduced capacity, which was alleviated by insourcing.
- The number of colonoscopies delivered was increased by the development of additional capacity in existing and new units.
- BowelScreen invitations were prioritised based on longest waiting time and new entrants to the screening programme.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- An additional once-off €10million was allocated to further support the mental health sector. €1million of this was provided to MyMind to continue to deliver free of charge counselling sessions, in over 15 languages, to clients impacted negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In order to adapt and improve accessibility to mental health services, the HSE and many of its funded NGO partners successfully fast-tracked new digital health options including innovative online, text and phone supports. Many of these have been in development for some time, as part of a range of digital mental health initiatives underway in the HSE.
- The construction of the new National Forensic Mental Health Service, which includes a new Central Mental Hospital, was completed.
- General Scheme of a Bill to amend the Mental Health Act was approved by government and published in July 2021, following years of extensive consultation with key stakeholders and a public consultation in March/April 2021. A report on the public consultation was published in October 2021.

SOCIAL CARE

Residential Support Services Maintenance and Accommodation Contributions (RSSMACs) Regulations govern how much a resident contributes towards their maintenance and accommodation in a range of settings, including residential centres, in the Disability and Mental Health sectors. Most of the residents in these settings rely on social welfare payments for their income.

These Regulations were amended during 2021 to ensure that there would be no increases in contributions for anyone whose income changed because they had received a social welfare increase under the Budget in October 2021. RSSMACs Regulations were also amended to ensure that this change was fairly applied to all residents on equivalent levels of income. This change was scheduled to take effect from the beginning of 2022.

COMMUNITY CARE

Achievements during 2021 include:

- Provision of health supports to 218 people with experience of homelessness, to enable them to live in own-door accommodation under the Housing First programme.
- Provision of community-based health services for people experiencing homelessness on discharge from St. James's and NMUH hospitals.
- Publication of mid-term review of the national drugs strategy and six strategic priorities identified for the remaining period 2021-2025.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Budget 2021 provided a dedicated multi-annual €5million Women's Health Fund to implement a programme of actions arising from the work of the Women's Health Taskforce, which was established by the Department of Health to improve women's health outcomes and experiences of healthcare. Priority programmes for women's health are reviewed and regularly updated as part of an action planning process.

Initiatives supported by the Women's Health Fund:

- Establishment of two "see and treat" ambulatory gynaecology clinics at Tallaght University Hospital and University Limerick Hospitals Group.
- Expansion of the endometriosis clinic at Tallaght University Hospital.
- Opening of a specialist menopause clinic at the National Maternity Hospital.
- Resourcing of key staffing elements of the National Model of Care for Paediatric Gynaecology Services.
- Enhanced specialist perinatal mental health services.
- Expansion of the Pelvic Floor Centre at St. Michael's Hospital.
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner position in ambulatory gynaecology at the Rotunda Hospital.
- Quick Reference Guide on menopause for GPs and Practice Nurses.
- HR training for menopause through the Civil Service Employee Assistance Service.
- Series of 6 informational webinars for the public on gynaecological health, endometriosis, pelvic floor dysfunction, menopause, physical activity, and mental health.
- Webinar on 'Menopause in the Workplace'.

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY

The second Annual Report on the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 was published in June 2021. The report covers the period from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020.

The review of the Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 was initiated in December 2021, as required under Section 7 of the Act. The review comprises of a three-part approach to appraise the operation of the Act, with strands focusing on service users, service providers and a public consultation. Independent research commissioned to inform the service user and service provider strands will form key elements of the review. A final report will be submitted to the Minister for consideration in late 2022 before being laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The HSE My Options service is free of charge to everyone. Professional, experienced counsellors are available to talk to you about all your options including continuing pregnancy supports and information about abortion services.

MEDICINES

- Two new Framework Agreements on Pricing and Supply of Medicines 2021-2025 were signed in 2021.
- The multiannual agreements with the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA) and Medicines for Ireland (MFI) represented an important step in reducing the cost of medicines and facilitating access to innovative new medicines for patients.
- These deals will deliver Improved access for patients to new and innovative medicines, reductions in the cost of existing medicines and an easing of financial pressure on the health services into the future.
- It is estimated that the terms of the new Agreements should contribute between €600million and €700million towards the cost of medicines over the lifetime of the Agreements.

ACCESS TO CANNABIS BASED PRODUCTS FOR MEDICAL USE

- Commencement of the Medical Cannabis Access Programme by the HSE and the addition of cannabis-based products for use in the programme.
- Provision of 79 Ministerial licences to clinicians to treat patients with cannabis-based products.
- The Department was responsible for the monthly collection and delivery of prescribed cannabis-based products from the suppliers in the Netherlands directly to Irish patients.

CHAPTER 4

IMPROVE OVERSIGHT AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE SECTOR

The Department of Health is responsible for ensuring that processes, governance structures and regulatory frameworks are in place in the health and social care sector, to provide effective oversight. The Department works in partnership with the HSE and all of its 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

Achievements during 2021 include:

- National implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 on medical devices.
- Establishment of National Research Ethics Committee for clinical investigations of medical devices and clinical trials of medicines.
- The Minister instructed the HSE to establish an Expert Advisory Group in relation to Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL).
- The governance arrangement between the Department and the NMBI continued in 2021 and 12 appointments to the NMBI Board were made this year, comprising 11 members whose terms had expired and a casual vacancy.
- Core funding of €34,954,000 was provided to the HRB in 2021. It represented an increase on the core funding of €34,404,000 which was provided in 2020.
- The National Irish COVID-19 Biobank was established by the HRB at the request of the Department of Health. €2 million in funding was provided for this purpose.
- The HRB also facilitated Ireland's participation in the WHO COVID-19 Solidarity Trial. Funding of €1,658,642 was provided for this purpose.
- Legislation was enacted to extend the CervicalCheck Tribunal so that it could continue to facilitate hearing and determining claims in a timely and sensitive manner.
- Payments continued to be made to applicants under the CervicalCheck Non-Disclosure Ex-Gratia Scheme.
- 28 Payments were made in relation to Medical Defence Union refusals including settlement costs, plaintiff bill of costs, defendant bill of costs and legal cost accountancy fees.
- 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.
- Approximately 200 appointments were made to State Boards under the aegis of the Department.
- A proposal for the Covid-19 Death in Service Ex-Gratia Scheme was developed, following Ministerial approval, and was circulated to other government departments in June 2021. It provided for a lump sum payment to the estate of any healthcare worker who died having contracted covid during the course of their work.

Health System Performance Assessment Framework (HSPA):

- Phase 1 of the HSPA was completed in 2021 in conjunction with the technical experts from the Academic Medical Centre (University of Amsterdam). This delivered a dynamic framework consisting of five health

Clusters (Outcomes, Outputs, Processes, Structures and a Cross Cutting cluster). Within these Clusters there are 16 domains, 36 sub-domains and a total of 260 indicators.

- The Framework will allow for the assessment of the performance of the health system with measurable and quantifiable outcome-based indicators which can be linked to relevant health policies and strategies. It will also enable the integration of policy and reform into an overall view of performance for the health system which will allow for better evidence informed health policy decisions.
- A virtual launch took place on 10 September 2021 and was well received by stakeholders. More detailed material on the HSPA framework can be found on gov.ie⁵
- The Departments oversight of HSE performance continued in 2021 through the implementation of the agreed Department of Health-HSE performance engagement model. The model provides for monthly meetings at various levels between the Department and the HSE, to discuss on-going or emerging performance issues and determine actions to improve areas of concern.

Health Bill 2021

- The Health Bill 2021 seeks to amend the Health Act 2004 to provide for changes to HSE corporate and service planning processes amongst other provisions.
- The General Scheme of the Bill was approved by the government in February, pre-legislative scrutiny was completed in July and drafting of the Bill was initiated during 2021.
- Drafting is being considered in the context of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2021 which is amending some of the same provisions of the Health Act, to ensure appropriate alignment with the proposed amendments.

STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLANNING

- An extra 6,149 staff were hired in 2021, including 352 Medical and Dental, 1,660 Nursing and Midwifery, 1,192 Health and Social Care Professionals and 1,946 other healthcare professionals. Approximately 2,500 WTE were retained via agency to deliver covid specific responses on temporary contracts.
- Rollout of the Safe Staffing Framework Phase 1 – Acute Medical and Surgical In-patient wards, was initiated. €10 million was provided to the HSE for the provision of additional staff, depending on patient need and acuity.
- The Taskforce for Safe Nurse Staffing Phase 3 – Long Term Residential Care Settings was established and nine pilot sites were identified. These sites comprised public, voluntary and private settings and are of small, medium and large sizes in urban and rural areas nationally. A research team from University College Cork led by Professor Jonathan Drennan was appointed to conduct the pilot and evaluate the outcomes for residents and staff.
- Work with the NMBI in regard to its digital transformation strategic priority resulted in 2021 being the inaugural year for the processing of the annual registration fee on the digital online system MyNMBI. This allows for the provision of more accurate workforce data for the professions.

⁵: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6660a-health-system-performance-assessment-hspa-framework/>

- The Department liaised with the HSE, DFHERIS, and Higher Education Institutions regarding additional CAO student places on health-related courses in academic year 2021/2022, resulting in an additional 393 higher education places in Health, Health Science, Nursing and Medical.
- The number of Doctor intern posts increased by 120 in 2021. Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) in formal training places has increased by 309 to 3,988 and by over 800 in the past 4 years. Permanent establishment of an additional 40 one-year post Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Specialist Training (CSCST) Fellowships in 2021 represents an important layer of training which assists in retaining trained specialists in Ireland following CSCST.
- In 2021 the intake into the General Practice Training Programme was 235. It is planned to increase the annual intake over the next five years to 350.
- The Department liaised with HSE National Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) Office regarding expanding scope of practice for HSCPs in the context of developing the advance practice framework. Providing career pathways and supporting HSCPs to extend their scope of practice and to work at top of licence promotes improved job retention and satisfaction.

Improved Access to Postgraduate Training Places

- In consultation with the HSE, the Department implemented changes to the policy regarding application of EU Community Preference in relation to access to postgraduate medical training programmes.
- The policy was amended to include all Stamp 4 Visa Holders. Available specialist training places are now allocated in the first instance to those candidates who, at the time of application, are citizens of Ireland or nationals of another Member State of the European Union, Stamp 4 Visa Holders and UK nationals.
- This change of policy provides greater career opportunities for Non-EU/EEA doctors who contributed significantly to our health service.

Changes to Immigration Permissions

- The changes give most doctors with General Employment Permits the same rights as doctors on the Critical Skills Employment Permit Scheme and make Ireland a much more attractive location for doctors to come to, helping the health service to attract and retain medical staff.
- It reduces the administrative burden placed on doctors and their employers by the State. From now on, most non-EEA doctors already in the State for between 2-5 years with a General Employment Permit may apply for a new permission granting them the right to work without a permit.
- Their spouses or partners will also receive a permission allowing them to work.

Health Workforce Planning Strategy and Planning Projection Model.

- Priority 4 of the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 sets out the Department's objective to develop a Health Workforce Planning Strategy and Planning Projection Model.
- In 2021, the Department initiated a project to develop a Health and Social Care Workforce Planning Strategy and Action Plan and Planning Projection Model for Ireland to address the long-term workforce planning needs of the health sector. This work is being undertaken with the support of the Directorate-General for Structure Reform Support (DG Reform of the EU Commission) under the auspices of their Technical Support Instrument (TSI) to provide the technical expertise to deliver on this ambitious project.
- The objective of this project is the development of scenario-based projections of health and social care workforce supply and demand which informs a strategy, action plan and set of recommendations for ongoing strategic health and social care workforce planning. The project will provide the necessary tools, processes, and technical capacity to produce rolling health and social care workforce planning action plans and implement targeted policy measures for health and social care workforce reform.

NORTH SOUTH CO-OPERATION

North/South and the UK: The Department of Health continued to carry out oversight functions related to delivery of the health and social care projects under the EU cross-border programme INTERREG VA with Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Department also worked with relevant partners to prepare for the successor to the PEACE PLUS programme, due to be launched in 2022.

The Department maintained and developed co-operation on North/South health issues throughout 2021. This included:

- Working with the Department of an Taoiseach to hold a Shared Island Dialogue on Health in July 2021.
- The Dialogue, ‘Working Together for a Healthier Island’, was an opportunity to foster constructive and inclusive civic dialogue on health aspects of a shared future on the island.
- Over 120 people participated in the dialogue, which was addressed by Minister Donnelly and featured three panel discussions: the future of public health cooperation on the island; approaches for developing and delivering cross-border health initiatives; and opportunities for impactful cooperation on mental health and suicide prevention on the island.
- Two meetings of the Health and Food Safety Sector of the North South Ministerial Council were held in 2021, bringing together Ministers North and South to discuss areas of cross-border health cooperation from the COVID-19 response to cancer research and health promotion.

BREXIT

- With the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, the Department of Health was fully engaged in cross-government structures to manage the impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union. The Department also convened health sector structures, bringing together stakeholders including the HSE, FSAI and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), to help minimise the impacts of Brexit on the provision of healthcare in Ireland from 1 January 2021.
- Ongoing engagement took place with the Commission and relevant stakeholders to ensure continuity of supply of medicines after Brexit. Work resulted in the proposed pharmaceutical legislative package that resolves a number of IE issues until the end of 2024.
- Extensive work has been completed to give effect to the implementation of new healthcare arrangements post Brexit. Since 1 January 2021, the EU UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement is in effect and implementation continues to be monitored.

Adult safeguarding in the health sector

The Department is at an advanced stage of developing a national policy on adult safeguarding in the health and social care sector. This work included the publication in February 2021 of two major research papers commissioned by the Department.

- The Institute of Public Health (IPH) conducted focus groups with health and social care service users who may be affected by a national adult safeguarding policy for the health and social care sector. The report on these focus groups will ensure that their voices are heard during policy development.
- Mazars undertook an independent international research evidence review to inform the national policy.
- Both reports are published on the Department’s website⁶.

⁶ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2861af-adult-safeguarding/#consultation-and-research>

Leopardstown Park Hospital:

The Department coordinated the Minister's appointment of the new Board of Management for Leopardstown Park Hospital.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE/MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

New Children's Hospital (NCH) Project

The NCH Project is the most significant capital investment programme ever undertaken in Ireland's healthcare system and is a government priority. The project comprises the NCH at St. James's Hospital as well as Urgent Care Centre at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, and the Paediatric Outpatient & Emergency Care Centre at Tallaght University Hospital. In addition to playing a central role in the provision of acute paediatric healthcare services, the NCH at St James's will be the primary centre for paediatric education, training, and research in Ireland.

Despite the obvious challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed, significant progress was made on the project in 2021, including:

- A major milestone was reached in March 2021 with the 'Topping out' of the building at St James's, with the distinctive shape of the building becoming clear.
- The fit out of the internal areas comprising Critical Care areas and theatres commenced in 2021, with rooms and clinical areas now discernible.
- 150,000 cubic metres of concrete has been poured in 3 years (weighing over 360,000 tonnes), enough to fill 60 Olympic swimming pools, and 2,300 tonnes of steel structure have been erected.
- Over 800 windows have been installed, in addition to 17,000 square metres of glazing and 5,800 square metres of stone façade. 86,000 square metres of internal partitions and the equivalent of 26km of internal walls were installed in 2021.
- Demonstration spaces were completed in November 2021. These give a sense of the child and family centric facilities and services that will be available.
- The paediatric Outpatient and Emergency Care Centre at Tallaght was substantially completed in September 2021 and following a period of commissioning, was opened by the Minister for Health in November 2021. The new facility will accommodate up to 17,000 outpatient and 25,000 emergency care attendances per year.
- The hospital has secured a sustainability rating in 2021 when awarded the BREEAM Excellent design stage certification. The NCH is one of the few hospitals in the world to have this sustainability rating.
- The NCH has been designed to meet the national Building Energy Rating A3 standard, requiring a 50% improvement in primary energy consumption above benchmark.
- A whole-life costing approach has been adopted in the design of the building façade, engineering services, maintainable building assets and clinical equipment selection.

SCHEDULED CARE

- In December 2021, Sláintecare's National Elective Ambulatory Care Strategy was approved by government, which will change the way in which day case, scheduled procedures, surgeries, scans and outpatient services can be better arranged to ensure greater capacity in the future and help to address waiting lists.
- The development of scheduled procedure/ outpatient capacity will be provided through dedicated, standalone Elective Care Centres in Cork, Galway and Dublin. They will provide coverage for more than 80% of the population, catering for up to 940,000 procedures annually. They will provide additional capacity and help to address waiting lists, while being as flexible and adaptable as possible to facilitate a future phase, which would include some elective in-patient treatment. Day procedures offered in the first phase will include Gastrointestinal, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, and Orthopaedics.
- In response to recommendations by PwC, the government approved revised governance arrangements for the next phase of the NCH project in November 2021, including a newly constituted National Oversight Group, chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Health. This will also include the HSE CEO and external expertise to oversee and monitor progress on the Children's Hospital Programme.
- The Minister appointed Ms Fiona Ross as Chairperson of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB) in July 2021, having previously appointed Mr Michael Barry and Mr Brian Keogh to the Board in February.
- The role of the Board of the NPHDB and a successful Chairperson is to ensure there is corporate ownership for the successful completion of the NCH and to bring greater certainty to the timely and cost-effective delivery of the project.

CHAPTER 5

BECOME AN ORGANISATION FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The Department must ensure that it has the right capabilities, people, structure and culture to advance its mission and strategic objectives. It is committed to ensuring that all staff are valued and empowered to contribute and perform at a high level.

CORPORATE OPERATIONS OFFICE

In February 2021, the Department's Corporate Operations Office was established and a Chief Operations Officer was appointed, to achieve the following objectives:

- To operate and continually improve the Department's information management, risk management, business and strategic planning, and corporate governance frameworks.
- Deliver business process improvements.
- Lead on Innovation.
- Manage freedom of information issues.
- Lead on the coordination of the Department's engagements with the Houses of the Oireachtas.
- Provide support to the offices of the Minister, Ministers of State and Secretary General.

In 2021, the Corporate Operations Office managed 15,209 Parliamentary Questions, 21,606 Representations and 680 Freedom of Information requests on behalf of the Department

STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

- The Department published its Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 to set out the Department's vision, mission and strategic priorities for the next 3-year period. Five overarching priorities were identified, with progress measured in the Department's Annual Reports.
- The five priorities in the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 are:
 - Manage COVID-19 and promote public health.
 - Expand and integrate care in the community.
 - Make access to healthcare fairer and faster.
 - Improve oversight and partnership in the sector.
 - Become an organisation fit for the future.
- 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.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

Seven individual potential disclosures were made to the Minister in 2021. All of these Protected Disclosures were made under Section 6 or Section 8 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014. This means the disclosures were not from

employees of the Department and instead related to a worker or workers employed in a public body under the Minister/Department's remit, in the period covered by this report. No Protected Disclosures were received from a worker employed by the Department of Health.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

- At the end of 2021 there were 691 staff (673.29 Whole Time Equivalents) employed by the Department. The Department managed a significant intake of staff to support, in particular, the response to the pandemic and the establishment of a system of mandatory hotel quarantine.
- The Department's programme of Wellbeing supports continued in 2021. Wellbeing Packs were issued to all staff in March 2021, containing a variety of supports to inspire mental, physical and social health activities.
- A Working Group for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion was established in 2021 to proactively develop and promote a culture of awareness and respect for equality, diversity, and inclusion within the workplace.
- A range of learning interventions were delivered in 2021 to meet strategic learning priorities including an internal lecture series on business and legislative processes, an online General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) eLearning module and leadership training.
- 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.
- Four projects from the Department of Health were selected as finalists in the Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards.
- 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 7.5% of staff declaring a disability in 2021.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

On 14 May 2021, the Department's ICT infrastructure suffered a serious cyber-attack, in tandem with an attack on the HSE's ICT system. As a precautionary measure, the Department's ICT systems were shut down to safeguard the integrity of the systems and data, and to provide an opportunity to conduct the necessary analysis and protect against any further attack.

The Department liaised with the National Cyber Security Centre and implemented further mitigation actions, beginning the process of identifying the nature and extent of the attack and the subsequent necessary remediation actions. Access to the Department's network was unavailable to staff for a number of weeks, with some legacy systems not accessible for a longer period.

Action taken by the Department mitigated far more serious consequences, however the attack had a significant impact on the ability of the Department to carry out its work for several months afterwards. A lessons learned exercise was completed with a view to ensuring business continuity in case of another cyber-attack.

- The Department worked with the HSE to enhance cyber resilience in the wake of the cyber-attack. The work involved the restoration and recovery of almost 2,000 systems, the replacement or upgrading of significant amounts of ICT technical infrastructure and the establishment of enhanced monitoring systems to protect the health system from further attacks.
- All staff continued to be provided with secure remote access to ICT services to facilitate remote working.

- A complete security review of the infrastructure was undertaken and additional specialised software was installed to mitigate against malicious software, and to provide early warning notifications of threats.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

In 2021, the Department's new Records Management Policy was finalised and issued to all staff, setting out key rules on best practice in Records Management for documents. A correspondence decision tree was finalised and issued to all staff along with weekly Records Management Awareness emails which promoted best practice and were issued throughout October and November. An Information Officer Network was developed to ensure best practice in units throughout the Department.

DATA PROTECTION

The Department of Health is committed to protecting the rights and privacy of data subjects. Advice and support were provided to business units and the management board to meet the Department's data protection obligations as set out in data protection legislation.

Throughout 2021, GDPR compliance was implemented through:

- The provision of advice and support to Business Units on a range of data protection queries and issues, including the public health response to Covid and the cyber security attack.
- By continuing to raise awareness of data protection in the Department through the development of data protection knowledge resources and information emails for staff.
- The development and rollout of a mandatory online training course in September 2021, which is available to all staff on an ongoing basis.
- The commencement of a review of data protection compliance across the Department.
- Providing assistance to members of the public with data protection queries and requests for access.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN and its Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ireland has taken a 'whole-of-government' approach towards achieving the SDGs, with each Minister having responsibility for implementing targets relevant to their respective policy areas.

The majority of health-related action under the SDGs is set out in SDG 3, Good Health & Well-Being. Information about the progress made on these and other SDG actions can be found at: [Ireland's Hub for Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Appendix 1: Corporate Information

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARD IN 2021

Robert Watt

Secretary General (Interim 7 January 2021, Appointed 20 April 2021)

Paul Bolger

Director (until 10 May 2021)

Resources

Tracey Conroy

Assistant Secretary

Acutes Hospitals Policy

Greg Dempsey

Deputy Secretary

Governance and Performance

Colm Desmond

Assistant Secretary (until 3 September 2021)

Corporate Legislation, Mental Health, Drugs Policy and Food Safety

Fergal Goodman

Assistant Secretary

Health Protection

Dr Tony Holohan

Chief Medical Officer

Office of the Chief Medical Officer

Rachel Kenna

Assistant Secretary

Nursing/Midwifery Policy, Professional Regulation, Workforce Planning, & Allied Health Professionals

Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan

Assistant Secretary (until 9 October 2021)

Social Care

Laura Magahy

Deputy Secretary (until 27 October 2021)

Sláintecare

Louise McGirr

Assistant Secretary (from 19 October 2021)

Health Sector Employment and Industrial Relations Policy

Muiris O'Connor

Assistant Secretary

Research & Development & Health Analytics

Colm O'Reardon

Acting Secretary General (until 5 January 2021)

Deputy Secretary (until 1 February 2021)

Policy and Strategy Division

Derek Tierney

Assistant Secretary (from 31 May 2021)

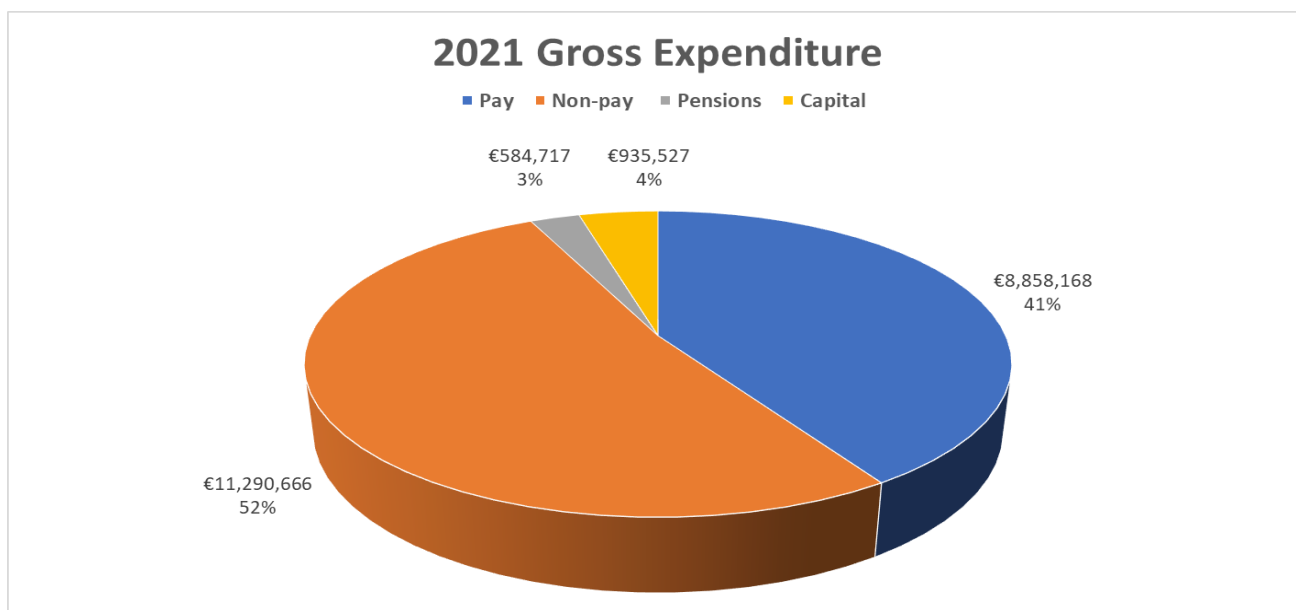
Health Infrastructure

CORPORATE PROFILE

At the end of December 2021, there were 691 staff in the Department of Health (673.29 WTE). 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 €22.129bn in 2021. Budgeted appropriations-in-aid in the year were €0.433bn, leaving a net budget of €21.696bn. Gross expenditure in the year was €21.669bn and appropriations-in-aid were €0.473bn. This resulted in net expenditure of €21.196bn.

