



Emigrant Support Service

March 2020 – Issue 220



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

Connecting with us:

The Safe Home office has remained open during the COVID-19 crisis. We have been fortunate that working remotely from home for has been manageable for us. There have even been some reports of 'great dryin', for hanging out washing during the day!

We have been delighted to be able to continue offering our information, and advice service and be here as a point of contact for people who are concerned about relatives at home/abroad.

Most importantly, we have been able to provide supports to those who have had to make quick and un-planned decisions to return home due to the worldwide pandemic, particularly as many in that category have returned home in crisis.

Getting in touch with us is now even easier!



Conscious that most people now have a mobile phone (rather than land line), allowing for communications to be made in many different ways, we wanted to let you know that you can now contact us via text or WhatsApp messages.

Here is the Safe Home Ireland office mobile number:

+ 00 353 86 059 4538

Send us your contact details and we will be happy to give you a call back.

For those who may wish to communicate in more traditional ways, we still love to see letters arriving so do drop us a line or feel free to give us a call for a chat, either on our office mobile or via our landline phone; + **353 98 36036**.

For anyone who does not have access to the internet, if you need any relevant information /forms printed off, please get in touch with us, we can do that and post it on to you.

CONTACT US:

Safe Home Ireland
St Brendan's Village
Mulranny, Westport
Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Tel: 098 36036

(from Ireland)

00 353 98 36036 (UK)

011 353 98 36036 (USA)

Mobile: (text /whatsapp)
00353 86 059 4538

Website:

www.safehomeireland.com

Email:

info@safehomeireland.com



Safe Home office hours:

Monday–Thursday:
9am-5pm

Friday: 9am-4pm

**Thinking of returning or
moving to Ireland?**

Get in touch



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Goúcháil Fachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Zooming around! Join us for an online information session on Brexit & returning to Ireland

Are you working with Irish emigrants for a non-profit organisation in the UK?

Are you looking for answers to their questions about returning to Ireland during the pandemic or the transition of the UK from the EU?

Safe Home Ireland is delighted to be joining the Irish in Britain, Crosscare Migrant Project and Citizens Information to offer an online information session on Returning to Ireland during the pandemic.

This will take place via Zoom on the 3rd June from 11:30am to 12:30pm (Meeting ID: 834 0448 6956 Password: 889953) – RSVP via email to: dmclaughlin@crosscare.ie

This session is tailored specifically for Irish welfare & advice agencies/other non-profit organisations working with the Irish community.

Announcing our second Facebook Live Concert – Ceol, Caint agus Craic, arís!

We received such positive feedback from our first Facebook Live Concert, held on 2nd May, which now has over 8.2k views, with audience and interest from all corners of the globe, that we have decided to host a second one!

The Concert will take place on **Saturday 30th May (8pm; GMT+1)**. It will be another opportunity to connect with family and friends living abroad, as we support each other through these unsettling times. To join us, you can login via Facebook or copy and paste the following link to your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/safehomeprogramme/>

We are delighted to announce the highly acclaimed singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, **Seán Keane**, as our headline act. Seán is a global and household name and needs little introduction and we are so honoured that he has agreed to perform specially for Safe Home Ireland. The Concert will also feature the amazingly multi-talented, **Mike Hanrahan**, singer, musician, producer and author, from Co. Clare. Fresh from her return home to Mayo, from on-board the Ruby Princess cruise ship, we will be joined by renowned Harpist and Fiddle Player, **Kate Heneghan**.

Other acts include singer/guitarist Norman Hartnett, from Co. Cork, who has lived in Germany the past thirty years; singer Kay Staunton, from Mayo, and living in New York for the past four years; Gary Vesey, singer/guitarist, originally from Mayo but now living and working as a musician in the Algarve, Portugal; we will also be joined by a collection of Irish Trad instrumentalists from Co. Laois

All artists are performing for FREE - we are overwhelmed by their willingness and generosity of spirit in getting involved to support Safe Home.

