HSE Community Operations – Disability Services
National Quality Improvement Team
Supporting people to live lives of their choosing.

Coronavirus COVID-19

Autumn 2020	**Newsletter**	Volume 6

Welcome

Welcome to the 6th edition of the National Disability Quality Improvement Office newsletter.

We are bringing you the latest documents that have been developed for Disability Services both COVID-related and documents that we were working on pre-COVID. We have therefore divided this edition of the Newsletter into two discreet sections -
1. **COVID-Related documents/webinars**
2. **Non-COVID-Related documents**

Following on from the last circulation, we received feedback requesting a version of this newsletter in a plain word document with image descriptions, in order to make the newsletter more accessible.

We hope this newsletter will provide you with an accessible and user-friendly means of accessing the Guidance Documents and Webinars that have been developed by the National HSE Disabilities team.
As you are aware, this situation is evolving very rapidly, so it essential that you keep updated and please refer to the following websites regularly for updates:
www.hse.ie/coronavirus and www.hpsc.ie

Section 1: COVID-related Work

1. How to access Disability Services specific guidance for COVID-19

All HSE Guidance and Resources for Disability Services for COVID-19 are available on
https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources

i.   This brings you into the website and you need to scroll down to find **HSE Approved Guidance for Disability Services**.

ii.   You will find a **List of Guidance** documents which are numbered. (We will be updating this regularly so please check in once a week)

iii.   You can then find the numbered document that you are looking for and download.

2. Guidance documents developed by HSE Disability Services for COVID-19

27. Coronavirus COVID19 frequently asked questions for people with disabilities and their families easy to read

Target Audience:
People with disabilities, their families and carers

Description
These are a suite of frequently asked questions in Easy to Read Format and includes helpline numbers, information on getting a test, how to stop people from getting COVID-19, what happens if I get COVID-19, help with things I need, help with money, and information on disability services and support.

28. Questions and Answers from Disability Webinar 27/04/2020

Target Audience:
Carers and Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:
This is a compilation of Q&As from the webinar that was held on Prevention and Preparedness for COVID-19 in a residential setting for people with disabilities which was held on 27/04/2020.

29. Guidance on communicating with families

Target Audience:
Carers and Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:

This is one-page document to communicate with people who have a disability and their families through the use of technology and other innovative approaches in ways that work best for them.

30. Supporting a person in isolation (decision tree)

Target Audience:
Carers and Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:
This is a one-page algorithm to guide family or staff when a person in the home has symptoms (high level of suspicion) or confirmed COVID-19.

30 (a) COVID-19: Activity Ideas for people with learning disabilities in in-patent units whilst in isolation

Target Audience:
Carers and Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:
This is a list of activities that have been developed by the Learning Disability Professional Senate to support people with disabilities who are in residential care during the COVI-19 restrictions.

30 (b) Risk assessment tool for people in isolation

Target Audience:
Carers, Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:
This is the HSE Risk Assessment tool and matrix which can be utilised when assessing the risks associated with COVID-19.

30 (c) Disability pathway for people who may need to isolate

Target Audience:
Carers and Staff who are supporting people with disabilities

Description:
This is a sample planning and service pathways for people in receipt of disability services living in a home/domestic setting during the COVID-19 crisis.

31. Approved communication supports for Deaf patients in Healthcare Settings during Covid-19

Target Audience
Deaf and Hard of Hearing people Staff

Description:
This short document is intended for used by both Deaf patients whose first language is Irish Sign Language (ISL) and staff and details approved communication supports that should normally be provided in healthcare settings.

32. Framework for the Resumption of Adult Disability Day Services

Target Audience:
Adults with a disability, Carers, Staff and Management Families who are supporting adults with disabilities

Description:
This Framework has been developed to assist in the planning for Day Service Resumption to describe the key elements of work that are required to be addressed and the key drivers that need to inform that work.

33. Reshaping Disability Services from 2020 and beyond residential, respite, home support and PA services

Target Audience:
Adults with a disability, Carers Staff and Management
Families who are supporting adults with disabilities

Description:
This document provides guidance for the reshaping of disability services in line with the COVID-19 restrictions – it specifically applies to home supports, respite services and the provision of PA supports.

34. Interim Rights-based Guidance on implementing Infection Prevention Control Measures and mitigating risk in Disability Services

Target Audience:
Adults with a disability, Carers, Staff and Management.
Families who are supporting adults with disabilities

Description:
This document focuses on balancing the rights of people with disabilities with the risks of COVID-19 and highlights the importance of individualised risk assessments to ensure that the rights of people are not unduly restricted in a risk adverse service.