Gross expenditure incurred by the Department of Health in the year represented 24.37% of total general government expenditure in the year. Net expenditure represented 29.01% of central government exchequer issues in the year. €21.669bn of gross expenditure in the year consisted of disbursements of €21.270bn to the HSE, €231million to other agencies with €168million incurred by the Department.



Note – figures in above chart are in thousands

2021 PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSES AT A GLANCE

The Department of Health answered over 27% of all the Parliamentary Questions posed in 2021.

Parliamentary Questions (excluding withdrawn/disallowed)	15,209
Of which referred to the HSE for Direct Reply	7,113
Representations Received	21,606
Topical Issues Raised	395
Topical Issues Selected	70
Seanad Commencement Raised	175
Seanad Commencement Selected	72

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Department processed 680 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests in 2021, 383 of which were from the media. The FOI team coordinated the department's response to these requests by logging, assigning them to the correct area, and working with requestors and decision makers to ensure the department meets its obligations under the freedom of information act. The team also assisted members of the public accessing information outside the formal FOI process, for example where the information was already in the public domain. The FOI team coordinated the Department's response to the ongoing DPER review of the FOI legislation.

In 2021 the Department adopted the eFOI application, a 'Built to Share' (BTS) application for coordinating and processing FOI requests. FOI team members upskilled in the new system and assisted decision makers across the Department in its use and worked closely with the BTS team in providing feedback on the application.

The FOI team organised eFOI training and Internal Reviewer training to ensure members of the Department are in a position to carry out internal reviews of FOI decisions in line with obligations under the FOI Act.

PROMPT PAYMENT

Details of the Department's Prompt Payments obligations during 2021:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of <u>total number</u> of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	2,656	59,205,757	87.3%
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	259	3,793,437	8.5%
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days	127	1,112,549	4.2%
Total payments made in 2021	3,042	64,111,743	

The total prompt payment compensation and interest paid by the Department in 2021 was €22,392, comprising €14,162 in interest payments and €8,230 in compensation payments.

ENERGY USAGE IN 2021

Every public service organisation is required to achieve a 50% energy efficiency improvement by the end of 2030 on their baseline year. The Department has been with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Partnership Programme since 2009 which aims to work with organisations who are committed to achieving the targets set out by the government.

The Department is committed, through its Green Team, to continue to collaborate with the SEAI, the OPW, the building landlord and our staff to play our part in achieving the government's ambitious new targets for energy reduction. The Department's 2021 energy performance indicators report an energy savings improvement of 46.4% over the baseline year. The Department will continue to work on future improvements to reach the next target by 2030, which would be a further saving of 7.4%.

The Department's HQ 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.

For those engaged in purchasing for and on behalf of 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 2021 is set out below.

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ANNUAL RETURN 2021

Reference year 2021	Total number of contracts signed over €25,000 by priority sector	Total value of contracts signed over €25,000 by priority sector	Total number of contracts signed over €25,000 by priority sector which have incorporated GPP	Total value of contracts signed over €25,000 by priority sector which have incorporated GPP
Priority Sector*				
Energy-related Products	0	0	0	0
Food & Catering Services	0	0	0	0
Heating Equipment	0	0	0	0
ICT Products & Services	5	1,659,192	0	0
Indoor Cleaning Services	0	0	0	0

Indoor & Outdoor Lighting	0	0	0	0
Office Building Design, Construction & Management	0	0	0	0
Paper Products & Printing Services	1	75,000	1	75,000
Textiles Products & Services	0	0	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	1,734,192	1	75,000
* Ten sectors for which GPP criteria have been developed by the EPA, based on common EU criteria with adaptations to reflect the Irish market and procurement practices				
Reference year 2021	<i>Total number of contracts signed over €25,000 by other sector</i>	<i>Total value of contracts signed over €25,000 by other sector</i>	<i>Total number of contracts signed over €25,000 by other sector which have <u>incorporated GPP</u></i>	<i>Total value of contracts signed over €25,000 by other sector which have <u>incorporated GPP</u></i>
Other Sectors				
Professional Services	10	834,744	1	46,625
Laboratory Equipment	0	0	0	0
Facilities Management	0	0	0	0
Media	3	228,106	0	0
Furniture	0	0	0	0

Research	0	0	0	0
Marketing	0	0	0	0
Licensing	1	36,792	0	0
Data	1	120,000	1	120,000
Pandemic Response measures	2	30,166,290	0	0
Digital Certification Services	1	6,500,000	1	6,500,000
Totals	18	37,885,932	3	6,666,625

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 2021 the Department produced 114 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 2021

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RÉAMHRÁ LEIS AN AIRE SLÁINTE, STEPHEN DONNELLY

Cuirim fáilte roimh fhoilsiú Thuarascáil Bhliantúil na Roinne don bhliain 2021.

Lean gach duine a bhí bainteach i gcúram sláinte in 2021 le haghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshlán shuntasacha phaindéim COVID-19. Faoi mar a bhí i gceist in 2020, ba cheart go mbeadh bród orainn faoi conas a sháraíomar na dúshlán siúd agus conas a sholáthraíomar cúram sláinte sábháilte agus éifeachtach do mhuintir na hÉireann.

Bhí an rath geal ar chlár vacsaínithe na hÉireann, agus baineadh ceann de na rátaí glactha ab airde ar domhan amach agus rinneadh an clár a fhairsingiú le vacsaíní teanndáileoige a áireamh leis an gcosaint a soláthraíodh don oiread sin daoine a threisiú. Ba léir gur ghlac seo le páirt ollmhór i dtaobh saol daoine a thabhairt slán fud fad na tíre. Chuireamar coraintín éigeantach óstáin i bhfeidhm, den chéad uair i stair an stáit, i measc cuairteoirí, agus níl amhras ar bith ann ach gur chosain seo saol daoine agus gurbh éacht as cuimse é a dhéanamh laistigh de thréimhse chomh gearr sin ama.

Tiocfaidh tú ar fud na tuarascála seo ar an iomaí forbairt atá dírithe ar chúram sláinte uilíoch, atá fite fuaite in go leor leor den mhéid a dhéanaimid sa Roinn Sláinte agus sa tseirbhís sláinte trí chéile. Baineadh an fairsingiú ba mhó amach arís eile ar ár seirbhísí sláinte in 2021 i dtaobh earcaíochta. Sholáthraíomar 813 leaba bhreise ghéarmhíochaine, 42 leaba bhreise chúraim chriticiúil, d'fhostaíomar 6,149 ball breise foirne, 352 dochtúir, 1,660 altra, 1,192 Gairmí Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialta agus 1,946 gairmí cúraim sláinte ina measc.

Rinneamar infheistíocht shuntasach i dteacht ar chúram sláinte a dhéanamh níos cothroime agus níos tapúla agus cúram a fhairsingiú agus a chomhtháthú sa phobal. Leanfaidh an obair rithabhachtach seo ar aghaidh, chun tacú lenár sprioc chun seirbhís sláinte den chéad scoth a sholáthar do mhuintir na hÉireann.

Bhí dúshlán de chineál eile roimh ár seirbhísí sláinte i mBealtaine 2021, nuair a rinne cibearchoirpigh ionsaí tromchúiseach ar ár gcórais TFC, a chruthaigh deacracht shuntasach don Roinn agus do FSS i dtaobh tabhairt faoinár n-obair le daoine a chosaint agus iad a choimeád sláintiúil. Ghlac ár ndaoine, mar a dhéanann siad i gcónaí, le príomhpháirt i dtaobh dul i ngleic leis an dúshlán seo trí obair dhian, smaointeoireacht nuálach agus cinnteoireacht thapa.

Tá onóir orm bheith i m'Aire Sláinte agus ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a a ghlacadh leis an bhfoireann go léir sa Roinn agus i measc na seirbhísí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta as a ndianobair leanúnach, a bpaisean agus a dtiomantas gan staonadh dár seirbhís phoiblí.



Stephen Donnelly, TD
An tAire Sláinte

LÉARGAS GINEARÁLTA

Tugtar cuntas sa tuarascáil bhliantúil seo don Roinn Sláinte ar na príomhéachtaí a rinneadh le linn 2021 chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar ár misean agus ár ról a chomhlíonadh. Leagtar an tuarascáil seo amach i measc cúig chaibidil, agus léirítear i ngach ceann díobh ceann amháin de na cúig thosaíocht straitéiseacha i [Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023](#) na Roinne Sláinte.

Misean na Roinne

Is é misean na Roinne Sláinte feabhas a chur ar shláinte agus ar fholláine dhaoine in Éirinn tríd an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Tacú le daoine **saol sláintiúil agus neamhspleách** a bheith acu.
- A chinntiú go soláthraítear **sláinte agus cúram sóisialta ardchaighdeán agus sábháilte**.
- **Seirbhís sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta** níos freagrúla, níos comhtháite agus **atá dírithe ar dhaoine** a chruthú.
- **Bainistíocht éifeachtach agus éifeachtúil** na seirbhísí 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 tríd an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- **Ceannaireacht agus treoir beartais** a sholáthar chun go gcuirfidh an earnáil sláinte feabhas ar thorthaí sláinte.
- Tabhairt faoi **mhaoirseacht rialachais agus feidhmíochta** le seirbhísí cuntasacha agus ardchaighdeán a chinntiú.
- **Comhoibriú chun tosaíochtaí sláinte a bhaint amach** agus cur le spriocanna sóisialta agus geilleagracha níos fairsinge.
- **Timpeallacht eagraíochta** a chruthú ina mbaintear ardfheidhmíocht amach, ina léirítear luach ar chomhoibriú agus ina bhforbraítear agus ina gcuirtear eolas agus scileanna na foirne chun feidhme.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha

Is iad na cúig thosaíocht i Ráiteas Straitéise na Roinne 2021-2023:

1. COVID-19 a bhainistiú agus sláinte phoiblí a chur chun cinn.
2. Cúram sa phobal a fhairsingiú agus a chomhtháthú.
3. Teacht ar chúram sláinte a dhéanamh níos cothroime agus níos tapúla.
4. Maoirseacht agus ar chomhpháirtíocht san earnáil a fheabhsú.
5. Eagraíocht atá oiriúnach don todhchaí a chruthú.

CAIBIDIL 1

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

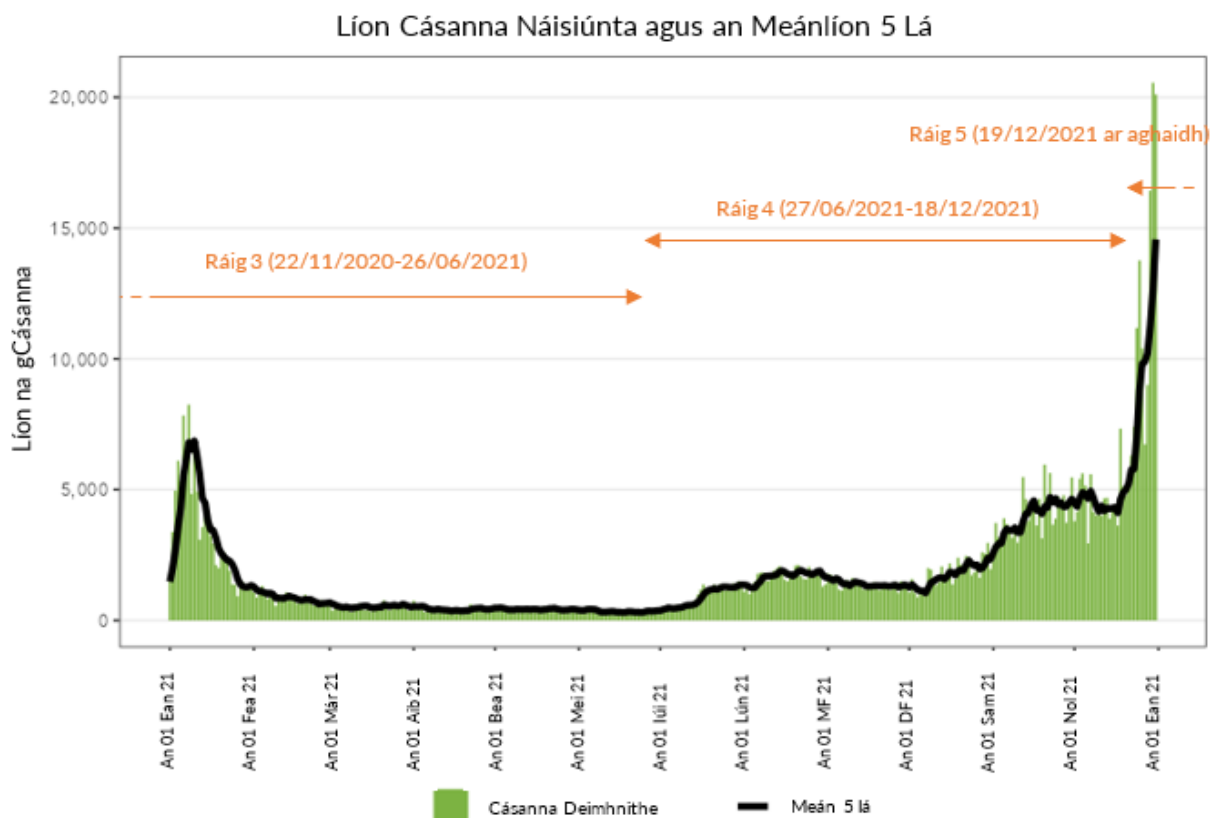
Ba í tosaíocht uileghabhálach na Roinne Sláinte in 2021 ná an fhreagairt sláinte poiblí ar bhagairt COVID-19 a stiúradh agus, i gcomhthráth, infheistiú in agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar phleanáil sláinte an daonra, cosc a chur ar bhreiteacht agus sláinte agus folláine a chur chun cinn. Lean an Fhoireann Éigeandála Sláinte Poiblí Náisiúnta (an FÉSPN/NPHET), a bunaíodh in Eanáir 2020, le sainchomhairle agus tacaíocht a sholáthar i rith na paidéime i rith 2021. Cuirtear léargas ginearálta ar fáil sa mhír seo ar obair agus ar éachtaí suntasacha na Roinne i rith na bliana.

EIPIDÉIMEOLAÍOCHT COVID-19 IN 2021

Bhí 763,968 cás tugtha le fios in Éirinn a fhaide le meán oíche an 31 Nollaig 2021, agus fógraíodh 87.7% de na cásanna seo (669,950) in 2021. Fógraíodh ní ba mhó cásanna sna chéad 22 lá in 2021 ná mar a fógraíodh i mbliain iomlán 2020. Bhain trí 'ráig' leis an ngalar i rith 2021 i rith 2021 agus thit dhá ráig amach rompu in 2020.

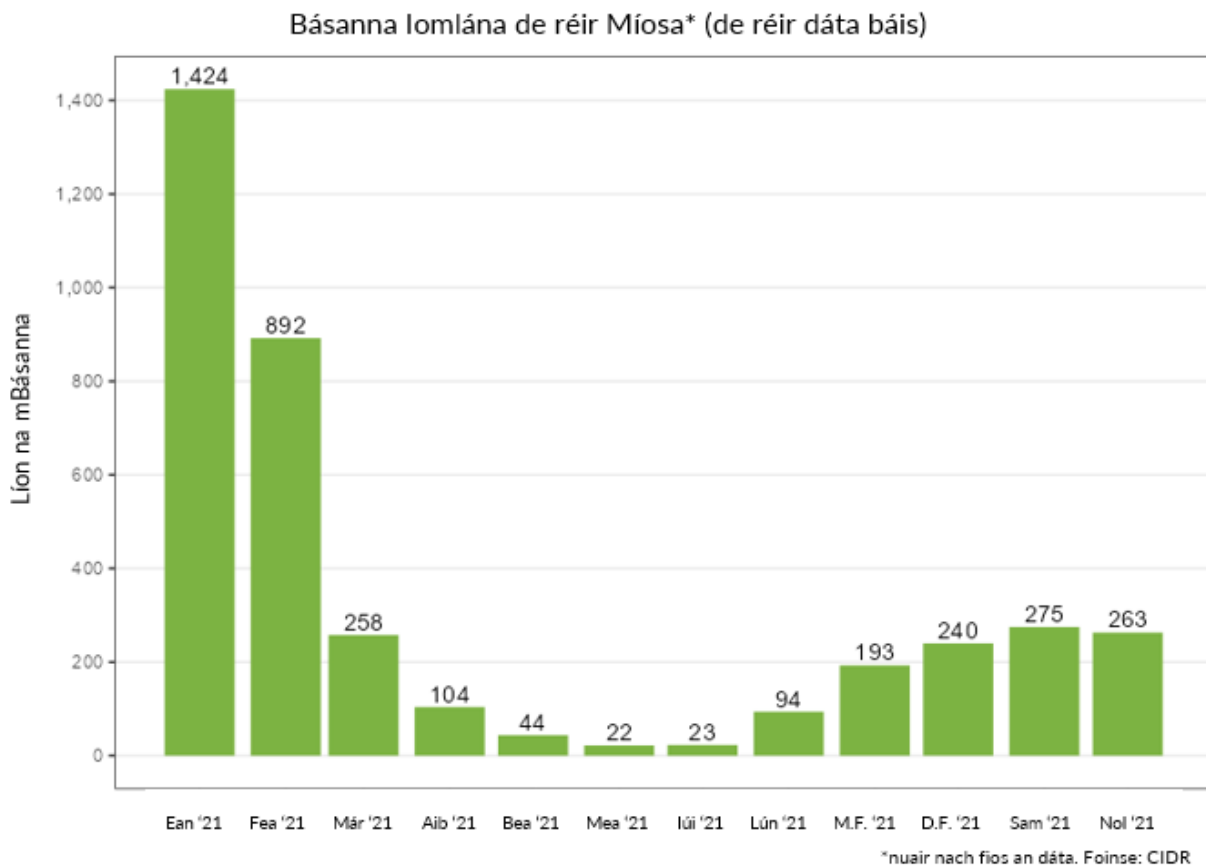
Mhair ráig 3 na paidéime ó Shamhain 2020 go dtí deireadh Mheithimh 2021. Rinneadh an líon ab ísle cásanna a cuireadh i dtaifead i rith na bliana (242 cás nua) a chur i dtaifead an 14 Meitheamh. Thosaigh ráig 4 go déanach i Meitheamh, agus cuireadh an líon ab airde cásanna i dtaifead i rith an cheathrú ráig (7,333).

Thosaigh an cúigiú ráig den ghalair i lár mhí na Nollag agus cuireadh an líon ab airde cásanna i dtaifead in aon lá amháin i rith 2021 an 30 Nollaig (20,554).



Tá líonta cásanna ó 22-12-21 bunaithe ar chásanna a thug CCT le fios.

Tugadh le fios go bhfuair 3,832 duine bás a bhain le COVID-19 in 2021, i gcomparáid le 2,294 duine in 2020.⁷ Tugadh an líon ab airde básanna le fios in Eanáir nuair a fuair 1,424 duine bás.



Bhí a mbunchúrsa vacsaín COVID-19 críochnaithe ag thart ar 81% den daonra faoi dheireadh 2021.

PRÍOMHFHIGIÚIRÍ

- Cuireadh 59 Rialachán um bearta sláinte poiblí le daoine a chosaint ó COVID-19 i gcrích.
- Tugadh 7.6 milliún tástáil um Imoibriú Slabhrúil Polaiméaraíse (PCR) chun críche in 2021.
- Bhí 832 ball foirne páirteach sa Chlár Bainistíochta Teagmhálaithe (CBT).
- Soláthraíodh 120 leaba aonraithe do dhaoine a bhain toradh dearfach amach i dtaobh COVID-19 agus do theagmhálaithe dlútha agus cuireadh 280 leaba sciata ar fáil do dhaoine a bhí thíos le heaspa dídine.
- Bhí 45 ionad tástála COVID-19 pobail i bhfeidhm faoi mhí na Nollag 2021, a ndearna Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (FSS) maoirseacht orthu.
- 4 Leanadh d'ionaid rianaithe teagmhálaithe a fheidhmiú chun déileáil le cásanna tánaisteacha a shainathint go mear.
- D'iontráil 10,398 duine an córas Coraintín Éigeantach Óstáin (CÉÓ).
- Ainmníodh 8 n-óstán Céó agus bhí 1,600+ seomra ar fáil ag an tréimhse ba ghnóthaí.
- Chuir an Príomhoifigeach Leighis (POL) 26 preasagallamh ar siúl.

⁷ Nóta - ní fios dáta an bháis i gcás 37 bás a bhaineann le COVID-19.

An Fhreagairt Sláinte Poiblí do COVID-19

AN FHOIREANN ÉIGEANDÁLA SLÁINTE POIBLÍ NÁISIÚNTA (AN FÉSPN) DO COVID-19

Tá cur chuige uile-rialtais faoi stiúir sláinte phoiblí ag tacú leis an bhfreagairt náisiúnta do COVID-19 ó dhearbhaigh Éire paindéim COVID-19 i Márta 2020. Baineann cinnteoireacht chomhtháite, comhpháirtíocht, sainchomhairle sláinte poiblí, agus soiléireacht chumarsáide leis an gcur chuige uile-rialtais seo.

Meicníocht bhunaithe í an Fhoireann Éigeandála Sláinte Poiblí Náisiúnta chun freagairt na hearnála sláinte i leith éigeandálaí móra sláinte poiblí a chomhordú. D'éascaigh sí eolas a roinnt idir an Roinn Sláinte agus a gníomhaireachtaí. Chuir an FÉSPN treoir, stiúradh, tacaíocht agus sainchomhairle sláinte poiblí ar fáil don fhreagairt náisiúnta trí chéile i leith COVID-19. Thug an FÉSPN faoi ról ríthábhachtach, ach go háirithe, i dtaobh an fhreagairt náisiúnta don phaindéim a stiúradh trí mhonatóireacht gan stad gan staonadh a dhéanamh ar thionchar COVID-19 ar shláinte an phobail. Bhí comhairle an FÉSPN bunaithe ar stádas eipidéimeolaíochta an ghalair, réamh-mheastacháin samhaltaithe, comhairle agus treoir idirnáisiúnta, fianaise agus cleachtas atá ag teacht chun cinn araon go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta, agus an tús áite uileghabhálach a tugadh don tionchar a imrítear ar shláinte an phobail a theorannú, agus na trí chroíthosaíocht seo a leanas a chosaint:

- Iad siúd is leochailí a chosaint.
- seirbhísí sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta nach mbaineann le COVID a atosú go leanúnach.
- an gá atá le soláthar leanúnach an oideachais agus cúraim leanaí a chosaint.

Chuir an FÉSPN go mór le pleananna straitéiseacha COVID-19 an rialtais a fhorbairt ó bhí Márta 2020 ann, ar foilsíodh dhá cheann díobh in 2021:

- Teacht Aniar agus Téarnamh COVID-19 2021: An Bóthar Amach Romhainn, Feabhra 2021, atá ar fáil anseo: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c4876-COVID-19-resilience-and-recovery-2021-the-path-ahead/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/ThePathAhead/>
- An Dúshlán a Athfhrámú: Leanúint lenár dTéarnamh agus Athcheangal ('Reframing the Challenge: Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting'), Lúnasa 2021, atá ar fáil anseo: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f5291-post-cabinet-statement-COVID-19-reframing-the-challenge-continuing-our-recovery-and-reconnecting/>

Leanadh de bheith tiomanta do phrionsabal na trédhearcachta mar chuid lárnach d'obair an FÉSPN, agus leagadh béim láidir ar ábhar comhairle agus cinnteoireachta a fhoilsiú ar líne. Tá litreacha comhairleacha, cláir, agus miontuairiscí lenar glacadh ar fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne Sláinte.

Rinne Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Leighis idirchaidreamh forleathan le foirne preasa agus cumarsáide trasrialtais lena chinntiú gur cuireadh eolas agus príomhtheachtaireachtaí tábhachtacha sláinte poiblí in iúl go soiléir don phobal i rith 2021. Thug Oifig an POL an méid seo a leanas chun críche i rith an ama seo:

Preasagallaimh	26
Físeáin mheán shóisialta (a bhain 1.4 milliún amharc orgánach amach, agus a bhain ar a laghad 5 mhilliún amharc, ar an iomlán, amach)	39
Agallaimh ar an raidió	7
Agallaimh ar an teilifís	6

Thacaigh rúnaíocht bhuan laistigh d'Oifig an POL leis an FÉSPN do COVID-19. Anuas air sin, bunaíodh Aonad Beartas an FÉSPN le próiseas an FÉSPN a éascú agus le tacú leis. Chas an FÉSPN ar a chéile breis agus 100 babhta, agus éascaíodh 28 cruinniú den fhoireann in 2021.

Chabhraigh an Roinn le tacú le hiompar dearfach sláinte i rith phaindéim COVID-19 agus chuir sí páipéir éagsúla a d'imir tionchar le chéile chun tacú leis an obair seo, an méid seo a leanas ina measc:

- “Athbhreithniú ar an bhfianaise idirnáisiúnta i leith creideamh agus cuspóirí i dtaobh glacadh le vacsaíní COVID-19” (Review of international evidence on beliefs and intentions with regard to uptake of COVID-19 vaccines).
- “Anailís réamh-mheastóra ar chuspóirí chun vacsaín COVID-19 a fháil in Éirinn” (Predictor analysis of intentions to get a COVID-19 vaccine in Ireland).
- “Meitea-anailís ar an tionchar a imríonn comhfhreagras aonair ar rátaí vacsaínithe an fhlíú: breithnithe do vacsaíníú COVID-19” (A meta-analysis of the impact of individual correspondence on flu vaccination rates: considerations for COVID-19 vaccination).
- “15 Eochairphointe chun Tacú le Glacadh le Vacsaíní COVID-19” (15 Key Points to Support Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccines).

Rinne an Roinn idirchaidreamh le FSS agus é ina aidhm an gá measta a dheimhniú atá le seirbhísí ‘COVID fadmharthanach’ chun tacú le hathshlánú agus téarnamh. Is é an sainmhíniú a thugann an Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte (an EDS) ar Covid Fadmharthanach nó ‘riocht iar-COVID-19’: “an bhreiteacht a thagann ar dhaoine a bhfuil stair acu gur dóchúil nó gur deimhin go raibh ionfhabhtú SARS-CoV-2 orthu; laistigh de thrí mhí ó tháinig COVID-19 orthu, de ghnáth, agus a mbíonn comharthaí orthu agus éifeachtaí acu a mhaireann ar feadh ar a laghad dhá mhí. Ní féidir míniú trí dhiagnóis mhalartach a thabhairt ar chomharthaí agus éifeachtaí riocht iar-COVID-19.”⁸

CUMARSÁID SLÁINTE POIBLÍ

Nuair a buaileadh sinn ag COVID-19, chuaigh an Roinn i mbun gnímh leis an gcomhairle sláinte poiblí a sholáthar a chosnódh sinn uile ón ngalar nua seo. Rinne an Roinn é seo trí na rudaí seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Cumarsáid faoi stiúir saineolaithe.
- Preasagallaimh laethúla agus cruinnithe faisnéise forleathana teicniúla sna meáin.
- Brandáil bhuí a bhfuil iontaoibh aisti - cuireadh seo ar fáil láithreach bonn don eanáil phoiblí agus phríobháideach.
- Cumarsáid fhianaisebhunaithe – trí úsáid a bhaint as suirbhéanna seachtainiúla agus grúpaí fócais le héisteacht leis an náisiún.
- Trédhearcacht sonraí leis an réasúnaíocht a mhíniú a bhaineann leis an gcomhairle sláinte poiblí.

Sholáthair an Roinn, ar an mbealach seo, eolas, tacaíocht agus comhairle iontaofa maidir le bearta cosanta sláinte, cosúil le maisc a chaitheamh, scaradh sóisialta agus vacsaínithe.

⁸ [Galar an Choróinvírís \(COVID-19\): Riocht iar-COVID-19 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/gar/choronavirus/covid-19/riocht-iar-covid-19)

Príomhéachtaí na freagartha sláinte poiblí do COVID-19

Tugtar léargas ginearálta sa mhír seo ar an ollmhéid cuimsitheach oibre a rinne an Roinn Sláinte i dtaobh Paindéim COVID-19 a bhainistiú.

CLÁR VACSAÍNITHE

Tá an clár imdhíonta COVID-19 is mó déanta de vacsaín COVID-19 i stair an Stáit, agus fuair breis agus 95% de dhaoine fásta vacsaíniú. Bhí an vacsaíniú ar fáil saor in aisce i rith 2021 dóibh siúd go léir ar mian leo é a fháil agus dóibh siúd ar measadh go raibh sé sábháilte i dtaobh cúrsaí cliniciúla de. Áiríodh leis na héachtaí ar leith an méid seo a leanas:

- Ghlac Éire páirt i bpróiseas soláthair atá á oibriú ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach chun teacht slán a fháil ar vacsaíní sábháilte agus éifeachtúla COVID-19.
- D'iontráil Éire seacht gComhaontú Réamhcheannaigh (CRCanna) agus bronnadh údarú margaidh ar chúig cinn de na vacsaíní.
- I ndiaidh gur críochnaíodh an príomhchlár, chuir an Stát tús le clár substainteach teandáileog i nDeireadh Fómhair.
- D'úsáid an clár vacsaínithe COVID-19 cainéil éagsúla soláthair, bunú ionad vacsaínithe i ngach contae, cleachtas ginearálta agus cógaslann phobail ina measc. Chinntigh na cainéil ilchineálacha soláthair go raibh an pobal in ann teacht gan stró ar vacsaíniú.
- Tháinig na Rialacháin um Tháirgí Íocshláinte (Oideasú agus Rialú Soláthair) (Leasú) (Uimh. 7), 2020 i bhfeidhm in 2021 a cheadaigh d'altraí agus do chnámhseacha vacsaínithe COVID-19 a thabhairt.

TÁSTÁIL AGUS RIANÚ

Lean an Roinn ag oibriú go dlúth le FSS sa dara bliain di ag déileáil le COVID-19, chun oibríocht iontaofa agus fhreagrúil tástála agus rianaithe COVID-19 a chur ar fáil i gcónaí agus le leanúint le hathbheithniú a dhéanamh ar an mbeartas tástála, agus aird ar an gcás eipidéimeolaíochta atá ag teacht chun cinn agus ar threoir an Lárionaid Eorpaigh um Ghalair a Chosc agus a Rialú (an LGCR) agus eagraíochtaí idirnáisiúnta eile.

- Bhí 45 ionad tástála COVID-19 pobail ag feidhmiú ar fud na tíre faoi mhí na Nollag 2021, a ndearna FSS maoirseacht orthu.
- Thacaigh an Roinn le FSS chun a dtuilleadh tástála um Imoibriú Slabhrúil Polaiméaráise (PCR) a mhéadú aníos go dtí 300,000 tástáil a dhéanamh sa tseachtain (a méadaíodh aníos ó thuilleadh 175,000 ag deireadh 2020) agus rinneadh níos mó ná 13.6 milliún tástáil PCR COVID-19 in 2021.
- Leanadh de chláir thástála chuimsitheacha a chur ar bun in áiseanna cónaithe fhadtéarmaigh, in áiseanna próiseála bia agus i suíomhanna eile ardriosca leochaileacha.
- Fairsingíodh an straitéis tástála leis an úsáid níos fairsinge a bhaintear as tástáil antaigine a chur san áireamh ó Dheireadh Fómhair 2021, an úsáid san áireamh inar thug FSS tástálacha antaigine saor in aisce do theagmhálaithe dlútha nach raibh comharthaí orthu agus a raibh na vacsaíní iomlána faighte acu. Cuireadh tástálacha antaigine saor in aisce ar fáil freisin ó Shamhain 2021 do leanaí scoile agus don fhoireann a sainaithníodh amhail bheith mar chuid de mheitheal scoile ina raibh cás deimhnithe COVID-19.
- Lean páirt lárnach de bheith ag rianú teagmhálaithe i leith na freagartha don phaindéim. Leanadh de 4 ionad rianaithe teagmhálaithe a fheidhmiú chun déileáil le cásanna tánaisteacha a shainaitheint go mear.

- Bhí 832 ball foirne páirteach sa Chlár Bainistíochta Teagmhálaithe (CBT) amhail Nollaig 2021. Bhí 737 díobh seo fostaithe agus coinnithe mar chuid den lucht saothair tiomnaithe chun tacú le rianú teagmhálaithe. Ath-implonáíodh na 95 ball foirne eile ó FSS agus ó Róil seirbhíse poiblí eile.

AN LUCHT SAOTHAIR SLÁINTE

Chun fairsingiú leanúnach lucht saothair na hearnála sláinte a éascú chun dul i ngleic le dúshláin leanúnacha na paidéime, cuireadh na tionscnaimh seo a leanas i bhfeidhm:

- Cruthaíodh Deontas Socrúcháin Paidéime €100 sa tseachtain do mhic léinn incháilithe, lena cheadú d'ábhair altraí agus do chnámhseacha leanúint lena gcláir oideachais. Rinneadh an liúntas cóiríochta a mhéadú faoi dhó do mhic léinn.
- Lean Grúpa Maoirseachta Socrúchán Cliniciúil lena chuid oibre a dhéanamh in 2021 chun tacú le mic léinn agus athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an gcás COVID-19 in ospidéal agus cinneadh a dhéanamh cibé acu má bhí nó mura raibh sé sábháilte d'ábhair altraí agus do chnámhseacha leanúint ar aghaidh lena socrúcháin.
- Cuireadh cistiú ar fáil lena cheadú chun líon substainteach altraí agus cnámhseach a chur ar fáil athuair don chlár atá á choimeád ag Bord Altranais agus Cnámhseachais na hÉireann (BACÉ) chun cabhrú leis an bhfreagairt do COVID-19, an clár vacsaínithe san áireamh.
- Cáipéis treorach a fhoilsiú ar leibhéal soláthair foirne agus ar mheascán scileanna i gcásanna borrrtha a eascraíonn as COVID-19, agus aird ar mholadh 5.5 den Phainéal Saineolaithe Tithe Altranais COVID-19.

SOLÁTHAR COVID-19

Lean an Roinn ag oibriú go dlúth le FSS maidir lena gcainéil a fhorbairt trína bhféadfadh othair leochaileacha teacht ar theiripí COVID-19 nua agus atá ag teacht chun cinn. D'oibrigh an Roinn le hearraí agus seirbhísí bunriachtanacha a fháil, cosúil le trealamh cosanta pearsanta (TCP), áiseanna aonraithe agus drugaí frithvíreasacha agus teiripic COVID-19. Áirítear le samplaí de seo:

- Grúpa Comhairleach Teiripice (GCT) a bhunú in FSS i ráithe 4 in 2021 agus é mar chuspóir comhairle agus moltaí cliniciúla a sholáthar ar na cógais uile theiripeacha reatha agus atá ag teacht chun cinn i leith COVID-19 a úsáid. Thosaigh an grúpa seo obair chomh maith le cáilitheacht chliniciúil bhall den phobal a bhunú leis an teiripic seo a fháil. Lean an GCT den teiripic COVID-19 nua agus atá ag teacht chun cinn go léir a mheasúnú agus a athbhreithniú.
- Tosaíodh próiseas soláthair maidir le cúrsaí aonair cóireálacha frithvíreasacha agus monaclónacha antasubstainte COVID-19 a cheannach.
- Comhoibríodh le FSS maidir lena gcainéil a fhorbairt trína bhféadfadh othair leochaileacha teacht ar theiripí COVID-19 nua agus atá ag teacht chun cinn.

MOL SONRAÍ COVID-19 NA HÉIREANN

Chuir an Roinn nuashonruithe laethúla ar fáil don phobal ar phríomhtháscairí COVID-19 trí Mhol Sonraí COVID-19 na hÉireann⁹, agus trínár gcomhpháirtithe comhoibrithe. Cuireadh príomhbhearta i láthair ar líonta cásanna agus básanna áitiúla agus náisiúnta COVID-19.

⁹ <https://COVID-19.geohive.ie>

D'fhéadfadh an pobal monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn chlár vacsaínithe na hÉireann trí shonraí vacsaínithe COVID-19 a chur i láthair. Cuireadh figiúirí laethúla i láthair freisin a rinne an líon daoine a chomhaireamh ar a ndearnadh tástáil agus a ceadaíodh isteach san ospidéal/san Aonad Dianchúraim le híomhá fhairsing a sholáthar don phobal ar an gcás COVID-19 cás in Éirinn faoi mar a tháinig sé chun cinn.

CORAINTÍN ÉIGEANTACH ÓSTÁIN

I ndiaidh don rialtas an cinneadh a dhéanamh an 26 Eanáir 2021, tosaíodh le hobair láithreach le córas CÉÓ a bhunú in Éirinn mar bheart ar leith sláinte poiblí, nuair a chuirtear san áireamh go raibh leaganacha den víreas arbh ábhar buartha iad á dtabhairt ag daoine go hÉirinn agus a d'fhéadfadh an tseirbhís sláinte a chur go mór faoi bhrú agus a d'fhéadfadh baint den chlár vacsaínithe náisiúnta. Bhí seo á stiúradh ag an Roinn Sláinte agus ba thionscadal comhoibrítheach é ónar theastaigh roinnt ranna agus comhlachtaí stáit a bheith páirteach ann.

Chuir an Roinn Foireann Tionscadail chun feidhme faoi thrí shruth oibre: reachtaíocht; dearadh seirbhíse; agus soláthar. Cuireadh CÉÓ ar fáil chun rioscaí suntasacha sláinte poiblí a mhaolú: forbraíodh agus achtaíodh reachtaíocht nua; dearadh agus cuireadh chun feidhme córas iomlán ó cheann go ceann a bhí ag feidhmiú ar bhonn 24/7; soláthraíodh agus imlonnaíodh seirbhísí agus áiseanna tráchtála - agus rinneadh seo uile laistigh de 6 seachtaine agus d'éirigh leo é a oibriú ar feadh 6 mhí, agus rinne sé próiseáil ar bhreis agus 10,000 duine.

Achtaíodh bunreachtaíocht an 7 Márta 2021 agus bhí an córas CÉÓ i mbun feidhme an 26 Márta 2021. Síneadh an reachtaíocht CÉÓ faoi dhó: go dtí an 31 Iúil 2021 agus an 31 Deireadh Fómhair 2021. Chuir an córas deireadh ansin lena oibríochtaí an 25 Meán Fómhair 2021 nuair a d'fhógair an tAire Sláinte go mbainfí na Stáit Ainmnithe uile eile.

B'éard a d'éascair as an obair seo:

- 593 cás dearfach COVID-19 a shainnithint, leaganacha san áireamh arbh ábhar buartha iad, agus bhain seo na rioscaí ionfhabhtaithe den phobal i gcoitinne.
- Cuireadh struchtúr cuimsitheach rialachais i bhfeidhm ina raibh páirtithe leasmhara iolracha páirteach.
- Ainmníodh 8 n-óstán ina raibh 1,600+ seomra i rith na buaice agus cuireadh i bhfeidhm iad anuas ar sheirbhísí iomlána timfhillteacha, slándáil, iompar, cúram leighis, tástáil, freagairt do theagmhais agus feidhm na hOifige Idirchaidrimh Stáit ar an láthair ar bhonn 24/7 san áireamh.
- Rinneadh áiseanna, foireann agus próisis dearaidh a dhearadh agus a chur chun feidhme ag calafoirt iontrála ar fud na hÉireann – 3 chalafort farraige agus 6 aerfort.
- Seoladh tairseach áirithinte an 23 Márta 2021 agus d'iontráil 10,398 duine an córas CÉÓ, ar an iomlán.
- Bunaíodh feidhm neamhspleách achomhairc i gcomhar leis an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt. Rinne 30+ abhcóide athbhreithniú ar achomhairc chónaitheoirí ar bhonn laethúil agus baineadh meánaga slánúcháin níos giorra ná 3 huairé an chloig amach.

Bhí CÉÓ éifeachtach i dtaobh tacú leis na bearta sláinte poiblí chun cur in aghaidh COVID-19 in Éirinn, agus in aghaidh leaganacha arbh ábhar buartha iad, ach go háirithe. Chuir sé le laghdú ar na líonta cásanna agus le spás a chruthú ina bhféadfaí clár vacsaínithe a thabhairt isteach. Ar a uain sin, bhíothas in ann an tsochaí agus an geilleagar a oscailt athuair de réir a chéile agus go sábháilte dá bharr.

BEARTAS TAISTIL

Ba í aidhm an bheartais taistil mar fhreagairt do COVID-19 sláinte an phobail a chosaint. Leanadh le forbairt lúfar agus fhrithghníomhach a dhéanamh ar an mbeartas, dá bharr, i gcaitheamh na paindéime, agus bhí an fhorbairt sin curtha ar an eolas ag an gcás eipidéimeolaíochta a raibh forbairt ag teacht air agus ag fianaise eolaíochta atá ag teacht chun cinn.

Chomhordaigh an Roinn cruinnithe trasdlínsiúla leis an POL laistigh de chreat an Chomhair Uile-Oileáin sa Fhreagairt Sláinte Poiblí do Phaindéim an Choróinvíris (2019-nCoV). Bhunaigh sí comhaontú roinnte sonraí freisin leis an nGníomhaireacht Sláinte Poiblí (Tuaisceart Éireann), le sonraí faoi Fhoirmeacha Aimsithe Paisinéara a roinnt mar chuid de chomhar uile-oileáin maidir le COVID-19.

CUR CHUIGE COITEANN I LEITH TAISTEAL ION-AE

Sholáthair an Roinn ionchur suntasach isteach i bhfóraim agus tuarascálacha ar leibhéal an AE, agus thacaigh sí leis an méid seo a leanas:

- Cruinnithe AE ar leibhéal Aire.
- Obair leanúnach an Choiste Slándála Sláinte.
- Socruithe freagartha do ghéarchéim pholaitiúil chomhtháite AE.

Rinne an Roinn cinneadh faoi chur chuige comhordaithe i leith taisteal ion-AE, le breithniú a dhéanamh ar thuairimí náisiúnta faoi Mholadh 2020/1475 Chomhairle an AE¹⁰.

RIACHTANAS TAISTIL SLÁINTE POIBLÍ

Thacaigh an Roinn le cinntí rialtais a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm ar bheartas taistil Éireannach i rith éigeandáil COVID-19. Rinne sí forbairt agus leasuithe ar an reachtaíocht chun tacú le beartas taistil COVID-19, go sonrach maidir le cáipéisí riachtanacha sláinte, coraintín, agus tástáil. Thacaigh sí chomh maith le saineolaithe sláinte poiblí ina n-obair ar thaisteal idirnáisiúnta i gcomhthéacs COVID-19. Maidir leis an méid thuas, rinne an Roinn an méid seo a leanas freisin:

- Comhoibriú le Ranna eile maidir le gnéithe cumarsáide poiblí bheartas taistil an Rialtais.
- Sholáthair sí comhoibriú agus comhordú idirearnála, faoi mar ba chúil, ar COVID-19.

FOIRM AIMSITHE PAISINÉARA

Rinne an Roinn stiúradh ar an bhFoirm Aimsithe Paisinéara COVID-19 a thabhairt isteach ar bhonn reachtaíochta agus oibríochtúil chun tacú le rianú teagmhálaithe agus le rannpháirtíocht sláinte poiblí le paisinéirí i ndiaidh dóibh teacht go hÉirinn. Sholáthair an Roinn cumarsáid sláinte poiblí freisin do phaisinéirí idirnáisiúnta a bhí ag teacht go hÉirinn, trí ionad teagmhála na Foirme Aimsithe Paisinéara, ar aon dul le comhairle sláinte poiblí.

¹⁰ [EUR-Lex - 32020H1475 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

DEIMHNIÚ DIGITEACH COVID

Rinne an Roinn comhordú ar Dheimhniú Digiteach COVID an AE a chur i bhfeidhm agus rinne sí idirchaidreamh le Sainghrúpa Dheimhniú Digiteach COVID an AE maidir le leasuithe a bheartaítear ar Rialacháin reatha an AE agus d'fhorbair sí reachtaíocht náisiúnta chun tacú le creat Dheimhniú Digiteach COVID an AE a chur i bhfeidhm. Sa mhullach air sin, rinne an Roinn na rudaí seo a leanas:

- Tacaíocht a thabhairt do chomhordú ar chumarsáid phoiblí le tabhairt isteach Deimhnithe Digiteacha COVID a éascú.
- Forbraíodh agus soláthraíodh maoirseacht leanúnach oibríochtúil don phróiseas iarratais do shaoránaigh Éireannacha a vacsaíníodh i dtríú tíortha chun iarratas a dhéanamh ar an Deimhniú Digiteach COVID Éireannach.
- Bunaíodh Ionad Seirbhíse an Deimhnithe Dhigitigh COVID in Iúil 2021 chun déileáil go díreach le ceisteanna ó bhaill den phobal a bhaineann le Deimhniú Digiteach COVID an AE.
- Thacaigh sí le Deimhnithe Digiteacha COVID a chur i bhfeidhm go teicniúil agus le haipéanna fóraithe chun tacú le saorghluaiseacht saoránach Éireannach laistigh den AE.
- Fairsingíodh an úsáid a bhaintear as Aip Rianaire COVID chun feidhm sparáin a chur san áireamh chun tacú le saoránaigh a nDeimhnithe Digiteacha COVID AE a stóráil.

REACHTAÍOCHT SLÁINTE POIBLÍ

De réir mar a d'iontráil Éire an dara bliain de phaindéim COVID-19, theastaigh bearta breise sláinte poiblí lenár bhuntacaigh an reachtaíocht. Dhréachtaigh agus phróiseáil an Roinn reachtaíocht le foráil a dhéanamh do na bearta sláinte poiblí éagsúla a bhí i bhfeidhm i rith 2021. Próiseáladh 129 Ionstraim Reachtuil (IRanna) a rinne foráil do bhearta sláinte poiblí chun daoine a chosaint ó COVID-19 agus ullmhaíodh agus próiseáladh rúin a bhí le breithniú ag Tithe an Oireachtais chun na hAchtanna éagsúla COVID-19 a shíneadh.