35. Guidance to Support the Framework for the Resumption of Adult Disability Day Services

Target Audience:
Adults with a Disability, Carers, Staff and Management Families who are supporting adults with disabilities

Description:
This document supports the Framework for the Resumption of Adult Day Services (no. 32) and is intended to enable safe and person-centred disability day service supports to be provided in line with current public health advice and infection control guidance .
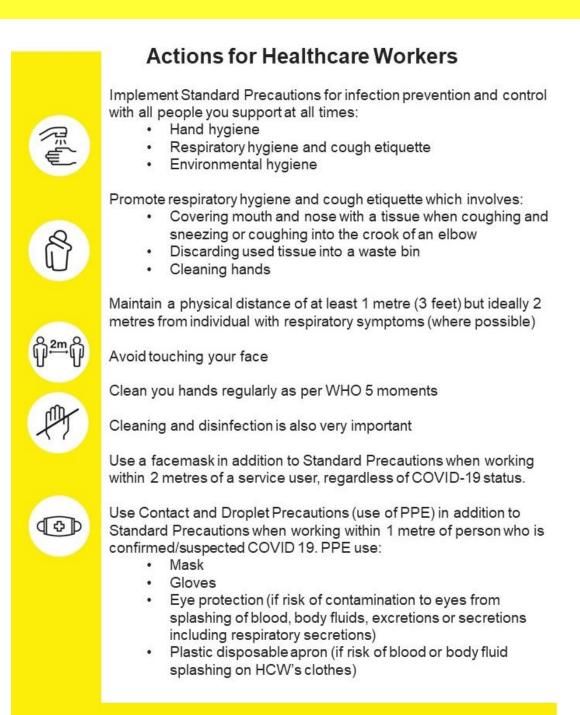
36 Guidance to Support the Resumption of Children's Day Services

Target Audience:
Children and Young People with a disability, Carers, Staff and Management
Families who are supporting children and young people with disabilities

Description:
This document provides guidance to support the resumption to more normal levels of service provision for children with disabilities and their families..

Actions for Healthcare Workers

Implement Standard Precautions for infection prevention and control with all people you support at all times:
- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Environmental hygiene

Promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette which involves:
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or coughing into the crook of an elbow
- Discarding used tissue into a waste bin
- Cleaning hands

Maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre (3 feet) but ideally 2 metres from individual with respiratory symptoms (where possible)

Avoid touching your face

Clean you hands regularly as per WHO 5 moments

Cleaning and disinfection is also very important

Use a facemask in addition to Standard Precautions when working within 2 metres of a service user, regardless of COVID-19 status.

Use Contact and Droplet Precautions (use of PPE) in addition to Standard Precautions when working within 1 metre of person who is confirmed/suspected COVID 19. PPE use:
- Mask
- Gloves
- Eye protection (if risk of contamination to eyes from splashing of blood, body fluids, excretions or secretions including respiratory secretions)
- Plastic disposable apron (if risk of blood or body fluid splashing on HCW's clothes)

When to use face coverings and how to make them

3. Infection Prevention and Control guidance Webinar, 10ᵗʰ July 2020

Attached link to recent webinar on Infection Prevention and Control guidance for Disability Services during COVID-19 Pandemic

Play webinar:
Webinar on Infection Prevention and Control guidance for Disability Services during COVID-19 Pandemic
Password: CcpRWcQ3

4.   COVID work which will be published imminently *(please check our Partner Resources page and Twitter frequently for updates)*

37. Interim Guidance on Conducting Assessments in Disability Services

38. Guidance to support the resumption of centre-based respite services in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

Guidance to support the provision of Home Support Workers in line with COVID-19 restrictions

Guidance to support the provision of Personal Assistants in line with COVID-19 restrictions

Section 2: Non-COVID work

1.   How to access our page on HSEland

How to find us on Change Hub HSELanD on the web for the first time
Please install Google Chrome

Go to HSEland

Log on using your HSEland username & password if you already are a HSEland Registered User

If you are a first time user, select '**Create an Account'** and follow the relevant steps outlined

Once logged in, select the '**Hubs'** tile
Select Go under the '**Change Hub'** tile

Under the '**Information and Updates'** listing, select
'**Disability Services Quality Improvement'**

The following is the complete list of documents available on this website:
The list of documents

2. Guiding Principles

There are 21 mandatory policies and procedures that must be maintained in respect of Designated Centres as per **Schedule V** of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents for persons (children and adults with disabilities) Regulations 2013.