Dréachtaíodh agus próiseáladh na Billí nua seo a leanas a bhaineann le COVID-19 go ndéanfaidh Tithe an Oireachtais breithniú orthu:

- An tAcht Sláinte (Leasú), 2021
- An tAcht Sláinte (Leasú) (Uimh. 2), 2021
- An tAcht Sláinte agus Ceartais Choiriúil (Covid-19) (Leasú), 2021
- An tAcht Sláinte agus Ceartais Choiriúil (Covid-19) (Leasú) (Uimh. 2), 2021

OBAIR THRASRIALTAIS

Anuas ar an obair thrasrialtais faoinar thug an FÉSPN, tháinig comhghleacaithe i Seirbhís Sláinte Chomhshaoil (SSC) FSS le chéile le comhlachtaí rialála agus cigireachtaí eile ar fud an Rialtais i bhFórm na Rialálaithe, faoi Chathaoirleacht Oifig an Taoisigh. Chuir seo ar chumas gníomhaireachtaí agus comhlachtaí éagsúla na rudaí seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Comhpháirtíochtaí a fhorbairt, arbh é seo an chéad uair do roinnt díobh.
- Bealach níos éifeachtúla a sholáthar le comhlíonadh a chinntiú i measc na hearnála fáilteachais taobh istigh.
- Glacadh le cur chuige comhoiriúnaithe a cheadaigh solúbthacht i measc comhlachtaí rialála.

Chuir an SSC fáilte roimh chur chuige nuálach cheardlanna an fhóiraim a rinne idirchaidreamh le cigireachtaí eile a chur chun cinn.

IDIRCHADREAMH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA AGUS AE

Mar thoradh ar phaindéim COVID-19, tugadh gníomhaíocht sláinte mhéadaithe faoi deara ar leibhéal an AE. Tionóladh ocht gcruinniú idir Airí Sláinte an AE, agus ba mhínic go raibh an clár dírithe ar COVID-19 agus ar iarrachtaí chun bearta sláinte poiblí Bhallstáit an AE a chomhordú.

Ghlac Éire páirt iomlán san idirbheartaíocht maidir le pacáiste bearta reachtaíochta Aontas Sláinte na hEorpa a cuireadh chun cinn in 2021. Cuirfidh Aontas Sláinte na hEorpa a fhorbairt leis na ceachtanna a foghlaimíodh ó phaindéim COVID-19 agus cumas an AE agus a Bhallstát a neartú chun freagairt d'éigeandálaí sláinte amach anseo. Sa mhullach air sin, rinne an Roinn na rudaí seo a leanas:

- Thacaigh sí le Comhlacht Idirbheartaíochta Idir-Rialtasach an EDS chun comhaontú le hionstraim atá ina ceangal idirnáisiúnta maidir le hullmhacht agus freagairt don phaindéim, a bunaíodh i Nollaig 2021.
- Bhunaigh sí Grúpa Idirchaidrimh inmheánach, EU4Health, - an ceathrú clár sláinte AE agus an ceann is mó lenar glacadh sa reachtaíocht an 24 Márta 2021.
- Rinneadh ionadaíocht do thuairimí na hÉireann faoin Údarás um Ullmhacht agus Freagairt i gcás Éigeandálaí Sláinte (HERA) nua in Ard-Stiúrthóireacht an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh. Tá mar aidhm ag an gcomhlacht seo frithbhearta leordhóthanacha leighis a chinntiú chun ullmhú d'éigeandálaí sláinte trasteorann amach anseo.
- Glacadh páirt i dTascfhórsa an Rialtais um Pleanáil Éigeandála, agus cinntíodh, ina theannta sin, gur cuireadh tosaíochtaí na hearnála sláinte san áireamh san idirbheartaíocht a rinne Éire ar an Treoir maidir le hAthléimneacht Eintiteas Criticiúil de chuid an AE.
- Rinneadh comhordú ar sholáthairtí leighis daonnúla a cuireadh ar fáil mar thabhartais don India, Neipeal agus an Bhrasaíl, a theastaigh mar gheall ar ghéarchéim ba chúis le COVID-19, trí úsáid a bhaint as an Sásra Aontais um Chosaint Shibhialta de chuid an AE.
- Glacadh páirt i Sainghrúpa na hEagraíochta um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta (an ECFE) um Eacnamaíocht na Sláinte Poiblí (EGEPH), an Grúpa Beartais Idirnáisiúnta um Léargas ar Iompraíocht, agus i nGrúpa Oibre an EDS um an gCreat Réigiúnach Léargais ar Iompraíocht agus an Cultúr (BCI).

Leanúnachas agus Oiriúnú Seirbhíse

Lean paindéim COVID-19 ag cur isteach ar an ngnáthghníomhaíocht chúraim sláinte i rith 2021. Ina ainneoin seo, lean an Roinn Sláinte ag tacú leis an earnáil sláinte agus chúraim shóisialta agus le hí a stiúradh agus a chinntiú, a mhéid agus ab indéanta, gur leanadh leis na seirbhísí a sholáthar do mhuintir na hÉireann.

CÚRAM PRÍOMHÚIL AGUS POBAIL

Ghlac cleachtóirí cúraim phríomhúil le ról lárnach i bhfreagairt do riachtanais sláinte an phobail i rith ghéarchéim COVID-19. Thacaigh idirchaidreamh idir an Roinn Sláinte, FSS agus na comhlachtaí rialála éagsúla gairmiúla agus rialála leis an ról seo, mar shampla:

- Leanadh le híocaíochtaí tacaíochta cleachtas ghinearálta do sheirbhísí a bhaineann le COVID-19 a dhéanamh i rith 2021, tacaíodh le cleachtas Dochtúra Ghinearálta (DG) agus cinntíodh go raibh teacht ag

othair ar mheasúnuithe COVID-19, atreoruithe chuig tástáil, agus ar chlinicí tiomnaithe i bpearsan COVID-19 a bhaineann le riospráid, sa chás gur cuí, saor in aisce.

- Glacadh páirt i bhFóram Pleanála Teagmhasaí Cógaslann Phobail FSS, chun cabhrú le pleanáil teagmhais a chomhordú do sheirbhísí cógaslainne pobail i gcomhthéacs COVID-19.

TACAÍOCHTAÍ DO THITHE ALTRANAIS

Tá daoine breacaosta, go háirithe iad siúd ar a bhfuil lagú leighis, i mbaol go mór go mbainfidh siad torthaí níos measa amach má thagann COVID-19 orthu. Theastaigh aird faoi leith, ar an ábhar sin, ó láithreacha comhchónaithe, cosúil le háiseanna cúraim chónaithe fhadtéarmaigh.

An Scéim Íocaíochtaí Cúnaimh Shealadaigh (an SÍCS):

Bhunaigh an Roinn an Scéim Íocaíochtaí Cúnaimh Shealadaigh COVID-19 (an SÍCS), i gcomhar le FSS agus an Ciste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóireála (an CNCC) in 2020. Lean sí ag tacú le tithe altranais isteach in 2021 mar chuid de phacáiste bearta tacaíochta. Ranníoc an SÍCS i dtreo na gcostas breise a bhí le híoc ag tithe altranais príobháideacha agus deonacha chun ráigeanna COVID-19 a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Bhain dhá ghné leis an SÍCS: Cúnamh Caighdeánach agus Cúnamh Ráige. Bhí Cúnamh Caighdeánach ar fáil do gach teach altranais chun íoc as costais bhreise a bhaineann le COVID-19 a chosc. Thug Cúnamh Ráige tacaíocht ar fáil do thithe altranais chun ráigeanna a bhainistiú nuair a thit siad amach. Faoi dheireadh 2021, bhí breis agus €134.5 milliún curtha ar fáil do thithe altranais faoin SÍCS.

- Bhí 86 moladh, ar an iomlán, i dtuarascáil an Phainéil Saineolaithe Tithe Altranais COVID-19, i measc 15 limistéar théamacha, ag a raibh amlínte gaolmhara le haghaidh cur i bhfeidhm i rith an ghearrthéarma, an mheántéarma agus an fhadtéarma, óna dteastaíonn meascán d'fhreagairt leanúnach oibríochtúil do COVID-19 agus athchóiriú straitéiseach níos fadtéarmaí. Rinne an Roinn stiúradh ar agus sholáthair sí maoirseacht ar an bpróiseas um chur i bhfeidhm, an tríú tuarascáil ar dhul chun cinn a fhorbairt, san áireamh, a rinneadh i Meán Fómhair 2021, a leag béim ar an dul chun cinn substainteach a bhí á dhéanamh ag na páirtithe leasmhara go léir, agus díriú ar leith ar na moltaí gearrthéarmacha agus fadtéarmacha a theastaíonn ón bhfreagairt láithreach bonn do COVID-19.
- Chomhoibrigh an Roinn le Frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach agus Rialú Ionfhabhtuithe (AMIRC) FSS, an tIonad Faireachais um Chosaint Sláinte (an IFCS) agus le príomh-chomhpháirtithe eile lena chinntiú gur cuireadh treoir shoiléir ar fáil agus gur coimeádadh í cothrom le dáta maidir le bearta cuairte agus um chosc agus rialú ionfhabhtuithe i dtithe altranais agus i seirbhísí cúraim chónaithe fhadtéarmaigh.
- Tosaíodh le struchtúir thacaíochta fhoirmiúla don earnáil tithe altranais a fhorbairt, a bhain úsáid as na struchtúir thacaíochta pobail a cuireadh ar bun mar fhreagairt dhíreach do COVID-19.
- Choimisiúnaigh an Roinn athbhreithniú idirnáisiúnta fianaise ar Chreataí Rialachais Chliniciúil agus ar Shamhlacha Sábháilteachta Cónaitheoir ón mBord Taighde Sláinte (an BTS) chun tacú le breithnithe maidir leis an gcreat rialachais chliniciúil do thithe altranais.

CUIMSIÚ SÓISIALTA

Cuireadh tacaíochtaí spriocdhírthe i bhfeidhm le tionchar COVID-19 a íoslaghdú ar ghrúpaí atá eisiata ó thaobh cúrsaí sóisialta de i suíomhanna comhchónaithe agus sa phobal, tús áite a thabhairt do ghrúpaí atá eisiata ó thaobh cúrsaí sóisialta de san áireamh faoi chlár vacsaínithe COVID-19 agus 120 leaba aonraithe a sholáthar do dhaoine a bhain toradh dearfach amach i leith Covid agus do theagmhálaithe dlútha agus 280 leaba sciata do dhaoine atá thíos le heaspa dídine.

Sláinte Phoiblí a Chur chun Cinn

Lean an Roinn le pleanáil sláinte an daonra a fhorbairt agus le hinfheistiú inti, cosc a chur ar bhreiteacht agus leis an tsláinte agus folláine a chur chun cinn, agus tacú le daoine saol níos sláintiúla a bheith acu trí thionscnaimh éagsúla sláinte a sheoladh.

- Foilsíodh Plean Gníomhaíochta Straitéiseach Éire Shláintiúil i mBealtaine 2021. Forbraíodh an plean ar fud an rialtais agus cuireann sé le hobairt agus dul chun cinn Éire Shláintiúil. Déantar soláthar sa Phlean don bhealach is féidir linn leanúint d'oibriú as lámh a chéile chun dea-shláinte, teacht ar sheirbhísí, timpeallachtaí sláintiúla, agus cur chun cinn na hathléimneachta a bhaint amach. Cinntíonn seo gur féidir le gach duine taitneamh a bhaint as sláinte fhisiciúil agus meabhairshláinte agus folláine a mhéid agus is féidir leo.
- Thacaigh “An Feachtas Bí ar Fónamh” leis an daonra lena sláinte agus a bhfolláine i rith phaindéim COVID-19 in 2021. Aistríodh an díriú ansin go dtí straitéisí cumarsáide i ndiaidh COVID, agus seoladh dhá fheachtas go déanach in 2021. Ba é seo an feachtas [“Let’s Get Back” de chuid Spórt Éireann](#), i gcomhar le hÉire Shláintiúil a spreag daonra na hÉireann filleadh ar an spórt agus ar ghníomhaíocht choirp tar éis gur laghdaíodh srianta COVID-19. Rinne an feachtas [“Let’s Get Set”](#) de chuid Éire Shláintiúil príomhtheachtaireachtaí an bhia shláintiúil, na gníomhaíochta coirp agus na folláine meabhrach a chur chun cinn.
- Leanadh leis an bPlean Náisiúnta Gníomhaíochta Coirp a chur i bhfeidhm trí thacaíocht a thabhairt do chlár agus phríomhthionscnaimh Bhratach na Scoile Gníomhaí, lena thacaigh Éire Shláintiúil trí Spórt Éireann, chun tacú le siúl, rith, rothaíocht agus snámh, taighde, monatóireacht agus measúnú ar an spórt agus an ghníomhaíocht choirp, agus tionscnaimh eile, cosúil leis an mBunachar Sonraí Náisiúnta Conláistí a fhorbairt.
- Leanadh den Straitéis Sláinte Ghnéis Náisiúnta a chur i bhfeidhm agus fairsingíodh an clár Próifíolacsais Réamhnochta, tástáil ar líne a thabhairt isteach i dtaobh STIanna/VEID (a bhí ar fáil in 20 contae faoi dheireadh 2021) agus teachtaireachtaí gnéis níos sábháilte don phobal a chur chun cinn trí réimse láithreáin ghréasáin agus ardáin mheán sóisialta, Twitter, Facebook agus Instagram san áireamh, agus páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscnamh na gCathracha Modha Mhear VEID.
- Soláthraíodh Creat an Champais Shláintiúil i gcomhar leis an Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta (an RBOAOTNE) agus dáileadh síolchistiú ar gach campas chun sláinte agus folláine a chur chun cinn i measc na foirne agus mic léinn tríú leibhéal.
- Foilsíodh Creat um Éire Shláintiúil ag an Obair chun treoir straitéiseach agus acmhainní praiticiúla a sholáthar chun tacú le gach ionad oibre chun sláinte agus folláine a bhfoirne a fheabhsú.
- Foilsíodh “Treochlár d’Athmhúnlú Táirgí Bia in Éirinn”. Leagtar spriocanna amach sa Treochlár chun laghdú ar leibhéal saithithe, siúcra, salainn agus chalaí i mbianna próiseáilte a bhaint amach. Soláthraíodh cistiú tiomnaithe do Thascfhórsa Athmhúnlaithe Bia (atá suite laistigh d’Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann) leis an Treochlár a chur i bhfeidhm.

- Seoladh Clár Pobal Sláintiúil Sláintecare. Díríodh ar na limistéir ina raibh an gá ba mhó le tacaíocht agus seirbhísí breise, roghnaíodh 19 limistéar. Cuirfidh comhpháirtithe FSS agus pobail seirbhísí oideasaithe shóisialta, tacaíochtaí chun scor de chaitheamh tobac, cúrsaí tuistithe, agus comhairle agus oiliúint phraiticiúil ar chothú ar fáil don fhoireann cúraim sláinte áitiúil (19 bpost thiomnaithe Bia agus Cothaithe Pobail san áireamh). Anuas air sin, tá an Roinn ag oibriú as lámh le gach údarás áitiúil le hOifigeach Forbartha Áitiúla a sholáthar chun dul i ngleic le cinntithigh níos fairsinge na sláinte i ngach pobal.
- Cuireadh tús le hailt iolracha den Acht Sláinte Poiblí (Alcól), Alt 11 san áireamh maidir le Praghsáil Aonaid Íosta.
- Cuireadh an Cruinniú Mullaigh Ceannaireachta Idirnáisiúnta um Rialú Tobac ar bun an 18 Deireadh Fómhair 2021. Thug an Taoiseach an Cruinniú mullaigh isteach agus bhí an tAire Sláinte ina phríomhchainteoir.

SÁBHÁILTEACHT BHIA

Faoin Straitéis ón bhFeirm go dtí an Forc, an ghné agraibhia de Chomhaontú Glas na hEorpa, a fógraíodh i mBealtaine 2020, beartaíonn an Coimisiún Eorpach a Rialachán um Fhaisnéis Bhia do Thomhaltóirí (FIC) a leasú chun tacú le cinntí sláintiúla agus inbhuanaithe ceannaigh bia agus chun cur amú bia a laghdú. Tá an Rialachán á leasú maidir le cúig ghné, a bhfuil ceithre cinn díobh á leasú faoi Straitéis an AE ón bhFeirm go dtí an Forc agus tá ceann amháin á leasú faoi Phlean Sáraithe Ailse na hEorpa.

Le seasamh Éireannach a bhunú, chuir an Roinn tús le staid bheartais a fhorbairt maidir le pacáiste athbhreithnithe lipéadú bia an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh.

- Bunaíodh treochlár um chomhoibriú trasrialtais chun bonn fianaise láidir chun tacú leis na roghanna a bhfuiltear ina bhfabhar sa seasamh seo.
- Chuir Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (ÚSBÉ) comhairliúchán poiblí ar bun i Ráithe 1 2021 thar ceann na Roinne Sláinte a d'iarr ar dhearcthaí agus aiseolas ar na tograí seo leis an Rialachán FIC a leasú.
- Chomhordaigh an Roinn Sláinte an obair seo agus d'oibrigh sí go dlúth leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide agus an Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, anuas ar ghníomhaireachtaí ábhartha faoi shainchúram gach cinn de na ceithre Roinn.

Mar thoradh ar an mBreatimeacht, cuireadh bonneagar breise fisiciúil i bhfeidhm ag Calafort Bhaile Átha Cliath, Europort Ros Láir agus Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath lena chinntiú gur féidir le hÉirinn na riachtanais a bhainistiú go héifeachtach do sheiceálacha agus rialuithe ar thrádáil leis an RA. D'oibrigh an Roinn, i gcomhar le Seirbhís Sláinte Chomhshaoil FSS le Ranna agus Gníomhaireachtaí iomadúla chun tacú le córais éifeachtacha rialaithe sábháilteachta bia i measc na n-áiseanna éagsúla Stáit a íoslaghdaíonn an tionchar ar shláinte poiblí agus trádáil a éascú.

Forbraíonn an Roinn clár reachtaíochta gach bliain agus déantar leasú air go ráithiúil i gcomhairle le SSC FSS agus ÚSBÉ. Thug an tAonad Bia 8 IR isteach in 2021 agus phróiseáil sé 35 Rialachán Bia an AE.

CAIBIDIL 2

CÚRAM A FHAIRSINGIÚ AGUS A CHOMHTHÁTHÚ SA PHOBAL

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do dhaoine a choimeád folláin sa bhaile, nó i ngar don bhaile, trí chúram príomhúil agus cúram sóisialta a fhairsingiú agus a mhéadú atá ar fáil sa phobal, laistigh de shamhail chomhtháite chúraim i measc na suíomhanna uile.

CÚRAM PRÍOMHÚIL

Lean an Roinn le haghaidh a thabhairt ar a gealltanas chun acmhainn agus soláthar seirbhíse a fhairsingiú laistigh den earnáil chúraim phríomhúil, a rinne an t-aistriú a thabhairt chun cinn dá bharr ar an tsamhail chúraim sláinte agus a thacaigh le cúram níos cuimsithí do dhaoine laistigh dá bpobail áitiúla. Áiríodh leis an dul chun cinn i dtreo na sprice seo in 2021:

- Infheistíocht shuntasach sa chlár Cúraim Pobail Bhreithe le 49 Líonra Cúraim Sláinte Pobail (LCSPanna) agus 17 Sainfhoireann Pobail um Dhaoine Breacaosta agus Bainistiú Galair Ainsealaigh a bhunú.
- Seoladh an scéim Rochtain Dhíreach ag DGanna ar Dhiagnóisic a sholáthair breis agus 138,000 scanadh raideolaíochta i rith na bliana.
- Foirne Idirghabhála Pobail (FIPanna) a fhairsingiú chun go gcuimsítear an tír iomlán sa tseirbhís, den chéad uair, ina bhfuil 21 foireann i bhfeidhm.
- Leanadh d'Íonaid Chúraim Phríomhúil (ICPanna) a sholáthar fud fad na tíre, agus osclaíodh naoi ICP nua in 2021, agus mhéadaigh seo an líon iomlán ionad oibríochtúil aníos go dtí 147.
- Mar gheall gur tugadh tús áite do shocrú eatramhach riaracháin agus go ndearnadh oibríochtúil é go luath in 2021 le teacht níos fairsinge ar chártaí leighis a éascú do dhaoine ar a bhfuil breoiteacht mharfach, ar feitheamh na reachtaíochta.

CLEACHTAS GINEARÁLTA (CG)

In ainneoin thionchar na paidéime, leanadh le Comhaontú 2019 DGanna um Athchóiriú Conartha agus Forbairt Seirbhíse a chur i bhfeidhm sa chás gurbh fhéidir. Rinneadh méaduithe suntasacha ar infheistíocht i gcleachtas ginearálta le rogha gairm bheatha níos mealltaí a dhéanamh de seo do dhochtúirí, leis an líon DGanna a oibríonn sa Stát a mhéadú agus, ar an ábhar sin, feabhas a chur ar rochtain d'othair.

Tar éis gur tháinig méaduithe móra i mblianta roimhe seo, tháinig méadú aníos go dtí 233 in 2021 ar an líon dochtúirí a thug aghaidh ar oiliúint DG. Anuas air sin, tugadh aistriú oiliúint DG ó FSS chuig Coláiste Dhochtúirí Teaghlaigh Éireann, a cheadóidh acmhainn oiliúna DG a fhairsingiú níos mó sna blianta amach romhainn.

Fairsingíodh an clár DGanna um Bainistiú Galair Ainsealaigh (CDM), tar éis gur cuireadh tús leis in 2020, le hothair Sheirbhísí Míochaine Ginearálta a chur san áireamh 65 bliain agus níos sine ar a bhfuil ceann amháin nó níos mó de na riochtaí a shonraítear. Cabhraíonn an clár CDM le cúram d'othair ar a bhfuil galair ainsealacha a aistriú isteach sa phobal agus níos giorra don bhaile, leis an ngá atá le freastal ar an ospidéal a laghdú.

SCIATHADH

Lean an Coiste Comhairleach Náisiúnta Scagthástála (an CCNS) le trí chruinniú a thit amach in 2021 agus foilsíodh a chéad Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, ina sonraítear an dul chun cinn a rinneadh ó bunaíodh é in 2019. Chríochnaigh agus ghlac an Coiste i rith 2021 le próisis le hiarratais nua a mheasúnú le haghaidh cláir scagthástála dhaonrabhunaithe in Éirinn agus le haghaidh athruithe ar chláir reatha. I ndiaidh gur glacadh leis na próisis seo:

- Seoladh an chéad Ghlaoch Bliantúil ag deireadh 2021.
- Bhí sé ar oscailt do bhail an phobail, FSS, cliniceoirí agus aon duine ar spéis leo togra a dhéanamh.
- Fuarthas 53 aighneacht atá á n-athbhreithniú faoi láthair ag an gCoiste.

Lean an LASN le tús áite a thabhairt do chláir scagthástála leanaí nuabheirthe a fhairsingiú agus, ar iarraidh an Choiste, thug an tÚdarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte (HIQA) faoi athbhreithniú ar phróisis atá á n-úsáid go hidirnáisiúnta chun eolas a chur ar fáil dá bhfairsingiú. Dá réir sin, d'fhoilsigh HIQA 'Athbhreithniú ar phróisis atá á n-úsáid chun eolas a chur ar fáil d'fhairsingiú cláir scagthástála spotáí fola ar leanaí nuabheirthe' in Iúil 2021.

SEIRBHÍSÍ MEABHAIRSHLÁINTE

- Soláthraíodh €1 milliún do mheabhairshláinte Éireann le scéim deontais a bhainistiú thar ceann na Roinne, a sholáthair deontais chun gníomhartha a dhéanann gníomhaireachtaí pobail agus deonacha a chuireann meabhairshláinte agus folláine a chur i bhfeidhm a stiúradh go háitiúil a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm.
- Rinne cur i bhfeidhm an bheartais náisiúnta mheabhairshláinte 'an Fhís an Roinnt' a chur chun cinn, agus bunaíodh struchtúir cosúil le Grúpa um Chur i bhFeidhm FSS agus Sainghrúpaí um Meabhairshláinte Bhan, Idirbhearta Meabhairshláinte Óige agus Toilleadh Leapacha Géarmhíochaine.
- Rinneadh seirbhísí teileashláinte a bhunú go hiomlán agus a sholáthar mar chuid de sholáthar seirbhíse cumaisc, agus tugadh tús áite do leanúint do rogha a thabhairt do chliant. Tá tromlach na dtacaíochtaí teileashláinte seo ar fáil seacht lá sa tseachtain, agus cuireann roinnt díobh tacaíocht 24 uair an chloig ar fáil. Áirítear le seirbhísí seacht lá, YourMentalHealth.ie, an líne faisnéise 1800 111 888, an líne theachtaireachtaí téacs géarchéime 50808 agus tacaíochtaí ar líne do chomhpháirtithe eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha. Tháinig méadú ar an méid daoine a bhain leas as na seirbhísí seo i rith COVID-19.
- Leanadh le Cláir Chliniciúla Náisiúnta a fhorbairt in 2021, iad siúd ina measc do Neamhoird Itheacháin, Luath-Idirghabháil i Seirbhísí Síocóis agus Sainseirbhísí Imbheirthe agus leanadh le tacaíochtaí cosúil le Teiripí Cainte, Teiripe Chognaíochta agus Iompraíochta (CBT) agus comhairleoireacht a fhairsingiú.

CÚRAM SÓISIALTA

- Foilsíodh athbhreithniú idirnáisiúnta fianaise a choimisiúnaigh an Bord Taighde Sláinte maidir le 'Bandaí Cúraim a nascadh le leithdháileadh acmhainní do thacaíocht baile agus cúram cónaithe fadtéarmach' in Iúil 2021.
- Foilsíodh tuarascáil a choimisiúnaigh an ITES ar 'Éileamh ar an Scéim Cúraim Baile Scéim Reachtúil' (Demand for the Statutory Home Care Scheme) i Márta 2021.

- Fuarthas faomhadh an Rialtais in Aibreán 2021 chun an scéim ghinearálta agus cinn bille chun creat ceadúnaithe do sholáthraithe tacaíochta baile a dhréachtú.
- Síniódh an tAcht fán Scéim um Thacaíocht Tithe Banaltranais (Leasú), 2021 isteach sa dlí an 22 Iúil 2021 agus tháinig sé i bhfeidhm an 20 Deireadh Fómhair. Mar gheall ar an athrú, ar a dtugtar, “an chaidhp trí bliana”, ní chuirtear feirm theaghlaigh nó gnólacht teaghlaigh san áireamh a thuilleadh sa mheasúnú i ndiaidh go raibh an cónaitheoir i gcúram ar feadh trí bliana, chomh fada agus go sásaítear coinníollacha áirithe. Tacaíonn seo le feirmeacha agus gnólachtaí teaghlaigh a aistriú idir glúnta, agus méadaíonn sé inbhuanaitheacht fiontair bheaga teaghlaigh. Chuir an tAcht síneadh freisin leis an gcaidhp trí bliana go gcuirfí i bhfeidhm í freisin ar fháltais díola áite cónaithe príomha. Tá súil leis go gcuirfear áiteanna cónaithe folmha ar ais ar an margadh tithíochta dá bharr seo, a chabhraíonn leis an soláthar tithíochta trí chéile a mhéadú.
- In ainneoin phaindéim COVID-19, meastar gur seirbhís bhunriachtanach iad seirbhísí míchumais agus lean siad de bheith ar oscailt i rith 2021. Ar aon dul le treoirínte sláinte poiblí, áfach, laghdaíodh an toilleadh i bhformhór na limistéar.
- Forbraíodh bealaí nua agus nuálacha chun seirbhísí lae a sholáthar do dhaoine fásta faoi mhíchumas lena cheadú do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas leanúint d’idirghníomhú leis an bpobal i gcoitinne agus de pháirt a ghlacadh ann.
- Leanadh de sheirbhísí Cúnaimh Phearsanta agus Tacaíochta Baile a oibriú, agus sháraigh siad spriocanna soláthair.
- Baineadh 135 duine faoi mhíchumas ó láithreacha comhchónaithe chuig áiteanna cónaithe níos cuí sa phobal, a chiallaíonn gur fhan níos lú ná 1,600 duine i láithreacha comhchónaithe, in aghaidh breis agus 4,000 duine a sainaithníodh i dtosach.
- Aistríodh 14 dhuine níos óige ná 65 bliain d’aois, ar an iomlán, a cuireadh go míchuí i dteach altranais, chuig áit chónaithe nua sa phobal.
- Soláthraíodh ceithre ionad nua faoisimh, agus bhí cúig cinn níos mó le hoscailt go luath in 2022.
- D’fhág 1,368 duine fásta óg faoi mhíchumas an scoil agus d’iontráil siad seirbhís lae, rinne siad áit a iarchur, nó d’iontráil siad cúrsa oiliúna athshlánúcháin.
- Leithdháileadh 100 post forbartha in 2021 ar na 91 Foireann Míchumais de chuid an Líonra Leanaí. Leithdháileadh 85.49 post breise i Meitheamh 2021 chun na seirbhísí ionscoile a chosaint a soláthraíodh i roinnt scoileanna speisialta. Leithdháileadh na poist seo ar na príomhghníomhaireachtaí ábhartha le haghaidh earcaíochta. Bhí 54 de na poist líonta ag deireadh mhí na Nollag 2021 agus bhí ardchéim earcaíochta bainte amach ag 46 ceann breise.
- Seoladh Creat Oideasaithe Shóisialta FSS in Iúil 2021, a mhéadaigh an líon iomlán suíomhanna oideasaithe shóisialta atá cistithe ag FSS (atreorú pobail) fud fad na tíre aníos go dtí 31 suíomh.

SLÁINTECARE

Léiríonn an dul chun cinn a rinneadh i dtaobh athchóirithe ar Sláintecare a sholáthar in 2021, agus dúshlán gan choinne phaindéim leanúnach COVID-19 agus an cibearionsaí mór a rinneadh ar na seirbhísí sláinte san áireamh, an tiomantas agus an treallús laistigh den Roinn Sláinte agus in FSS don chlár uailmhianach athchóirithe seo a bhaint amach.

I measc roinnt de na mórreachtaí a baineadh amach i rith 2021, tá:

- Rinneadh **42 leaba chúraim chriticiúil, 813 leaba ghéarmhíochaine agus 73 leaba fo-ghéarmhíochaine** a chistiú go hiomlán agus a oscailt in 2020/2021.
- Bhí 147 **Ionad Cúraim Phríomhúil** i bhfeidhm; osclaíodh 9 gcinn in 2021 agus bhí 28 ceann breise á dtógáil
- D'éascaigh **Ciste Lánpháirtíochta Sláintecare** tástáil agus measúnú ar shamhlacha nuálacha cúraim, rinneadh 106 as 123 tionscadal a phríomhshruthú faoi dheireadh 2021. Ar an iomlán, laghdaíodh an líon atreoruithe faoi 15,370, seachnaíodh 18,914 lá leaba ghéarmhíochaine agus baineadh 8,268 othar as liostaí feithimh de bharr na dtionscadal seo.
- **Áiteanna Cónaithe Aoisbháúla** - tá mar chuspóir ag clár nuálach, atá cistithe ag Sláintecare agus a sholáthraíonn an rialtas áitiúil go díreach trína sheirbhís chomhroinnte de chuid Aoisbhá Éireann, daoine breacaosta a chumasú leanúint de chónaí ina n-áiteanna cónaithe nó in áit chónaithe is fearr a oireann dá riachtanais. Fuair an clár seo breis agus 800 atreorú i rith 7 mí, thug sé faoi 630 cuairt measúnaithe ar áiteanna cónaithe, agus thug sé 1,295 idirghabháil chun cinn do dhaoine breacaosta.
- **Rochtain DG ar Dhiagnóisic** – cuireadh an scéim um Rochtain Dhíreach ag DGanna ar Dhiagnóisic i bhfeidhm go beo in Eanáir 2021, a sholáthair rochtain do DGanna ar scanadh raideolaíochta trí roinnt soláthraithe príobháideacha. Tugadh faoi bhreis agus 138,000 tástáil raideolaíochta sa phobal in 2021, a laghdaigh an brú ar sheirbhís ospidéil géarmhíochaine.
- **Tacaíocht Baile** - Soláthraíodh thart ar 20.5 milliún uair an chloig in 2021 do bhreis agus 55,000 duine ar cuireadh an tseirbhís ar fáil dóibh. Is ionann seo agus thart ar 2.9 milliún (17%) níos mó uair an chloig i gcomparáid le 2020.
- **Plean Gníomhaíochta an Liosta feithimh** - D'éascair laghdú 5.4% ar liostaí feithimh foriomlána anuas ó 760,700 go 720,056 as an bplean gearrthéarmach (Meán Fómhair-Nollaig 2021), agus bhí seo ar aon dul leis an sprioclaghdú.
- Bunaíodh **49 Líonra Cúraim Sláinte Pobail (LCSPanna)**, 15 shainfhoireann um Dhaoine Breacaosta agus dhá fhoireann um Bainistiú Galair Ainsealaigh agus rinneadh bailí iad ó thaobh cúrsaí oibríochtúla, agus baineann rithábhacht leo ó thaobh cúram pobail breisithe a sholáthar.
- D'fhaomh an rialtas **Straitéis Náisiúnta Cúraim Shiúlaigh Roghnaigh** Sláintecare, a athróidh an bealach is féidir socrú níos fearr a dhéanamh ar ghnáthaimh sceidealaithe, máinliacht, scanadh agus seirbhís d'othair sheachtracha le toilleadh níos mó a chinntiú amach anseo agus cabhróidh sé le dul i ngleic le liostaí feithimh trí Ospidéal Roghnacha thiomnaithe aonair a sholáthar i gCorcaigh, Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath a fhreastalaíonn ar a mhéid le 977,000 gnáthamh gach bliain.
- Bunaíodh **Grúpa Comhairleach Limistéir Sláinte Réigiúnacha (LSRanna)**, ar a ndearna an tUasal Leo Kearns cathaoirleacht, le tacaíocht agus treoir a sholáthar don Roinn Sláinte agus FSS maidir le pleanáil don aistriú seo. Cinnteoidh na sé LSR go ndéantar seirbhísí ospidéil, pobail agus cúraim sláinte phríomhúil a ailíniú ar leibhéal réigiúnach, bunaithe ar dhaonraí sainithe agus ar a riachtanais áitiúla. Baineann páirt lárnach leis seo i dtaobh fíis Sláintecare, seirbhís chomhtháite sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta, a sholáthar.
- Foilsíodh **Tuarascáil Chruthúnais Coincheapa an Bharda Fhíorúil Pobail** (an BFP) i Meitheamh 2021. Oibrítear an BFP cosúil le barda ospidéil, ach cuirtear cúram ar fáil go fíorúil in áit chónaithe féin an othair.
- Thug an Roinn faoi Mheasúnú Dírithe Beartais ar '**Dochar a Laghdú, Téarnamh a Chothú: Anailís ar chaiteachas agus feidhmíocht i limistéar na mí-úsáide drugaí agus alcóil**' mar chuid den athbhreithniú meántearma ar an straitéis.

CAIBIDIL 3

TEACHT AR CHÚRAM SLÁINTE A DHÉANAMH NÍOS COTHROIME AGUS NÍOS TAPÚLA

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do phrionsabal na sláinte agus an chúram shóisialta bunaithe ar ghá, seachas ar chumas íoctha. Tá seo bunaithe ar chur chuige uilechórais chun tacú le torthaí sláinte níos fearr tríd an gcúram ceart a sholáthraítear san áit cheart, ag an am ceart, a théann i ngleic le neamhionannas bunúsach sláinte. Tugtar cuntas thíos ar éachtaí agus ar eolas sa limistéar seo ó 2021 thíos.

SEIRBHÍSÍ OSPIDÉIL GÉARMHÍOCHAINÉ

Ba ghá díriú go tréan ar thoilleadh cúraim chriticiúil a bhainistiú i rith 2021 agus, ach go háirithe, i rith thríú ráig phaindéim COVID-19. Rinne an Roinn Sláinte idirchaidreamh leanúnach le FSS lena chinntiú go bhféadfadh na hothair go léir ónar theastaigh cúram criticiúil é á fháil, trí úsáid a bhaint as acmhainneacht borrrha, agus othair a aistriú idir ospidéal ag na Seirbhísí Aisghabhála Cúraim Chriticiúil ina measc sin. Cé gur thréimhse fhíordhúshlánach í seo don phobal cúraim chriticiúil, ba é toradh na hoibre seo nach raibh aonaid chúraim chriticiúil faoi bhrú ollmhór, faoi mar a tugadh faoi deara i roinnt tíortha eile.

D'aithin Éire easnamh i dtoilleadh cúraim chriticiúil roimh an bpaindéim. Soláthraíodh cistiú €52 milliún in 2021 chun cur i bhfeidhm an Phlean Straitéisigh um Chúram Criticiúil a chur chun cinn. Osclaíodh 42 leaba bhreise chúraim chriticiúil, ar an iomlán, ar bhonn buan in 2021, a cheadaigh don toilleadh náisiúnta méadú aníos ó 255 leaba go luath in 2020 go 297 leaba faoi dheireadh 2021. I gcomparáid leis sin, tháinig méadú 18 leaba ar an toilleadh cúraim chriticiúil idir 2017 agus 2019.

D'oscail an tAire Donnelly Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ) i dTamhlacht go hoifigiúil i Samhain 2021. Seo an dara ceann de dhá ionad satailíte san ospidéal nua na leanaí (an ONL), SLÉ ag Ospidéal Uí Chonghaile, tar éis gur osclaíodh é in Iúil 2019. Príomh-gharsprioc eile i dtionscadal an ONL a bhí in Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ) ag Tamhlacht a oscailt, chomh maith leis na hathchóirithe gaolmhara a rinne ospidéal amháin de thrí ospidéal leanaí, a rinne saineolas agus sármaithreas thaighde a chomhdhlúthú leis na torthaí is fearr do na leanaí na hÉireann a chinntiú. I measc na seirbhísí atá ar tairiscint anois san fhoirgneamh nua, tá Aonad Cúraim Éigeandála 24/7, clinicí péidiatraice ginearálta, clinicí néaraimhíchumas agus néaraforbartha agus raideolaíochta, agus athlonnaíodh aonaid sainteiripe do leanaí freisin chuig na háiseanna nua seo a tógadh le sainchuspóir.

CÚRAM SCEIDEALAITHE

Rinne an Roinn an Plean Gníomhaíochta Liosta Feithimh gearrthéarmach (Meán Fómhair-Nollaig 2021) a chur i bhfeidhm, a forbraíodh i gcomhar le FSS agus an Ciste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóireála (an CNCC) leis an tionchar a d'imir an phaindéim agus an cibearionsaí a rinneadh i mBealtaine 2021 ar FSS ar othair a bhí ar an liosta feithimh a laghdú. Foilsíodh é an 7 Deireadh Fómhair 2021 agus dhírigh sé ar chúig limistéar:

- An liosta feithimh a bhainistiú.
- Toilleadh láithreach a sholáthar sa chóras cúraim sceidealaithe.
- Conairí cúraim othair a fheabhsú agus a nuachóiriú.
- An réiteach a dhéanamh chun spriocanna tréimhse feithimh uasta a thabhairt isteach.
- Sonraí agus faisnéis a fheabhsú.

Laghdaigh an Plean Gníomhaíochta Liosta Feithimh gearrthéarmach liostaí feithimh le haghaidh cúram sceidealaithe géarmhíochaine faoi 5.4%, anuas ó 760,700 duine ar liostaí feithimh gníomhacha i Meán Fómhair 2021 go 720,056 i mí na Nollag 2021, ar laghdú breis agus 40,000 othar é seo a bhí ar liostaí feithimh.

CÚRAM NEAMHSCEIDEALAITHE

- Tugadh méadú faoi deara in 2021 ar ghníomhaíocht i Rannóga Éigeandála (an RÉ) i ndiaidh gur tháinig laghdú ar fhreastal in 2020 mar gheall ar Covid, agus tháinig 11.3% aníos go dtí 1,266,888 duine, ar na leibhéil freastail in 2020 (1,138,288). Bhí seo 6.1% ní b'ísle ná an leibhéal freastail in 2019 (1,348,999).
- B'ionann an freastal don aoisghrúpa níos sine ná 75 bliain d'aois in 2021 agus 167,313, ar méadú 9.6% é seo ar 2020 (152,629) agus laghdú 0.8% ar 2019 (168,725).
- Leagadh amach i bPlean an Gheimhridh don bhliain 2020/21 cur chuige a chothabháil seirbhísí COVID-19, agus cuireadh brúnna an gheimhridh san áireamh ann agus sholáthair sé leanúnachas seirbhísí nár bhain le COVID-19. Dhírigh an Plean ar phríomhchuspóirí lena mbaineann an RÉ a sheachaint, sreabhadh níos fearr othar agus an t-ospidéal a fhágáil. Chuir sé uaireanta breise tacaíochta baile, tacaíochtaí DG lasmuigh d'uaireanta, leapacha cúraim idirthréimhsigh, tacaíochtaí diagnóisice géarmhíochaine agus tionscnaimh phobail ar fáil.
- Soláthraíodh cistiú €1.1 billiún i mBuiséad 2021 le toilleadh leapacha ospidéil a mhéadú, seirbhísí a mhéadú agus tacú le hathchóiriú. Mar chuid de seo, rinneadh gealltanais 1,146 leaba bhreise bhuan othair chónaitheacha ospidéil géarmhíochaine agus 73 leaba bhuan fo-ghéarmhíochaine a sholáthar, anuas ar an líon a bhí ar fáil an 31 Nollaig 2019. Mhéadaigh seo toilleadh an chórais ospidéil géarmhíochaine chun freastal ar an éileamh ar ghéarchúram atá ag dul i méid. Bhí 813 leaba bhreise ghéarmhíochaine, agus 73 leaba fo-ghéarmhíochaine curtha ar fáil faoi dheireadh 2021.
- Infheistíodh €77 milliún i bPlean Geimhridh 2021/22 chun cúram cuí sábháilte agus tráthúil a sholáthar d'othair agus chun brúnna an gheimhridh agus an dúshlán breise a chruthaigh láithreach COVID-19 a chur san áireamh.

AN TSEIRBHÍS NAÍSIÚNTA OTHARCHARRANNA

Rinne an Roinn maoirseacht ar an tacaíocht bhunriachtanach a thug an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna (an SNO) go leanúnach i dtaobh paidéim COVID-19 a chomhrac, agus a gnáthsheirbhís freagartha éigeandála á cur ar fáil i gcomhthráth. Áiríodh leis seo tabhairt faoi thart ar 1.6 milliún tástáil COVID-19 i roinnt suíomhanna éagsúla, suíomhanna cúraim chónaithe, príosúin agus monarchana san áireamh. Imlonnaíodh an SNO chomh maith go láithreacha timpeall na tíre le preabchlinicí tiomnaithe tástála a bhunú chun dul i ngleic le ráigeanna móra áitiúla an ghalair pé áit ar tharla siad.

- Thacaigh an SNO le clár vacsaínithe FSS a thabhairt isteach, agus riar sé thart ar 18,000 vacsaíniú in 2021. Bhain vacsaínithe a riar i suíomhanna cónaithe agus clinicí sealadacha vacsaínithe a bhunú leis seo.
- Thacaigh an Roinn leis an SNO trí chistiú €10 milliún a leithdháileadh ar fhorbairtí straitéiseacha nua seirbhíse in 2021. Chuir seo ar chumas an SNO foireann bhreise a earcú chun feabhas a chur ar a chumas tionscnaimh pobail chun freastal ar ospidéal a laghdú agus eispéiris othar a fheabhsú san fhadtéarma. Chuir Conairí Cúraim Mhalartaigh an SNO cóir leighis ar 18,140 othar, ar an iomlán, i rith 2021, ar cuireadh cóir leighis ar bhreis agus 44% díobh i suíomh baile nó pobail agus nár ghá iad a thabhairt chun ospidéil dá bharr.

AN STRAITÉIS NÁISIÚNTA MÁITHREACHAIS

Leanadh ar aghaidh i rith 2021 le seirbhísí máithreachais a oibriú go hiomlán, agus chuir siad cúram ardchaighdeán ar fáil ar bhonn 24/7 agus mná, naíonáin, agus foireann á gcosaint acu i gcomhthráth ó COVID-19. D'éirigh go geal le seirbhísí máithreachais ina leith sin, i gcúinsí a bhí an-dúshlánach go minic, agus a bhí an-éagsúil ag brath ar athruithe ar riar cásanna, castacht agus bonneagar i ngach aonad aonair. Rinneadh roinnt athruithe ar conas a soláthraíodh seirbhísí, agus sholáthair roinnt aonad/ospidéal níos mó seirbhísí i suíomh pobail agus tugadh faoi chinn eile i gclinicí fíorúla.

- Leanadh den Straitéis Náisiúnta Máithreachais (2016-2026) a chur i bhfeidhm, agus díriodh ar an gconair chúraim lena dtacaítear i measc seirbhísí máithreachais a fhairsingiú go leanúnach. Rinneadh seirbhísí cnáimhseachais pobalbhunaithe a fhorbairt breise, lena n-áirítear cúram breise iarbheithe agus seirbhísí luathastrithe abhaile san áireamh. Bhí clinicí faoi stiúir cnáimhseachais i ngach ceann de na 19 n-aonad máithreachais agus bhí 24% de mhná curtha in áirithe ar an gconair chúraim le tacaíocht.
- B'ionann cistiú forbartha €12 mhilliún a soláthraíodh i mBuiséad 2021 do sheirbhísí máithreachais agus gínéiceolaíochta agus infheistíocht an-mhór, a chabhraigh lena chinntiú gur leanadh den Straitéis Náisiúnta Máithreachais a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith le seirbhísí feabhsaithe gínéiceolaíochta go náisiúnta.
- Rinne an €7.3 milliún a leithdháileadh chun an Straitéis Náisiúnta Máithreachais a thabhairt chun cinn 96.5 Coibhéis Lánaimseartha (CLAanna) breise a sholáthar do sheirbhísí máithreachais, a d'fheabhsaigh teacht ar shainseirbhísí, seirbhísí cnáimhseacha, inchríneolaíochta, paiteolaíochta imbhreithe nua-naíochta, agus peirínim san áireamh, anuas ar fheabhas a chur ar theacht ar sheirbhísí agus ar thacaíochtaí comhghaolmhara gairmithe sláinte.
- Foilsíodh an plean um chur i bhfeidhm leasaithe don Straitéis Náisiúnta Máithreachais, agus rinneadh 86% de ghníomhartha a chríochnú nó bhí a gcuid spriocanna críochnaithe á mbaint amach acu.
- Forbraíodh seirbhís náisiúnta MRI féatais agus bunaíodh grúpa forbartha treoirlínte cliniciúla náisiúnta don obstatraic agus don ghínéiceolaíocht.
- Bunaíodh an Fhoireann Tacaíochta Teagmhais Chnáimhsigh nua in 2021 agus tá sí dírithe ar fheabhas a chur ar cháilíocht droch-athbhreithnithe teagmhais agus próiseas náisiúnta a chruthú chun foghlaim a roinnt.
- Bhí ardchleachtóirí cnáimhsí i láthair i ngach ceann de na 19 seirbhísí mháithreachais, agus cistíodh sé cinn bhreise in 2021.
- Bhí luathastríú abhaile á chur ar fáil ag 15 sheirbhísí mháithreachais in 2021 agus bhí seomraí 'Baile as Baile' á gcur ar fáil ag 12 sheirbhísí mháithreachais, a d'éascaigh breith i seomraí saolaithe nach bhfuil chomh cliniciúil céanna.
- Bhí sainchomhairleoirí lachta i bhfeidhm i ngach ceann de na 19 seirbhísí mháithreachais, agus bhí CLA 7.5 díobh seo cistithe ag cistiú a soláthraíodh don Chlár Náisiúnta um Shláinte na mBan agus na Naíonán (NWIHP) in 2021.

FORBAIRTÍ AR AN TSEIRBHÍS GHÍNÉICEOLAÍOCHTA

Rinne an €4.7 milliún a leithdháileadh ar fhorbairtí a bhain leis an tseirbhís gínéiceolaíochta soláthar don mhéid seo a leanas:

- 9 gclinic gínéiceolaíochta siúlaí "cas agus cóir" a fhorbairt timpeall na tíre, mar chuid den tSamhail Chúraim Gínéiceolaíochta Siúlaí a chur i bhfeidhm go leanúnach.