The National Guiding Principles (GPs) group (under the auspices of the National Disability Services Quality Improvement Team) identify and prioritise some of these each year and develop Guiding Principles to support services when they are revising their local policies and procedures.

We put together an expert group on the topic, conduct an international literature review and service user engagement, validate this work using the AGREE tool.

Each packet which is published contains:
• The guiding principles
• The reference list which was used
• An audit tool
• An Impact Assessment tool and the completed AGREE tool.

The following two GPs have now been published on HSELanD.

1.   Visitors Guiding Principles
 This document identifies 8 key guiding principles to support the revision of No. 9 Visitors policy and procedure. NOTE – there may be some restrictions which may impact on a services' Visitors policy due to COVID-19 at present .

2.   Rights-based approach to behavioural support
This document identifies 8 key guiding principles to support the revision of No. 5 Provision of behavioural support policy and procedure. The GP focuses on a rights-based approach to understanding behaviours and what they may be trying to communicate.

3. Self-Assessment tools

1.   [Supporting me to live safe and well – risk assessment tool (Word)](#)
This document is a risk assessment tool which is designed to support positive risk taking. It is designed to be used as an individualised assessment to support a person with disabilities to live a meaningful life and fulfil their dreams, desires and wishes in a manner which identifies and mitigate any potential risks in trying new things.

2.   [Supporting me to live safe and well – Guidance (PDF)](#)
 This document is a guide for staff to complete no.1 with a person whom they are supporting.

4. Work underway *(please check our HSElanD page and Twitter frequently for updates)*

Guiding Principles

- No. 5 Provision of Information
- No. 6 The use of restrictive procedures and physical, chemical and environmental restraint.

Policies
- National Framework for Medicines Management in Disability Services
- National Food, Nutrition and Hydration Policy

5. National Sharing Day

This year due to the COVID-19 restrictions we will hold a "virtual" Sharing Day.
This will be hosted over 3 – 4 two hour sessions,
one each week, during the month of November. Further details to follow.

6. Updates on Advanced Nurse Practice (ANP) posts in ID

Following a recent opportunity to avail of HSE funding for Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice 2020 and in line with the Department of Health Policy (2019) on the Development of Graduate to Advanced Nursing practice, the following areas were successful in obtaining posts for intellectual disability services:

Candidate Advanced Practitioner (CaNP) Intellectual Disability and Autism CHO 1
Candidate Advanced Practitioner (CaNP) Intellectual Disability and Chronic Disease Management CHO 5
Candidate Advanced Practitioner (CaNP) Intellectual Disability and Dementia CHO 9

Congratulations to each successful applicant on obtaining these highly contested posts.

7. Update on Shaping the Future of Intellectual Disability Nursing (RNID)

Work is ongoing on the implementation of the recommendations of Shaping the Future of Intellectual Disability Nursing in Ireland (STF). Three nationally representative subject matter sub groups are working on the following areas identified within the report: Professional Development, Education and Professional Supervision.

The Professional Development Subgroup have developed and presented a position paper on Advanced Nursing Practice in Intellectual Disability to the Department of Health. Working is ongoing to progress this work with the overall aim of developing opportunities to develop advanced practice within intellectual disability nationally. Data from the position paper will also be used to inform the need for specialist and liaison roles identified with STF.
The education subcommittee has developed a national dataset of available education opportunities for Nursing in Intellectual Disability and are working on enhanced opportunities for undergraduate student placements.
The priority for the Professional Supervision working group is to inform and address Professional Supervision for nurses working across intellectual disability services. Unfortunately the conference planned for October 2020 had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. However the committee are working on a series of Webinars to be hosted commencing in October 2020. Further information on these events will be circulated widely.

For further information contact:
Judy.ryan@hse.ie

8. NMBI Guidance

Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration (2020) was published on August 11, 2020 and is available at https://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Medicines-Management

9. Next Steps

If you have any ideas on issues that you would like us to focus on, resources or tools that you would find helpful or if you are aware of best practice and resources that you are willing to share, please feel free to contact us at mariet.kehoe@hse.ie

We welcome your feedback in regards to information you would like to see or topics covered in this newsletter. If you have any feedback please email disabilitiesqi@hse.ie and follow us on Twitter @Disabilities_QI for all of our latest updates.

Marie, Joanne & Nicole

Coronavirus
COVID-19

Coronavirus **COVID-19** Public Health Advice

Know the signs

High Temperature

Shortness of Breath

Breathing Difficulties

Cough

For 8 out of 10 people, rest and over the counter medication can help you feel better.

Wash

Cover

Avoid

Clean

Stop

Distance