- An dá Mhol Torthúlachta Réigiúnach eile i nGaillimh agus san Aonach a bhunú (faoi rialachas Ospidéal Máithreachais na hOllscoile, Luimneach), a éascóidh Céim a hAon den tSamhail Chúraim Neamhthorthúlachta a thabhairt isteach.
- Sainseirbhísí ildisciplíneacha do mhná atá thíos le castachtaí mogaill a oscailt ar fud dhá láithreán ag Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, tar éis go ndearnadh moltaí i dTuarascáil 2018 an POL maidir le Mogall Uraighnéiceolaíoch a Úsáid i nGnáthaimh Mháinliachta.

AN STRAITÉIS NÁISIÚNTA TRÁMA

Cheadaigh an rialtas in Aibreán 2021 Ospidéal Ollscoile an Mater Misericordiae (MMUH) a ainmniú mar an Lárionad Mórthráma don Líonra Tráma Láir, agus Ospidéal Ollscoile Naomh Uinseann agus Ospidéal Ollscoile Thamhlachta mar na hAonaid Tráma do Bhaile Átha Cliath. Fógraíodh freisin go n-ainmneofaí Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Corcaigh (CUH) mar an Lárionad Mórthráma do Líonra Tráma an Deiscirt a luaithe agus a shásófaí sonraíochtaí na seirbhíse a mholtar.

B'ionann na forbairtí seo agus céim ríthábhachtach i gcóras náisiúnta tráma d'Éirinn a fhorbairt. Soláthróidh an Lárionad Mórthráma na sainseirbhísí uile a bhaineann le cúram an mhórthráma, óna n-eascróidh torthaí níos fearr d'othair a gortaíodh go dona. Soláthróidh na hAonaid Tráma cúram tráma do chásanna nó d'othair a gortaíodh ach nach cás níos casta iad a meastar go mbaineann ríthábhacht leo ó thaobh ama de agus nuair nach féidir iad a aistriú chuig an Lárionad Mórthráma laistigh den amfhráma riachtanach.

SEIRBHÍSÍ AILSE

Rinneadh éachtaí nach beag i measc Seirbhísí Ailse i rith 2021, an méid seo a leanas ina measc:

- Rinne an Roinn maoirseacht ar chúram ailse a sholáthar go leanúnach i rith phaindeim COVID-19, agus leanadh de chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise Náisiúnta Ailse 2017-2026 a chur chun cinn. Tháinig méadú ar fhreastal ar Chlinicí Mear-Rochtana (ailse chíce, scamhóg agus phróstataigh) aníos go 102% i gcomparáid le leibhéal roimh Covid (2019) agus bhí Oinceolaíocht Radaíochta ag oibriú ar leibhéal 87%, bhí Oinceolaíocht Leighis ag oibriú ar leibhéal 95% agus bhí Oinceolaíocht Mháinliachta ag oibriú ar leibhéal 96% os cionn leibhéil 2019.
- D'oibrigh an Roinn agus Clár Náisiúnta Rialaithe Ailse FSS (an Clár Náisiúnta Rialaithe Ailse) go comhoibritheach le haghaidh a thabhairt ar thionscnaimh choiscthe faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Ailse, acmhainní ailse scamhóg a bhrath go luath d'oibríthe sláinte pobail agus feachtas um fheasacht phoiblí ar na meáin shóisialta a tosaíodh i nDeireadh Fómhair 2021 san áireamh.
- Lena chinntiú go soláthraítear cúram go leanúnach a ghairne don bhaile agus is féidir, d'oibrigh an Roinn agus a contrapháirteanna i dTuaisceart Éireann go comhoibritheach lena chinntiú gur leanadh de sheirbhísí radaiteiripe a sholáthar d'othair san Iarthuaisceart ag Ionad Ailse an Iarthuaiscirt ag Allt Mhic Dhuibhleacháin. Cuireadh cóir leighis ar 253 othar a raibh cónaí sa stát orthu in Allt Mhic Dhuibhleacháin in 2021, ar méadú é seo aníos ó 200 othar in 2020.
- D'oibrigh an Roinn agus an Clár Náisiúnta Rialaithe Ailse faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Ailse le hOspidéal San Séamas chun ardseirbhísí teiripe T-cheall le gabhdóir ciméarach aintaiginí (CAR-T) a aisdúichíú a chinntigh nach gá d'othair taisteal thar lear a thuilleadh don chóir leighis seo.
- Rinne an Roinn ionadaíocht d'Éirinn i gComhghníomh Eorpach faoi Phlean Sáraithe Ailse na hEorpa le Líonraí Cúraim Chuimsitheach Ailse a fhorbairt ar fud an AE (CraNE). Tá seo ar aon dul le líonraí cuimsitheacha ailse a fhorbairt, faoi mar a shamhlaítear faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Ailse.

- Chas an Coiste Comhairleach d’Othair Ailse, a bunaíodh ar aon dul le Moladh 39 den Straitéis Náisiúnta Ailse 2017-2026, ar a chéile ceithre huaire in 2021. Chuir an Coiste ionchur othar ar fáil isteach sa mhaoirseacht a dhéantar ar an Straitéis a chur i bhfeidhm agus ar chlár a fhorbairt d’othair a bhfuil ailse orthu. Bhreithnigh an Coiste freisin conas is féidir ionchur othar isteach i seirbhísí ailse a éascú ar aon dul, tríd is tríd, le cuspóirí na Straitéise Náisiúnta Ailse.

DEONÚ AGUS TRASPHLANDÚ ORGÁN

- Rinne an Roinn soláthar do Mháinlia Comhairleach a earcú don tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Trasphlandaithe Duán agus do Lia Comhairleach Riospráide agus Transphlandaithe Scamhóg chun feabhas a chur ar shainseirbhísí d’othair thrasphlandaithe fiobrúise cistí.
- Rinne an Roinn soláthar don tSeirbhís Histeapaiteolaíochta agus Imdhíoneolaíochta chun deontóirí orgáin thar lear a éascú agus chun tuarascáil ar chóras Iniúchta Deontóirí Féideartha a chur le chéile.
- Chistigh an Roinn 5 Altraí CLA Obrádlainne bhreise chun seirbhís 24/7 a sholáthar, a sheachain seirbhísí ospidéal eile a chealú, agus a cheadaigh an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Aisghabhála Orgáin Bhoilg a fhairsingiú.
- Chistigh an Roinn 4 Altra Bainisteora Deontóir Orgáin CLA bhreise, a d’fheabhsaigh an soláthar foirne agus an bonneagar reatha deontóirí orgáin.

SÁBHÁILTEACHT OTHAR

- Chomhfhóilsigh an Roinn Sláinte agus an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara dara *Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta ar Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach 2021-2025* na hÉireann, ar a dtugtar *iNAP2*, an 18 Samhain 2021. Is é *iNAP2* an plean a tháinig in ionad *an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta ar Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach 2017-2020* na hÉireann, ar a dtugtar *iNAP1*.
- Cuireann *iNAP2* le foghlaim agus dul chun cinn *iNAP1* agus áirítear leis foghlaim ó na hÉigeandálaí Enterobacterale Táirgthe Carbaipeineamáise (CPE) agus Sláinte Poiblí COVID-19.
- Glacann an dá phlean na *iNAP* le cuspóirí straitéiseacha *Sláinte Amháin* agus tagann siad leis na cúig Chuspóir Straitéiseacha faoi mar a dtugtar cuntas air i *bPlean Gníomhaíochta Domhanda an EDS (2015)* agus le riachtanais *an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Eorpaigh um Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach (FFM)* a foilsíodh in 2017.
- Áirítear le *iNAP2* 90 gníomh a bhaineann go sonrach le sláinte an duine anuas ar 15 Gníomh de chuid *Sláinte Amháin* i measc earnálacha sláinte an duine agus na n-earnálacha sláinte ainmhithe agus comhshaoil. Cur chuige comhoibritheach é *Sláinte Amháin*, a oibríonn ar leibhéal áitiúil, réigiúnach, náisiúnta, agus domhanda leis na torthaí is fearr a bhaint amach ó thaobh sláinte agus folláine, agus an t-idircheangail idir daoine, ainmhithe, plandaí, a dtimpeallacht chomhroinnte á n-aithint. Aithnítear cur chuige *Sláinte Amháin* go hidirnáisiúnta mar dhea-chleachtas chun dul i ngleic le FFM.

Foilsíodh Treoirínte Cliniciúla Náisiúnta seo a leanas de chuid an Choiste Náisiúnta um Éifeachtacht Chliniciúil (an NCEC):

- Uimh. 26 Bainistíocht Seipsise do Dhaoine Fásta (máithreachas san áireamh).
- Uimh. 27 Galar Scamhóige Toirmeascach Ainsealach (COPD) a Bhainistiú.
- Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Chórais Náisiúnta um Cháilíocht Cúraim Sláinte a Thuairisciú 2020.

CÚRAM PRÍOMHÚIL

- Tionscnamh Liosta Feithimh Síceolaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil a fhorbairt agus cistiú a sholáthar dó a dhíríonn ar leanaí agus daoine óga.
- Tá Scéim Cúraim Sláinte Pleanáilte Thuaisceart Éireann á hoibriú go héifeachtach ón 1 Eanáir 2021. Cuireann an scéim nua ar chumas daoine a chónaíonn sa Stát teacht ar chúram sláinte príobháideach agus aisíocaíocht a fháil ó FSS don chúram sin a fuair siad i dThuaisceart Éireann, chomh fada agus a bhíonn an chúram sláinte sin ar fáil laistigh d'Éirinn.

CervicalCheck

- Bhí 166 as 170 gníomh a d'eascair as Fiosrúchán Scoípe an Dr Scally ar Chlár Scagthástála CervicalCheck tugtha chun críche ag deireadh 2021.
- Tugadh tacaíocht do thionscadal laistigh den tSeirbhís Scagthástála Náisiúnta (an SSN) le cabhrú le Éirinn an aidhm a bhaint amach lena mbaineann deireadh a chur le hailse cheirbheacs agus tá tionscnamh comhoibrítheach á chur chun cinn anois ag an Roinn idir an SSN agus an Roinn agus an EDS/Gníomhaireacht Idirnáisiúnta an Ghníomhaireacht Idirnáisiúnta um Thaighde ar Ailse chun treoir dhea-chleachtais a fhorbairt a bhaineann le scagthástáil ceirbheacs, iniúchadh agus cumarsáid san áireamh.
- In ainneoin dhúshláin phaindéim Covid-19, oibríodh clár CervicalCheck mar ba ghnách agus bhí na cuirí a tugadh chun freastal ar scagthástáil cothrom le dáta. Faoi dheireadh 2021, rinne an clár scagthástáil ar an líon céanna daoine a rinne in aon tréimhse dhá bhliain eile.

BreastCheck

- In ainneoin an iomaí srian mar gheall ar COVID-19, bhain an tSeirbhís Scagthástála Náisiúnta an ráta uasta cuirí amach chuig scagthástáil atá comhoiriúnach do mheasúnú leantach sábháilte agus rialaithe agus do thoilleadh cóireála laistigh den tseirbhís sláinte.
- Cuireadh síneadh ar BreastCheck i bhfeidhm dóibh siúd 69 bliain d'aois, agus thug an clár cuireadh do mhna 69 bliain d'aois chun freastal ar scagthástáil.

An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Reitíní do Dhiaibéitigh (Diabetic RetinaScreen/DRS)

- Mhol an LASN an DR- a mhionathrú in 2020 chun an t-eatramh a shíneadh idir scagthástálacha ó bhliain amháin go dhá bhliain i measc daoine a bhfuil diaibéiteas orthu a bhfuil baol íseal rompu i leith reitineapaite, ar aon dul le dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta.
- Tá an chonair scagthástála dhá bhliain i bhfeidhm anois agus leanfaidh thart ar 85% díobh siúd a ndearnadh scagthástáil orthu ar an gconair 2 bhliain.

Scagthástáil Phutóige (BowelScreen)

- In ainneoin srianta leanúnacha COVID-19, bhí cásanna á sceidealú ag gach aonad BowelScreen, cé go ndearnadh amhlaidh ar bhonn toilleadh laghdaithe, agus rinne ionfhoinsiú seo a fhuascailt.
- Méadaíodh an líon colpascópachta a soláthraíodh trí thoilleadh breise a fhorbairt in aonaid reatha agus nua.
- Tugadh tús áite do chuirí chun freastal ar scagthástáil phutóige bunaithe ar an tréimhse feithimh is faide agus ar iontrálaithe nua chuig an gclár scagthástála.

SEIRBHÍSÍ MEABHAIRSHLÁINTE

- Leithdháileadh €10 milliún breise ar bhonn aonuaire chun tacaíocht bhreise a thabhairt don earnáil mheabhairshláinte. Soláthraíodh €1 milliún de seo do MyMind le leanúint de sheisiúin chomhairleoireachta saor in aisce a sholáthar, i mbreis agus 15 theanga, do chliant ar imir paidéim COVID-19 tionchar diúltach orthu.
- Chun inrochtaineacht ar sheirbhísí meabhairshláinte a oiriúnú agus a fheabhsú, d'éirigh le FSS agus go leor dá chomhpháirtithe cistithe arb eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha iad roghanna nua digiteacha a thabhairt chun cinn ní ba thapúla, tacaíochtaí nuálacha ar líne, teachtaireachtaí téacs agus gutháin ina measc. Tá go leor díobh seo á bhforbairt ar feadh roinnt ama, mar chuid den réimse tionscnaimh dhigiteacha mheabhairshláinte atá ar bun in FSS.
- Críochnaíodh an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Meabhairshláinte Fóiréinsí nua a thógáil, lena n-áirítear Príomh-Ospidéal Meabhair-Ghalar nua.
- D'fhaomh an rialtas Scéim Ghinearálta Bille leis an Acht Meabhair-Shláinte a leasú agus foilsíodh é in Iúil 2021, tar éis gur caitheadh na blianta i mbun comhairliúchán forleathan le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara agus tar éis gur tugadh faoi chomhairliúchán phoiblí i Márta/Aibreán 2021. Foilsíodh tuarascáil ar an gcomhairliúchán poiblí i nDeireadh Fómhair 2021.

CÚRAM SÓISIALTA

Rialaíonn Rialacháin um Ranníocaithe Cothabhála agus Cóiríochta i leith Seirbhísí Tacaíochta Cónaithe (RSSMACanna) cé mhéid a ranníocann cónaitheoir i dtreo a gcothabhála agus a gcóiríochta i réimse suíomhanna, ionaid chónaithe san áireamh, sna hearnálacha Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte. Braitheann formhór na gcónaitheoirí sna suíomhanna seo ar íocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh dá n-ioncam.

Leasaíodh na Rialacháin seo i rith 2021 lena chinntiú nach mbeadh aon mhéaduithe ar ranníocáíochtaí d'aon duine ar athraigh a n-ioncam mar gheall go bhfuair siad méadú leasa shóisialaigh faoin mBuiséad i nDeireadh Fómhair 2021. Leasaíodh Rialacháin RSSMACanna chomh maith lena chinntiú gur cuireadh an t-athrú seo i bhfeidhm go cothrom ar gach cónaitheoir a bhfuil leibhéil chomhionanna ioncaim á bhfáil acu. Bhí an t-athrú seo sceidealaithe le cur i bhfeidhm ó thús 2022.

CÚRAM POBAIL

I measc na n-éachtaí a baineadh amach i rith 2021, tá:

- Tacaíochtaí sláinte a sholáthar do 218 duine a bhfuil taithí acu ar an easpa dídine, lena chur ar a gcumas maireachtáil i gcóiríocht a ndorais féin faoin gclár Tús Áite do Thithíocht.
- Seirbhísí sláinte pobalbhunaithe a sholáthar do dhaoine atá thíos leis an easpa dídine ar a scaoileadh amach ó Ospidéal San Séamas agus an NMUH.
- Foilsíodh athbhreithniú meántearma ar an straitéis náisiúnta drugaí agus sainaitheodh sé thosaíocht don tréimhse eile a bhí fanta idir 2021 agus 2025.

SLÁINTE BHAN

Cuireadh Ciste Sláinte Ban tiomnaithe ilbhliantúil €5 mhilliún ar fáil i mBuiséad 2021 chun clár gníomhartha a chur i bhfeidhm a eascraíonn as obair Thascfhórsa Sláinte na mBan, a bhunaigh an Roinn Sláinte chun feabhas a chur ar thorthaí sláinte ban agus ar a n-eispéiris de chúram sláinte. Déantar clár a dtugtar tús áite dóibh do shláinte bhan a athbhreithniú agus a nuashonrú go rialta mar chuid de phróiseas an phlean gníomhaíochta.

Tionscnaimh lenar thacaigh Ciste Sláinte na mBan:

- Dhá chlinic gíniceolaíochta siúlaí “cas agus cóir” a bhunú ag Ospidéal Ollscoile Thamhlachta agus Grúpa Ospidéal Ollscoil Luimnigh.
- An clinic inmheatróise ag Ospidéal Ollscoile Thamhlachta a fhairsingiú.
- Osclaíodh sainchlinic meanapáis ag an Ospidéal Náisiúnta Máithreachais.
- Soláthraíodh acmhainní do phríomhghnéithe soláthair foirne na Samhla Náisiúnta Cúraim do Sheirbhísí Gíniceolaíochta Péidiatraí.
- Sainseirbhísí meabhairshláinte imbhreithe feabhsaithe.
- Ionad Urlár an Pheilbhis a fhairsingiú ag Ospidéal Naomh Mícheál.
- Post Ardchleachtóra san Altranais i ngíniceolaíocht shiúlach ag Ospidéal an Rotunda.
- Treoir Mhearthagartha ar an meanapás do DGanna agus Altraí Cleachtaidh.
- Oiliúint Acmhainní Daonna ar an meanapás trí Sheirbhís Chúnaimh d’Fhostaithe na Státseirbhíse.
- Sraith 6 sheimineár gréasáin eolais don phobal maidir le sláinte ghíniceolaíoch, inmheatróis, mífheidhmiú urlár an pheilbhis, an meanapás, gníomhaíocht choirp, agus meabhairshláinte.
- Seimineár gréasáin maidir leis ‘an Meanapás san Ionad Oibre’.

Foirceannadh Toirchis

Foilsíodh an Dara Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar an Acht Sláinte (Foirceannadh Toirchis a Rialáil), 2018 i Meitheamh 2021. Cumhdaítear sa Tuarascáil an tréimhse ón 1 Eanáir 2020 go dtí an 31 Nollaig 2020.

Tosaíodh an t-athbhreithniú ar Rialachán an Achta Sláinte (Foirceannadh Toirchis a Rialáil), 2018 i mí na Nollag 2021, faoi mar a cheanglaítear faoi Alt 7 den Acht. Is éard atá san athbhreithniú ná cur chuige trí chuid chun breithmheas a thabhairt ar oibriú an Achta, agus díríonn na snáitheanna ar úsáideoirí seirbhíse, soláthraithe seirbhíse agus ar chomhairliúcháin poiblí. Beidh taighde neamhspleách a coimisiúnaíodh chun eolas a chur ar fáil do shnáitheanna an úsáideora seirbhíse agus soláthraithe seirbhíse mar chuid de phríomhghnéithe an athbhreithnithe. Cuirfear tuarascáil deiridh faoi bhráid an Aire lena breithniú go déanach in 2022 sula gcuirfear faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais í.

Tá an tseirbhís Mo Roghanna de chuid FSS saor in aisce do gach duine. Bíonn comhairleoirí gairmiúla taitheacha ar fáil chun caint leat faoi do roghanna uile, tacaíochtaí leanúnacha toirchis agus eolas san áireamh faoi sheirbhísí ginmhillte.

CÓGAIS

- Síníodh dhá Chreat-Chomhaontú nua ar Phraghsáil agus Soláthar Cógas 2021-2025 in 2021.
- B'ionann na comhaontuithe ilbhliantúla le Cumann Cúraim Sláinte na hÉireann don Chógaisíocht (an IPHA) agus Cógais d'Éirinn (MFI) agus céim thábhachtach chun costas cógas a laghdú agus teacht a éascú ar chógais nuálacha nua d'othair.
- Cuirfidh na margaí seo teacht Feabhsaithe ar fáil d'othair ar chógais nua agus nuálacha, laghduithe ar chostas cógas reatha agus le brú airgeadais a laghdú ar na seirbhísí sláinte amach anseo.
- Meastar gur cheart go gcuirfidh téarmaí na gComhaontuithe nua idir €600 milliún agus €700 milliún a chur i dtreo costas cógas i gcaitheamh shaolré na gComhaontuithe.

TEACHT AR THÁIRGÍ CANNABASBHUNAITHE D'ÚSÁID LEIGHIS

- Tús á chur ag FSS leis an gClár Rochtana ar Channabas Leighis agus táirgí cannabisbhunaithe a chur ar fáil lena n-úsáid sa chlár.
- Soláthraíodh 79 ceadúnas Aire do chliniceoirí chun cóir leighis a chur ar othair le táirgí cannabisbhunaithe.
- Bhí an Roinn freagrach as táirgí ordaithe cannabisbhunaithe a bhailiú agus a sholáthar go míosúil ó na soláthraithe san Ísiltír go dtí d'othair Éireannacha.

CAIBIDIL 4

MAOIRSEACT AGUS COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT SAN EARNÁIL A FHEABHSÚ

Tá an Roinn Sláinte freagrach as a chinntiú go bhfuil próisis, struchtúir rialachais agus creataí rialála i bhfeidhm san earnáil sláinte agus chúraim shóisialta, le maoirseacht éifeachtach a sholáthar. Oibríonn an Roinn i gcomhar le FSS agus lena ghníomhaireachtaí go léir le príomhstraitéisí agus príomhathchóirithe a sholáthar, trí mhonatóireacht agus bainistíocht láidir feidhmíochta san áireamh, ina ndírítear ar rialú agus torthaí airgeadais.

RIALACHAS AGUS FEIDHMÍOCHT

I measc na n-éachtaí a baineadh amach i rith 2021, tá:

- Cuireadh Rialachán (AE) 2017/745 ar fheistí leighis i bhfeidhm go náisiúnta.
- Bunaíodh Coiste Eitice Náisiúnta Taighde d'imscrúduithe cliniciúla ar fheistí leighis agus trialacha cliniciúla ar chógais.
- D'ordaigh an tAire FSS Sainghrúpa Comhairleach a bhunú maidir le Liomfóma Cill Mhóir Anaphlaistigh a bhaineann le hlonphlandú Cíche (BIA-ALCL).
- Leanadh leis an socrú rialachais idir an Roinn agus BACÉ in 2021 agus rinneadh 12 cheapachán le Bord BACÉ i mbliana, ina bhfuil 11 bhall ar éag a dtéarmaí agus folúntas ócáideach.
- Soláthraíodh croíchistiú €34,954,000 don Bhord Taighde Sláinte in 2021. B'ionann agus méadú é ar an gcroíchistiú €34,404,000 a soláthraíodh in 2020.
- Bhunaigh an BTS Bithbhanc Náisiúnta COVID-19 na hÉireann ar iarraidh na Roinne Sláinte. Soláthraíodh cistiú €2 mhilliún don chuspóir seo.
- D'éascaigh an BTS rannpháirtíocht na hÉireann i dTriail Dlúthpháirtíochta COVID-19 an EDS. Soláthraíodh cistiú €1,658,642 don chuspóir seo.
- Achtaíodh reachtaíocht le Binse CervicalCheck a shíneadh chun go bhféadfadh sé leanúint d'éisteacht agus cinntí faoi éilimh a éascú ar bhealach tráthúil agus íogair.
- Leanadh le híocaíochtaí a dhéanamh le hiarratasóirí faoi Scéim Ex-Gratia Neamhnocha CervicalCheck.
- Rinneadh 28 íocaíocht maidir le diúltuithe an Aontais Chosanta Leighis, costais socraíochta, bille costas an ghearánaí, bille costas an chosantóra agus táillí cuntasáíochta costais dlí.
- Críochnaíodh tuarascáil ar an gCód Cleachtas chun Comhlachtaí Stáit a Rialú a chomhlíonadh i measc 19 gcomhlacht faoi choimirce.
- Cuireadh trí cheardlann Rialachais Gníomhaireachta ar bun don fhoireann sa Roinn, a rinne acmhainn Rialachais agus mhaoirseachta a fhorbairt.
- Rinneadh thart ar 200 cheapachán le Boird Stáit faoi choimirce na Roinne.
- Forbraíodh togra maidir leis an Scéim Ex-Gratia Bás le linn Seirbhíse Covid-19, tar éis gur fhaomh an tAire é, agus scaipeadh é ar ranna rialtais eile i Meitheamh 2021. Rinne sé soláthar d'íocaíocht chnapshuime d'eastát aon oibrí cúraim sláinte a fuair bás tar éis gur tháinig Covid orthu i rith a gcuid oibre.

Creat Measúnaithe Feidhmíochta an Chórais Sláinte (an HSPA):

- Críochnaíodh Céim 1 den HSPA in 2021 i gcomhar leis na saineolaithe teicniúla ón Liachtlann Acadúil (Ollscoil Amstardam). Sholáthair seo creat dinimiciúil ina raibh cúig Bhraisle (Torthaí, Aschur, Próisis, Struchtúir agus Braisle Trasghearrthach). Tá 16 fhearann, 36 fofhearann agus 260 táscaire, ar an iomlán, laistigh de na Braislí seo.

- Ceadóidh an Creat measúnú a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht an chórais sláinte ina bhfuil táscairí intomhaiste agus inchainníochtaithe toradhbhunaithe ar féidir iad a nascadh le beartais agus straitéisí ábhartha sláinte. Cumasóidh sé beartas agus athchóiriú a chomhtháthú isteach i léargas foriomlán ar fheidhmíocht don chóras sláinte a cheadóidh cinní faoi bheartas sláinte atá curtha ar an eolas níos mó ag fianaise a dhéanamh.
- Thit seoladh fíorúil amach an 10 Meán Fómhair 2021 agus bhí glacadh maith leis i measc páirtithe leasmhara. Is féidir teacht ar ábhar níos mionsonraithe ar chreat an HSPA ar gov.ie¹¹
- Lean an Roinn le maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht FSS in 2021 tríd an tsamhail rannpháirtíochta feidhmíochta lenar comhaontaíodh idir an Roinn Sláinte agus FSS a chur i bhfeidhm. Déantar soláthar sa tsamhail do chruinnithe míosúla ar leibhéal éagsúla idir an Roinn agus FSS, chun plé a dhéanamh ar shaincheisteanna feidhmíochta leanúnacha nó atá ag teacht chun cinn agus cinneadh a dhéanamh faoi ghníomhartha chun feabhas a chur ar limistéir is ábhar buartha.

An Bille Sláinte, 2021

- Lorgaíonn an Bille Sláinte, 2021 an tAcht Sláinte, 2004 a leasú chun soláthar a dhéanamh d'athruithe ar phróisis phleanála corparáidí agus seirbhíse FSS i measc forálacha eile.
- D'fhaomh an rialtas Scéim Ghinearálta an Bhille i bhFeabhra, críochnaíodh grinnscrúdú réamhrechtach in Iúil agus tosaíodh dréachtú an Bhille i rith 2021.
- Tá breithniú á dhéanamh ar dhréachtú i gcomhthéacs an Bhille Sláinte (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2021 a bhfuil cuid d'fhorálacha céanna an Achta Sláinte á leasú aige, lena chinntiú go dtagtar go cuí leis na leasuithe a bheartaítear.

PLEANÁIL STRAITÉISEACH AN LUCHT SAOTHAIR

- Fostaíodh 6,149 ball foirne breise in 2021, 352 ball foirne Leighis agus Fiaclóireachta, 1,660 ball foirne Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais, 1,192 Gairmí Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialta agus 1,946 gairmí cúraim sláinte eile. Coimeádadh thart ar 2,500 ball foirne CLA tríd an ngníomhaireacht chun freagairt ar leith a sholáthar ar chonarthaí sealadacha.
- Tosaíodh le Céim 1 den Chreat Soláthair Foirne Shábháilte a thabhairt isteach – Bardaí Géarmhíochaine agus Máinliachta Othar Cónaitheach. Soláthraíodh €10 milliún do FSS le foireann bhreise, ag brath ar riachtanas agus géire othair.
- Bunaíodh Céim 3 den Tascfhórsa um Sholáthar Foirne Sábháilte Altraí – Suíomhanna Cúraim Chónaithe Fhadtéarmaigh agus sainnithníodh naoi suíomh phíolótacha. Tá suíomhanna poiblí, deonacha agus príobháideacha sna suíomhanna seo atá beag, meánach agus mór ó thaobh méide de i gceantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe go náisiúnta. Ceapadh foireann taighde ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh faoi stiúir an Ollaimh Jonathan Drennan chun tabhairt faoin gclár píolótach agus measúnú a dhéanamh ar na torthaí do chónaitheoirí agus don fhoireann.
- I ngeall ar obair le BACÉ maidir lena thosaíocht straitéiseach chlaochlaithe dhigitigh, ba é 2021 an bhliain tionscnaimh inar próiseáladh an tháillí clárúcháin bhliantúil ar an gcóras ar líne digiteach MyNMBI. Ceadáíonn seo sonraí níos cruinne faoin lucht saothair a sholáthar do na gairmeacha.

¹¹ : <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6660a-health-system-performance-assessment-hspa-framework/>

- Rinne an Roinn idirchaidreamh le FSS, an RBOAOTNE, agus Institiúidí Ardoideachais maidir le háiteanna breise CAO do mhic léinn ar chúrsaí a bhaineann leis an tsláinte i mbliain acadúil 2021/2022, ónar eascair 393 áit bhreise ardoideachais sa tSláinte, Eolaíocht Sláinte, Altranas agus Leigheas.
- Tháinig méadú 120 in 2021 ar an líon poist intéirnigh Dochtúra. Tá méadú 309 duine tagtha ar an líon Dochtúirí Ospidéal Neamh-Chomhairleacha (NCHDanna) in áiteanna oiliúna foirmiúla aníos go dtí 3,988 agus faoi bhreis agus 800 le 4 bliana anuas. Bunaíodh 40 Comhaltacht bhreose Iardheimhnithe um Chríochnú Sásúil Sainoiliúna (CSCST) in 2021 agus is ionann seo agus sraith thábhachtach oiliúna a chabhraíonn le speisialtóirí oilte a choimeád in Éirinn tar éis dóibh CSCST a chur i gcrích.
- B'ionann an líon daoine a glacadh isteach sa Chlár Oiliúna Cleachtais Ghinearálta in 2021 agus 235. Beartaítear an glacadh bliantúil isteach sna chéad chúig bliana eile amach romhainn a mhéadú aníos go 350.
- An Roinn idirchaidreamh le hOifig Gairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialta Náisiúnta (GSCSanna) FSS maidir le scóip an chleachtais do GSCSanna a fhairsingíú i gcomhthéacs an chreata ardchleachtais a fhorbairt. Déanann conairí gairme a sholáthar agus tacú le GSCSanna a scóip chleachtais a shíneadh agus oibriú ar bharr an cheadúnaithe coinneáil agus sásamh níos mó poist a chur chun cinn.

Rochtain Fheabhsaithe ar Áiteanna Oiliúna Iarchéime

- I gcomhairle le FSS, chuir an Roinn athruithe i bhfeidhm ar an mbeartas maidir le Rogha Pobail an AE a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le teacht ar chlár oiliúna leighis iarchéime.
- Leasaíodh an beartas le gach Sealbhóir Viosa Stampa 4 a chur san áireamh. Leithdháiltear áiteanna sainoiliúna atá ar fáil anois ar an gcéad dul síos ar na hiarrthóirí siúd, ar saoránaigh na hÉireann nó náisiúnaigh Bhallstát eile an Aontais Eorpaigh, Sealbhóirí Viosa Stampa 4 agus náisiúnaigh an RA iad ag tráth an iarratais.
- Cuireann an t-athrú seo beartais deiseanna gairm bheatha níos fearr ar fáil do dhochtúirí Neamh-AE/LEE a chuir go mór lenár seirbhís sláinte.

Athruithe ar Cheadanna Inimirce

- Bronnann na hathruithe na cearta céanna ar fhormhór ndochtúirí a bhfuil Ceadanna Fostaíochta Ginearálta acu atá rannpháirteach i Scéim an Cheada Fostaíochta Scileanna Criticiúla agus a dhéanann láthair i bhfad níos mealltaí d'Éirinn do dhochtúirí teacht chuici, a chabhraíonn leis an tseirbhís sláinte foireann leighis a mhealladh agus a choinneáil.
- Laghdaíonn sé an t-ualach riaracháin a leagann an Stát ar dhochtúirí agus ar a bhfostóirí. Is féidir le formhór na ndochtúirí neamh-LEE, as seo amach, atá sa Stát cheana féin ar feadh idir 2 agus 5 bliana agus a bhfuil Cead Fostaíochta Ginearálta acu iarratas a dhéanamh ar chead nua a bhronnann an ceart orthu oibriú gan chead.
- Gheobhaidh a gcéilí nó a bpáirtneirí cead freisin a cheadaíonn dóibh oibriú.

Straitéis Pleanála an Lucht Saothair agus an tSamhail Réamh-Mheastacháin Pleanála.

- Leagtar amach i dTosaíocht 4 Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023 na Roinne cuspóir na Roinne Straitéis Pleanála an Lucht Saothair agus Samhail Réamh-Mheastacháin Pleanála a fhorbairt.
- Thosaigh an Roinn tionscadal in 2021 le Straitéis Pleanála agus Plean Gníomhaíochta an Lucht Saothair Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialta agus Samhail Réamh-Mheastacháin Pleanála a fhorbairt d'Éirinn chun dul i ngleic le riachtanais fhadtéarmacha pheanála lucht saothair na hearnála sláinte. Táthar ag tabhairt faoin obair seo le tacaíocht na hArd-Stiúirtheachta um Thacaíocht le hAthchóiríú Struchtúr Struchtúr Athchóiríú Tacaíocht (an AS um Athchóiríú Choimisiún an AE) faoi choimirce a nIonstraime Tacaíochta Teicniúla (TSI) chun an saineolas teicniúil a sholáthar leis an tionscadal uailmhianach seo a sholáthar.

- Is é cuspóir an tionscadail seo réamh-mheastacháin cásbhunaithe ar sholáthar agus éileamh an lucht saothair sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a fhorbairt a chuireann eolas ar fáil do straitéis, plean gníomhaíochta agus sraith moltaí le haghaidh pleanáil leanúnach straitéiseach an lucht saothair sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta. Cuirfidh an tionscadal na huirlisí riachtanacha, na próisis, agus an acmhainn theicniúil ar fáil chun pleananna gníomhaíochta rollacha lucht saothair sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a chur le chéile agus cuirfidh sé bearta spriocdhírthe beartais i bhfeidhm ar mhaithe le hathchóiriú an lucht saothair sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta.

COMHAR THUAIDH-THEAS

An Tuaisceart/an Deisceart agus an RA: Lean an Roinn Sláinte ag tabhairt faoi fheidhmeanna maoirseachta a bhaineann leis na tionscadail sláinte agus shóisialta tionscadail faoi chlár INTERREG VA trasteorann an AE le Tuaisceart Éireann agus le hAlbain. D'oibrigh an Roinn chomh maith le comhpháirtithe ábhartha chun ullmhú don chéad chlár eile de chuid PEACE PLUS, atá le seoladh in 2022.

Rinne an Roinn comhoibriú a chothú agus a fhorbairt maidir le saincheisteanna sláinte Thuaidh/Theas i rith 2021. Áiríodh leis seo:

- Oibriú le Roinn an Taoisigh le Plé Comhroinnte Oileáin a chur ar siúl ar an tSláinte in Iúil 2021.
- Thug an Plé 'Oibriú le Chéile ar mhaithe le hOileán Níos Sláintiúla' ('Working Together for a Healthier Island'), deis chun plé cuiditheach agus ionchuimsitheach cathartha a chothú ar ghnéithe sláinte de thodhchaí chomhroinnte ar an oileán.
- Ghlac breis agus 120 duine páirt sa phlé, ag ar labhair an tAire Donnelly agus ina raibh trí phléphainéal: todhchaí an chomhoibrithe sláinte poiblí ar an oileán; cuir chuige i leith tionscnaimh shláinte trasteorann a fhorbairt agus a sholáthar; agus deiseanna chun comhoibriú tionchair a dhéanamh ar an meabhairshláinte agus ar fhéinmharú a chosc ar an oileán.
- Tionóladh dhá chruinniú Earnáil Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta Bia na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh/Theas in 2021, a thug le chéile Airí an Tuaiscirt agus Deiscirt chun plé a dhéanamh ar limistéir an chomhoibrithe trasteorann sláinte ó fhreagairt COVID-19 i leith taighde ailse agus chur chun cinn na sláinte.

AN BREATIMEACHT

- Nuair a baineadh deireadh na hidirthréimhse amach an 31 Nollaig 2020, bhí páirt iomlán á glacadh ag an Roinn Sláinte i struchtúir thrasrialtais le tionchar aistarraingt an RA ón Aontas Eorpach a bhainistiú. Thionóil an Roinn struchtúir na hearnála sláinte chomh maith a thug páirtithe leasmhara, FSS, ÚSBÉ agus an tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte (an ÚRTS) ina measc, le chéile chun cabhrú le tionchair an Bhreatimeachta ar chúram sláinte a sholáthar in Éirinn ón 1 Eanáir 2021.
- Thit rannpháirtíocht leanúnach amach leis an gCoimisiún agus le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha lena chinntiú gur leanadh le cógais a sholáthar i ndiaidh an Bhreatimeachta. D'éascair an pacáiste reachtaíochta cógaisíochta a bheartaítear a réitíonn roinnt saincheisteanna de chuid na hÉireann go dtí deireadh 2024 as an obair.
- Rinneadh obair obair fhairsing chun éifeacht a thabhairt do shocruithe nua cúraim sláinte a chur i bhfeidhm i ndiaidh an Bhreatimeachta. Tá Comhaontú Trádála agus Comhair an AE-an RA i bhfeidhm ón 1 Eanáir 2021 agus leantar le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar a chur i bhfeidhm.

Daoine fásta a chosaint san earnáil sláinte

Tá ardchéim bainte amach ag an Roinn i dtaobh beartas náisiúnta maidir le cosaint daoine fásta a fhorbairt san earnáil sláinte agus chúraim shóisialta. Áiríodh leis an obair seo dhá pháipéar mhóra taighde a fhoilsiú i bhFeabhra 2021 a choimisiúnaigh an Roinn.

- Thug an Institiúid Sláinte Poiblí (an ISP) faoi ghrúpaí fócais le húsáideoirí seirbhíse sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta a bhféadfadh go ndéanfadh beartas náisiúnta um chosaint daoine fásta don earnáil sláinte agus chúraim shóisialta difear dóibh. Cinnteoidh an tuarascáil ar na grúpaí fócais seo go n-éistear lena nglórtha fad a bhíonn beartas á fhorbairt.
- Thug Mazars faoi athbhreithniú neamhspleách idirnáisiúnta ar fhianaise thaighde eolas a chur ar fáil don bheartas náisiúnta.
- Tá an dá thuarascáil foilsithe ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne¹².

Ospidéal Pháirc Bhaile na Lobhar:

Rinne an Roinn comhordú ar an gceapadh a rinne an tAire ar an mBord Bainistíochta nua d'Ospidéal Pháirc Bhaile na Lobhar.

BONNEAGAR CAIPITIL/MÓRTHIONSCADAIL CHAIPITIL

Tionscadal Ospidéal na Leanáí (OLN) Nua

Tá Tionscadal an OLN ar an gclár infheistíochta caipitil is mó faoinar tugadh riamh i gcóras cúraim sláinte na hÉireann agus tugann an rialtas tús áite dó. Is éard atá sa tionscadal ná an OLN ag Ospidéal San Séamas anuas ar Ionad Cúraim Práinne ag Ospidéal Uí Chonghaile, Baile Bhlainséir, agus an tIonad Othar Seachtrach Péidiatrach agus Cúraim Éigeandála ag Ospidéal Ollscoile Thamhlachta. Anuas ar ghlacadh le ról lárnach i dtaobh seirbhísí cúraim sláinte géarmhíochaine péidiatraí a sholáthar, beidh an OLN in Ospidéal San Séamas ar an bpríomhionad le haghaidh oideachas, oiliúint, agus taighde péidiatrach in Éirinn.

In ainneoin na ndúshlán soiléir a chruthaigh paidéim COVID-19, rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach ar an tionscadal in 2021, an méid seo a leanas ina measc:

- Baineadh garsprioc mhór amach i Márta 2021 nuair a rinneadh bailchríoch a chur ar an bhfoirgneamh ag Ospidéal San Séamas, tráth a d'éirigh cruth sainiúil an fhoirgnimh soiléir.
- Tosaíodh feistiú na limistéar inmheánach, ina raibh limistéir agus obrádlanna Cúraim Chriticiúil in 2021, agus tá seomraí agus limistéir chliniciúla in-aitheanta anois.
- Doirteadh 150,000 méadar ciúbach de choincréit i rith 3 bliana (ar a raibh meáchan breis agus 360,000 tonna), ar leor sin le 60 linn snámha Oilimpeach a líonadh, agus cuireadh 2,300 tonna de struchtúr cruach in airde.
- Suiteáladh breis agus 800 fuinneog, anuas ar 17,000 méadar cearnach de ghloiniú agus 5,800 méadar cearnach d'aghaidh chloiche. Suiteáladh 86,000 méadar cearnach de spiaráí inmheánacha agus fad comhionann le 26 km de bhallaí inmheánacha in 2021.

¹² <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2861af-adult-safeguarding/#consultation-and-research>

- Críochnaíodh spásanna taispeántais i Samhain 2021. Cruthaíonn iad seo íomhá de na háiseanna agus seirbhísí atá lárnaíoch i dtaobh leanaí agus an teaghlaigh a bheidh ar fáil.
- Críochnaíodh an chuid ba mhó den Ionad Othar Seachtrach Péidiatrach agus Cúraim Éigeandála i Meán Fómhair 2021 agus d'oscail an tAire Sláinte é i Samhain 2021 i ndiaidh tréimhse choimisiúnaithe. Cuirfidh an áis nua cóiríocht ar fáil d'fhreastal a mhéid le 17,000 othar seachtrach agus 25,000 othar cúraim éigeandála sa bhliain.
- Bhain an t-ospidéal rátáil inbhuanaitheachta in 2021 nuair a bronnadh deimhniúchán céim Shárdhearaidh BREEAM air. Tá an OLN ar cheann de dhornán beag ospidéal ar domhan a bhfuil an rátáil inbhuanaitheachta seo bainte amach acu.
- Dearadh an OLN go mbainfidh sé caighdeán náisiúnta Rátála Fuinnimh Foirgnimh A3 amach, ónar gá feabhas 50% a chur ar an mbunídiú fuinnimh os cionn an tagarmhairc.
- Glacadh le cur chuige costála saoil iomláin nuair a bhí aghaidh an fhoirgnimh, seirbhísí innealtóireachta, sócmhainní foirgnimh agus an trealamh cliniciúil a roghnaíodh á ndearadh.

CÚRAM SCEIDEALAITHE

- D'fhaomh an rialtas Straitéis Náisiúnta Cúraim Shiúlaigh Roghnaigh Sláintecare i mí na Nollag 2021, a athróidh an bealach is féidir socrú níos fearr a dhéanamh ar chásanna lae, gnáthaimh sceidealaithe, máinliacht, scanadh agus seirbhísí d'othair sheachtracha le toilleadh níos mó a chinntiú amach anseo agus cabhróidh sé le dul i ngleic le liostaí feithimh.
- Soláthrófar toilleadh gnáthamh sceidealaithe/othar seachtrach a fhorbairt trí Ionaid Chúraim Roghnaigh aonair thiomnaithe i gCorcaigh, Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath. Cuirfidh siad cumhdach ar fáil do bhreis agus 80% den daonra, a fhreastalaíonn ar a mhéid le 940,000 gnáthamh gach bliain. Cuirfidh siad toilleadh breise ar fáil agus cabhróidh siad le dul i ngleic le liostaí feithimh, agus bheith chomh solúbtha agus chomh hinoiriúnaithe agus is féidir chun céim amach anseo a éascú, lena n-áireofaí roinnt cóireáil roghnach othar cónaitheach. Áireofar le gnáthaimh lae a chuirtear ar fáil sa chéad chéim Curam Gastraistéigeach, Gíniceolaíocht, Oftailmeolaíocht, agus Ortaipéidic.
- Mar fhreagairt do mholtaí a rinne PwC, d'fhaomh an rialtas socrúithe leasaithe rialachais don chéad chéim eile de thionscadal an OLN i Samhain 2021, Grúpa Maoirseachta Náisiúnta a bunaíodh le déanaí san áireamh, ar a ndéanann Ard-Rúnaí na Roinne Sláinte cathaoirleacht. Áireofar leis seo freisin POF FSS agus saineolas seachtrach le maoirseacht agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn ar Chlár Ospidéal na Leanaí.
- Cheap an tAire an tUasal Fiona Ross mar Chathaoirleach Bhord Forbartha an Ospidéil Náisiúnta Péidiatraicigh (an NPHDB) in Iúil 2021, tar éis gur ceapadh an tUasal Michael Barry agus an tUasal Brian Keogh roimhe seo leis an mBord i bhFeabhra.
- Is é ról Bhord an NPHDB agus Cathaoirligh rathúil a chinntiú go bhfuil úinéireacht chorparáideach ar chríochnú rathúil an OLN agus cinnteacht níos fearr a chur ar fáil do sholáthar tráthúil agus cost-éifeachtúil an tionscadail.

CAIBIDIL 5

EAGRAÍOCHT ATÁ OIRIÚNACH DON TODHCHAÍ A CHRUTHÚ

Caithfidh an Roinn a chinntiú go bhfuil an cumas, na daoine, an struchtúr agus an cultúr ceart aici lena misean agus a cuspóirí straitéiseacha a chur chun cinn. Tá sí tiomanta do chinntiú go léirítear meas ar an bhfoireann go léir agus go gcuirtear ar a gcumas rannchuidiú agus feidhmiú ar ardleibhéal.

AN OIFIG OIBRÍOCHTAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA

Bunaíodh Oifig Oibríochtaí Corparáideacha na Roinne i bhFeabhra 2021 agus ceapadh Príomhoifigeach Oibríochtaí, leis na cuspóirí seo a leanas a bhaint amach:

- Creataí bainistíochta faisnéise, bainistíochta riosca, pleanála gnó agus straitéisí, agus rialachais chorparáidigh na Roinne a oibriú agus a fheabhsú go leanúnach.
- Feabhsúcháin ar phróiseas gnó a sholáthar.
- Ceannas a ghlacadh ar Nuálaíocht.
- Saincheisteanna um shaoráil faisnéise a bhainistiú.
- Ceannas a ghlacadh ar idirchaidreamh na Roinne le Tithe an Oireachtais a chomhordú.
- Tacaíocht a sholáthar d'oifigí an Aire, na nAirí Stáit agus an Ard-Rúnaí.

Rinne an Oifig Oibríochtaí Corparáideach bainistiú ar 15,209 Ceist Pharlaiminte, 21,606 Uiríoll agus 680 iarraidh ar Shaoráil Faisnéise thar ceann na Roinne.

RÁITEAS STRAITÉISE

- D'fhoilsigh an Roinn a Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023 le fíis, misean agus tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha na Roinne a leagan amach don chéad tréimhse eile 3 bliana. Sainithníodh cúig thosaíocht uileghabhálacha, agus rinneadh dul chun cinn a thomhas i dTuarascálacha Bliantúla na Roinne.
- Is iad na cúig thosaíocht i Ráiteas Straitéise na Roinne 2021-2023:
 - COVID-19 a bhainistiú agus sláinte phoiblí a chur chun cinn.
 - Cúram sa phobal a fhairsingiú agus a chomhtháthú.
 - Teacht ar chúram sláinte a dhéanamh níos cothroime agus níos tapúla.
 - Maoirseacht agus ar chomhpháirtíocht san earnáil a fheabhsú.
 - Eagraíocht atá oiriúnach don todhchaí a chruthú.
- Bunaítear sa Ráiteas Straitéise 2021-2023 tiomantas na Roinne do chearta daonna agus comhionannas, ar aon dul le Dualgas na hEarnála Poiblí (faoi Alt 42 den Acht um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas, 2014). Áirítear le gníomhartha tiomanta do thréimhse straitéiseach 2021-2023 tabhairt faoi fhéinmheasúnú, maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar ár gcomhlachtaí coimirce, straitéisí náisiúnta gaolmhara a chur i bhfeidhm agus tuairisciú ar dhul chun cinn inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil.

NOCHTADH COSANTA

Rinneadh seacht nochtadh aonair fhéideartha leis an Aire Sláinte in 2021. Rinneadh gach ceann den Nochtadh Cosanta seo faoi Alt 6 nó Alt 8 den Acht um Nochtadh Cosanta, 2014. Ciallaíonn seo nach ndearna fostaithe na Roinne an nochtadh agus, ina ionad sin, gur bhain siad le hoibrí nó le hoibríthe a bhí fostaithe i gcomhlacht poiblí faoi shainchúram an Aire/na Roinne, sa tréimhse a chumhdaíonn an tuarascáil seo. Ní bhfuarthas aon Nochtadh Cosanta ó oibrí a bhí fostaithe ag an Roinn Sláinte.

ACMHAINNÍ DAONNA (AD)

- Bhí 691 ball foirne (673.29 Coibhéis Lánaimeartha) fostaithe ag an Roinn ag deireadh 2021. Rinne an Roinn bainistiú ar ionghlacadh suntasach foirne le tacaíocht a thabhairt don fhreagairt don phaindéim agus le córas coraintín éigeantaigh óstáin a bhunú.
- Leanadh le clár tacaíochtaí Folláine na Roinne in 2021. Tugadh Pacaí Folláine don fhoireann go léir i Márta 2021, ina gcuimsítear tacaíochtaí éagsúla le gníomhaíochtaí meabhrach, fisiciúla agus sláinte sóisialta a spreagadh.
- Bunaíodh Grúpa Oibre do Chomhionannas, Éagsúlacht agus Ionchuimsiú in 2021 le cultúr feasachta agus measa ar chomhionannas, éagsúlacht agus ionchuimsiú laistigh den ionad oibre a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn go réamhghníomhach.
- Soláthraíodh réimse idirghabháil foghlama in 2021 chun tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha foghlama a bhaint amach, sraith léachtaí inmheánacha ar phróisis ghnó agus reachtaíochta, modúl Ríomhfhoghlama agus oiliúint ceannaireachta ar líne ar an Rialachán Ginearálta um Chosaint Sonraí (an RGCS).
- Chuir an Roinn go gníomhach leis an bhfeagairt fhoriomlán Acmhainní Daonna don tionchar a d'imir COVID-19 trí pháirt a ghlacadh i nGrúpa na hEarnála Státseirbhíse, ar a ndearna an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe cathaoirleacht.
- Roghnaíodh ceithre thionscadal ón Roinn Sláinte mar chraobhiomaitheoirí sna Gradaim Sármhaitheasa agus Nuálaíochta sa Státseirbhís.
- Gheall an rialtas don sprioc fostaíochta seirbhíse poiblí a mhéadú ar a laghad 6% faoin mbliain 2024 do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas. Tá an sprioc seo á sárú ag an Roinn Sláinte tar éis gur dhearbhaigh 7.5% den fhoireann go bhfuil siad faoi mhíchumas in 2021.

TEICNEOLAÍOCHT FAISNÉISE AGUS CUMARSÁIDE (TFC)

Bhí bonneagar TFC na Roinne thíos le cibearionsaí tromchúiseach an 14 Bealtaine 2021, tráth a rinneadh ionsaí freisin ar chóras TFC FSS. Mar bheart réamhchúramach, dúnadh córais TFC na Roinne síos le sláine na gcóras agus na sonraí a chosaint, agus le deis a sholáthar tabhairt faoin anailís riachtanach agus cosaint a dhéanamh in aghaidh aon ionsaithe bhreise.

Rinne an Roinn idirchaidreamh leis an Lárionad Náisiúnta Cibearshlándála agus chuir sí gníomhartha breise maolaithe i bhfeidhm, agus thosaigh sí an próiseas le cineál agus méid an ionsaithe agus na gníomhartha riachtanacha faoina dtabharfaí ina dhiaidh a shainithint. Ní raibh teacht ar líonra na Roinne ag an bhfoireann ar feadh roinnt seachtainí, agus ní raibh teacht ar roinnt córais leagáide ar feadh tréimhse níos faide.

Rinne gníomh faoinar thug an Roinn maolú in aghaidh iarmhairtí i bhfad níos tromchúisí, ach d'imir an t-ionsaí tionchar suntasach ar chumas na Roinne tabhairt faoina hobair ar feadh roinnt míonna ina dhiaidh sin. Tugadh faoi chleachtadh 'na ceachtanna a foghlaimíodh' ag féachaint le leanúnachas gnó a chinntiú i gcás go ndéanfaí cibearionsaí eile.

- D’oibrigh an Roinn le FSS le feabhas a chur ar cibear-athléimneacht i ndiaidh an chibearionsaithe. Ba éard a bhain leis an obair ná beagnach 2,000 córas a athchóiriú agus a aisghabháil, méideanna móra de bhonneagar teicniúil TFC a athsholáthar nó a uasghrádú agus córais fheabhsaithe mhonatóireachta a bhunú chun an córas sláinte a chosaint ó ionsaithe breise.
- Leanadh le teacht cianda a sholáthar don fhoireann go léir ar sheirbhísí TFC le cianoibriú a éascú.
- Tugadh faoi athbhreithniú iomlán slándála ar an mbonneagar agus suiteáladh sainbhogearraí breise chun maolú a dhéanamh in aghaidh bogearraí mailíseacha, agus le fógraí luatha rabhaidh a sholáthar i leith bagairtí.

BAINISTÍOCHT TAIFEAD

Rinneadh Beartas Bainistíochta Taifead nua na Roinne a chríochnú agus a eisiúint don fhoireann go léir, ina leagtar amach príomhrialacha ar dhea-chleachtas i mBainistíocht Taifead do cháipéisí. Rinneadh crann cinntí comhfhreagrais a chríochnú agus a eisiúint don fhoireann go léir anuas ar ríomhphoist sheachtainiúla Bhainistíocht Taifead a rinne dea-chleachtas a chur chun cinn agus a eisíodh i rith Dheireadh Fómhair agus na Samhna. Forbraíodh Líonra Oifigigh Faisnéise le dea-chleachtas a chinntiú in aonaid ar fud na Roinne.

COSAINT SONRAÍ

Tá an Roinn Sláinte tiomanta do chearta agus príobháideacht ábhair shonraí a chosaint. Soláthraíodh comhairle agus tacaíocht d’aonaid ghnó agus don bhord bainistíochta chun oibleagáidí cosanta sonraí na Roinne a shásamh faoi mar a leagtar amach sa reachtaíocht um chosaint sonraí.

Cuireadh comhlíonadh an RGCS i bhfeidhm i rith 2021 tríd an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Comhairle agus tacaíocht a sholáthar d’Aonaid Ghnó ar réimse ceisteanna agus saincheisteanna um chosaint sonraí, an fhreagairt sláinte poiblí do Covid agus an t-ionsaí cibearshlándála san áireamh.
- Trí leanúint le feachtas a mhúscailt ar chosaint sonraí sa Roinn trí acmhainní eolais um chosaint sonraí agus ríomhphoist eolais a fhorbairt don fhoireann.
- Cúrsa éigeantach oiliúna ar líne a fhorbairt agus a thabhairt isteach i Meán Fómhair 2021, atá ar fáil don fhoireann go léir ar bhonn leanúnach.
- Tús a chur le hathbhreithniú ar chomhlíonadh um chosaint sonraí ar fud na Roinne.
- Cúnamh a sholáthar do bhaill an phobail le ceisteanna agus iarrataí um chosaint sonraí le haghaidh rochtana.

FORBAIRT INBHUANAITHE

Ghlac an NA agus a Bhallstáit le 17 Sprioc Forbartha Inbhuanaithe (SFlanna) an NA in 2015 mar chuid de Chlár Oibre 2030 don Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe. Ghlac Éire le cur chuige ‘uile-rialtais’ i dtreo na SFlanna a bhaint amach, agus tá freagracht ar gach Aire as spriocanna a chur i bhfeidhm a bhaineann lena limistéir bheartais faoi seach.

Leagtar tromlach an ghnímh a bhaineann le sláinte faoi na SFlanna amach in SFI 3, Sláinte agus Folláine Mhaith. Is féidir teacht ar eolas faoin dul chun cinn a rinneadh orthu seo agus ar ghníomhartha eile SFI ag: [Mol Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe na hÉireann](#)

Aguisín 1: Faisnéis Chorporáideach

BORD BAINISTÍOCHTA NA ROINNE SLÁINTE IN 2021

Robert Watt

Ard-Rúnaí (Eatramhach ón 7 Eanáir 2021, Ceapadh é an 20 Aibreán 2021)

Paul Bolger

Stiúrthóir (go dtí an 10 Bealtaine 2021)

Acmhainní

Tracey Conroy

Rúnaí Cúnta

Beartas Ospidéal Ghéarmhíochaine

Greg Dempsey

Leas-Rúnaí

Rialachas agus Feidhmíocht

Colm Desmond

Rúnaí Cúnta (go dtí an 3 Meán Fómhair 2021)

Reachtaíocht Chorporáideach, Meabhairshláinte, Beartas Drugaí agus Sábháilteacht Bhia

Fergal Goodman

Rúnaí Cúnta

Cosaint Sláinte

An Dr Tony Holohan

Príomhoifigeach Leighis

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Leighis

Rachel Kenna

Rúnaí Cúnta

Beartas Altranais/Cnáimhseachais, Rialáil Ghairmiúil, Pleanáil an Lucht Saothair, agus Gairmithe Sláinte Comhghaolmhara

An Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan

Rúnaí Cúnta (go dtí an 9 Deireadh Fómhair 2021)

Cúram Sóisialta

Laura Magahy

Leas-Rúnaí (go dtí an 27 Deireadh Fómhair 2021)

Sláintecare

Louise McGirr

Rúnaí Cúnta (ón 19 Deireadh Fómhair 2021)

Beartas Fostaíochta agus Caidrimh Thionsclaíoch na hEarnála Sláinte

Muiris O'Connor

Rúnaí Cúnta

Taighde agus Forbairt agus Anailísíocht Sláinte

Colm O'Reardon

Ard-Rúnaí Gníomhach (go dtí an 5 Eanáir 2021)

Leas-Rúnaí (go dtí an 1 Feabhra 2021)

An Rannán Beartais agus Straitéise

Derek Tierney

Rúnaí Cúnta (ón 31 Bealtaine 2021)

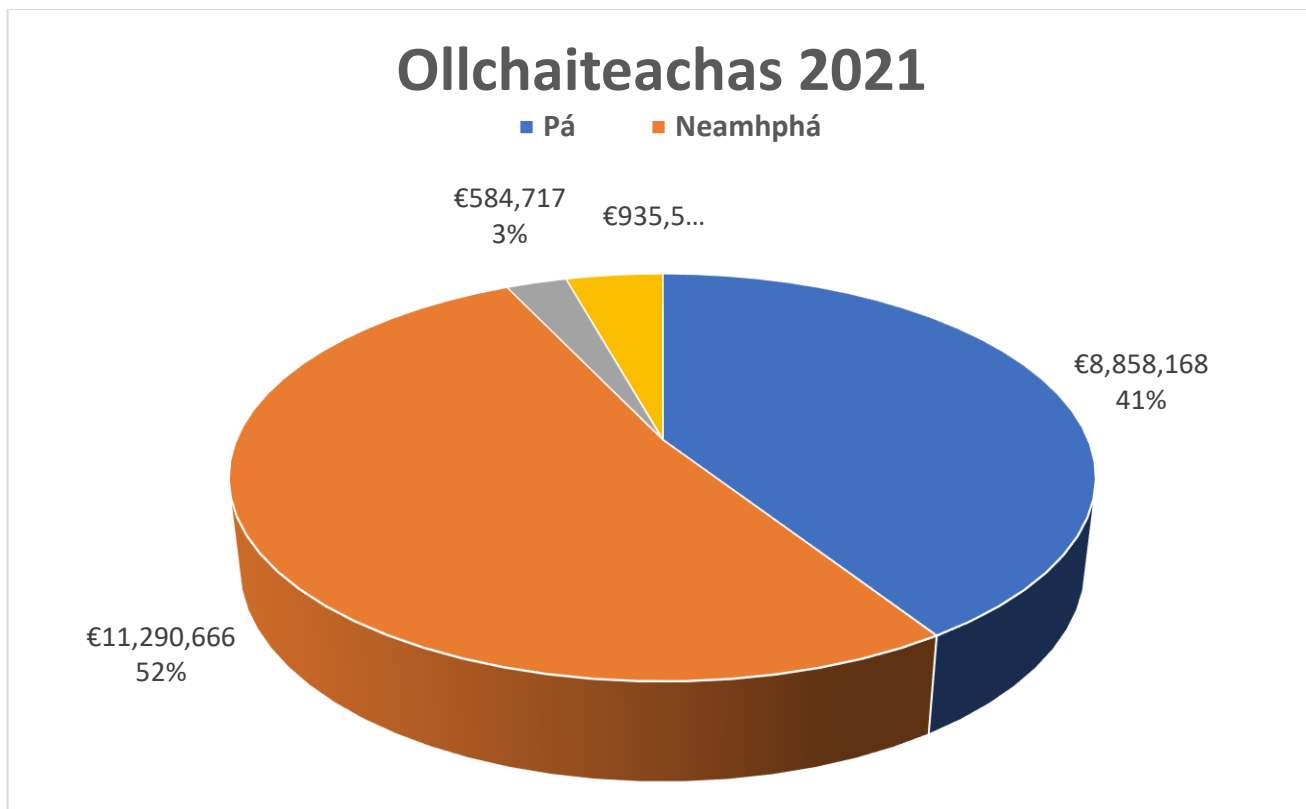
Bonneagar Sláinte

PRÓIFÍL CHORPARÁIDEACH

Bhí 691 ball foirne ag fónamh sa Roinn Sláinte (CLA 673.29) ag deireadh mhí na Nollag 2021. Anuas ar thacú leis an Aire Sláinte, thacaigh foireann na Roinne freisin leis an triúr Airí Stáit.

Bhainistigh an Roinn ollbhuiséad de bhreis ar €22.129 billiún in 2021. B'ionann leithreasáí i gcabhair buiséadta sa bhliain agus €0.433 billiún, a d'fhág glanbhuiséad €21.696 billiún. B'ionann an t-ollchaiteachas sa bhliain agus €21.669 billiún agus b'ionann leithreasáí i gcabhair agus €0.473 billiún. D'eascair glanchaiteachas €21.196 billiún as seo.

B'ionann ollchaiteachas a thabhaigh an Roinn Sláinte sa bhliain agus 24.37% de chaiteachas iomlán ginearálta an rialtais sa bhliain. B'ionann glanchaiteachas agus 29.01% de shaincheisteanna státchiste an rialtais láir sa bhliain. Bhí íocaíochtaí amach €21.270 billiún le FSS, €231 milliún le gníomhaireachtaí eile i gceist leis an ollchaiteachas €21.669 billiún sa bhliain agus thabhaigh an Roinn €168 milliún.



Nóta – tá na figiúirí sa chart thuas i mílte

SRACFHÉACHAINT AR FHREAGAIRTÍ PARLAIMINTEACHA IN 2021

D'fhreagair an Roinn Sláinte breis agus 27% de na Ceisteanna Parlaiminte go léir a cuireadh in 2021.

Ceisteanna Parlaiminteacha (gan iad siúd a aistarraingíodh/nár ceadaíodh a áireamh)	15,209
Na ceisteanna díobh siúd a atreoraíodh chuig FSS chun Freagra Díreach a fháil orthu	7,113
Líon na nUiríoll a Fuarthas	21,606
Saincheisteanna Tráthúla Tugtha chun Solais	395
Saincheisteanna Tráthúla Roghnaithe	70
Tosach Feidhme sa Seanad Tugtha chun Solais	175
Tosach Feidhme sa Seanad Roghnaithe	72

SAORÁIL FAISNÉISE

Phróiseáil an Roinn 680 iarraidh ar Shaoráil Faisnéise (SF) in 2021, a ndearna na meáin 383 díobh. Chomhordaigh an fhoireann SF freagairt na roinne do na hiarrataí seo trí iad a lógáil, iad a shannadh don limistéar ceart, agus oibriú leis na daoine a rinne na hiarrataí agus na cinnteoirí lena chinntiú go sásaíonn an roinn a hoibleagáidí faoin Acht um Shaoráil Faisnéise. Chabhraigh an fhoireann chomh maith le baill den phobal teacht ar eolas lasmuigh den phróiseas foirmiúil SF, mar shampla, nuair a bhí an t-eolas san fhearann poiblí cheana féin. Chomhordaigh an fhoireann SF freagairt na Roinne don athbhreithniú leanúnach a rinne an RCPA ar an reachtaíocht SF.

Ghlac an Roinn in 2021 leis an bhfeidhmchlár r-Shaorála Faisnéise, 'Built to Share' (BTS), chun iarrataí SF a chomhordú agus a phróiseáil. Cuireadh uasoiliúint ar na baill foirne SF sa chóras nua agus chabhraigh siad le cinnteoirí ar fud na Roinne le hé a úsáid agus d'oibrigh siad go dlúth leis an bhfoireann BTS chun aiseolas ar an bhfeidhmchlár a sholáthar.

D'eagraigh an fhoireann SF oiliúint r-Shaorála Faisnéise agus oiliúint ar Athbhreithneoir Inmheánach lena chinntiú gur féidir le baill na Roinne tabhairt faoi athbhreithniú inmheánach ar chinntí SF ar aon dul le hoibleagáidí faoin Acht SF.

ÍOCAÍOCHT PHRAS

Sonraí faoi oibleagáidí Íocaíochtaí Prasa na Roinne i rith 2021:

Sonraí	Líon	Luach (€)	Céatadán (%) <u>an lín iomláin</u> íocaíochtaí a rinneadh
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh laistigh de 15 lá	2,656	59,205,757	87.3%
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh laistigh de idir 16 agus 30 lá	259	3,793,437	8.5%
Líon na n-íocaíochtaí a rinneadh i ndiaidh 30 lá	127	1,112,549	4.2%
Íocaíochtaí iomlána a rinneadh in 2021	3,042	64,111,743	

Ba é an cúiteamh agus an t-ús iomlán íocaíochta praise a d'íoc an Roinn in 2021 €22,392, arbh íocaíochtaí úis €14,162 de agus arbh íocaíochtaí cúitimh €8,230 de.

ÚSÁID FUINNIMH IN 2021

Tá ar gach eagraíocht seirbhíse poiblí feabhsú 50% ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a bhaint amach faoi dheireadh 2030 ar a mbliain bhonnlíne. Bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach i gClár Comhpháirtíochta Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (an SEAI) ó 2009, a bhfuil de chuspóir aige oibriú le heagraíochtaí atá tiomanta do na spriocanna a leagann an rialtas amach a bhaint amach.

Tá an Roinn tiomanta, trína Foireann Ghlac, do leanúint de chomhoibriú leis an SEAI, OOP, tiarna talún an fhoirgnimh agus ár bhfoireann chun ár bpáirt a ghlacadh chun spriocanna uailmhianacha nua an rialtais a bhaint amach le haghaidh laghdú fuinnimh. Tugtar feabhsú 46.4% faoi deara i gcomparáid leis an mbliain bhonnlíne i dtuarascáil 2021 na Roinne ar tháscairí feidhmíochta fuinnimh. Leanfaidh an Roinn ag oibriú ar fheabhsúcháin amach anseo leis an gcéad sprioc eile a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2030, a mbeadh coigilt bhreise 7.4% i gceist léi.

Tá foirgneamh Cheanncheathrú na Roinne ar cheann de líon beag foirgneamh ar domhan a bhain creidiúnú Platanaim LEED amach. Timpeallacht fhíorchasta atá ann ina gcuimsítear réimse fairsing teicneolaíochtaí agus beart atá tíosach ar fhuinneamh, chun lorg coise fuinnimh an áitribh a íoslaghdú, atá mar chuid de champas níos fairsinge trí fhoirgneamh, ceithre roinn rialtais agus dhá chuideachta earnaála príobháidí.

Rinneadh treoirlínte maidir le Soláthar Glas a shainiú agus tuairiscítear orthu go lárnach dóibh siúd a thugann faoi cheannach le haghaidh agus thar ceann na Roinne. Leagtar amach tuairisceán maidir le soláthar poiblí glas na Roinne chuig an gGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil don bhliain 2021 thíos.

TUAIRISCEÁN BLIANTÚIL AR SHOLÁTHAR POIBLÍ GLAS 2021

<i>Bliain tagartha 2021</i>	<i>Líon iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil tosaíochta</i>	<i>Luach iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil tosaíochta</i>	<i>Líon iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil tosaíochta a chuir Soláthar Poiblí Glas san áireamh</i>	<i>Luach iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil tosaíochta a chuir Soláthar Poiblí Glas san áireamh</i>
<i>Earnáil Tosaíochta*</i>				
Táirgí a bhaineann le fuinneamh	0	0	0	0
Seirbhísí Bia agus Lónadóireachta	0	0	0	0
Trealamh Téimh	0	0	0	0
Seirbhísí agus Táirgí TFC	5	1,659,192	0	0
Seirbhísí Glantacháin Taobh Istigh	0	0	0	0
Soilsiú Taobh Istigh agus Amuigh	0	0	0	0
Dearadh, Tógáil agus Bainistíocht Foirgnimh Oifige	0	0	0	0
Táirgí Páipéir agus Seirbhísí Clódóireachta	1	75,000	1	75,000
Táirgí agus Seirbhísí Teicstílí	0	0	0	0

lompar	0	0	0	0
lamlán	6	1,734,192	1	75,000
* Deich n-earnáil ar fhorbair an GCC critéir SGP dóibh, bunaithe ar chritéir choiteanna AE agus dá ndearnadh oiriúnuithe le margadh agus cleachtais soláthair na hÉireann a thabhairt san áireamh.				
Bliain tagartha 2021	<u>Líon iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil eile</u>	<u>Luach iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil eile</u>	<u>Líon iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil eile a chuir Soláthar Poiblí Glas san áireamh</u>	<u>Luach iomlán na gconarthaí a síníodh a raibh luach níos mó ná €25,000 orthu, de réir earnáil eile a chuir Soláthar Poiblí Glas san áireamh</u>
Earnálacha Eile				
Seirbhísí Gairmiúla	10	834,744	1	46,625
Trealamh Saotharlainne	0	0	0	0
Bainistíocht Saoráidí	0	0	0	0
Na Meáin	3	228,106	0	0
Troscán	0	0	0	0
Taighde	0	0	0	0
Margaíocht	0	0	0	0
Ceadúnú	1	36,792	0	0
Sonraí	1	120,000	1	120,000
Bearta Freagartha don Phaindéim	2	30,166,290	0	0

Seirbhís Deimhniúcháin Dhigitigh	1	6,500,000	1	6,500,000
Iomláin	18	37,885,932	3	6,666,625

Aguisín 2: Gníomhaireachtaí faoi choimirce na Roinne

Comhlachtaí Stáit Neamhthráchtála

An Chomhairle Fiaclóireachta

Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann

An Bord um Chur chun Cinn na Sábháilteachta Bia - safefood

An tÚdarás um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

An tÚdarás Árachais Sláinte

An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte

An Bord Taighde Sláinte

An Chomhairle um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh (CORU)

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Seirbhís Fuilaistriúcháin na hÉireann

Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis

An Coimisiún Meabhair-Shláinte

Bord na Clárlainne Náisiúnta Ailse

Bord Forbartha an Ospidéal Náisiúnta Péidiatraice

An Ciste Náisiúnta um Cheannach Cóireála

Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann

Cumann Cógaiseoirí na hÉireann

An Chomhairle um Chúram Éigeandála Réamhospidéal

Comhlachtaí Stáit Tráchtála

Árachas Sláinte Saorálach (VHI)

Aguisín 3: Foilseacháin na Roinne Sláinte

Chuir an Roinn 114 foilseachán le chéile in 2021 agus tá fáil orthu go léir lena n-íoslódáil ar ár láithreán gréasáin ag <https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/publications/>