Many of our diaspora have made endless sacrifices for families at home and many others had no option but leave Ireland in search of work or to escape challenging circumstances here. We know that the connection to home is always important for the Irish abroad. We want this Concert to enable us all to feel connected, in a time when we must stay apart. **Bígí linn! #SafeHomeConnects**

Donating; This is a FREE Concert, but if you would like to support our work, please feel free to make a donation via our Go Fund Me Page, gofundme.com/f/coming-home-in-crisis

Or via paypal on our website: <https://safehomeireland.com/support-our-work/>

Monies raised will enable us to reach out to support the most vulnerable Irish abroad, who are often referred to as 'the forgotten Irish' as well as assist those who return home in crisis situations.

Reopening Ireland – The Roadmap

On 1st May 2020, the Irish Government published *The Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business* as a guide for the easing the COVID-19 restrictions and re-open Ireland's economy and society in a phased manner. The plan set out five stages for unlocking restrictions, at three week intervals, as follows;

18th May (phase 1)

8th June (phase 2)

29th June (phase 3)

20th July (phase 4)

10th August (phase 5)

The plan recognises that there will be a long-term need for physical distancing, and reiterates the need to continue with good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, regular cleaning and the requirement for people to stay at home and isolate if they are sick.

During each stage, the rate of the virus in the community will be closely/ constantly monitored. This may lead to further guidelines and changes being announced, so for now we will concentrate on giving a summary of the first step of the journey, those that came into effect from 18th May (phase 1)

In general people are advised to **stay at home**. However, they can leave to;

-Go to work, IF they cannot work from home and their IF their workplace is allowed to open

-Exercise within 5 kilometres of their home

-Shop for essential items

-Go for medical appointments and collect medicines

-Provide care to someone who needs it

-Meet with friends or family outdoors in groups of no more than 4 people, while practising social distancing

Note! People over the age of 70 years/ those who are extremely medically vulnerable to the virus, are advised to continue to cocoon. This includes not going to shops and not meeting with people from outside of their household indoors.

Social distancing should be adhered to, keep a 2-metre distance from other people, except for people you live with.

Wearing face coverings is recommended in situations where social distancing is difficult (shops, public transport)

A limited variety of shops re-opened on the of 18th May, these included; Hardware shops, Builders merchants, Garden centres, Farmers markets, Opticians, optometrists and shops that provide hearing tests and hearing aids, Car and motorcycle dealers, and related services (repairs and parts), Bicycle shops, Office suppliers, phone and IT suppliers and repair and maintenance services for homes

Sports can be played outside in groups of up to 4 but must maintain social distancing. E.G Golf courses, tennis courts, pitches and some other sports facilities have reopened. However, people cannot travel more than 5 kilometres to play sports.

Outdoor cultural sites and public amenities have reopened (beaches, woodland walks etc)

Construction workers and gardeners can return to work, along with retail workers who work in the retailers listed in shops below.

We will report on other phases in Roadmap in future editions of our newsletter. In the meantime, we will all continue to play our part and will keep our fingers and toes crossed for the next step of the journey on the 8th June!

Arriving in Ireland from abroad during COVID19

Under public health guidelines in Ireland, Irish citizens and residents are still being advised against all non-essential international travel and passengers arriving into Ireland from overseas are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

Passenger Locator Form; In a recent announcement, the Irish Government has made it **mandatory** for anyone (regardless of nationality) coming into the country to complete a Passenger Locator Form. This is a **legal requirement** that will come into effect from Thursday 28th May. It will remain in place until the 18th June, when it will be reviewed.

It will be an offence not to fill in a passenger location form. Operators of aircraft and ferry services should ensure that persons entering the State are aware of the requirement to complete the Public Health Passenger Locator Form. Operators have been asked to provide the forms to passengers in advance (via email), the forms are also available to download from; <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e885b2-covid-19-coronavirus-travel-advice/>

Completed forms will be collected by Irish Authorities at airports and ports on arrival. Passengers may then be contacted during the 14 days after arrival in Ireland to check that they are self-isolating. **Note!** Any data collected will be stored securely for 14 days after which time it will be destroyed.

Self- Isolating; While not mandatory at present, anyone coming into Ireland **is being strongly advised** to self-isolate on arrival for 14 days. Apart from limited exceptions (listed below) this advice applies to everyone, including Irish citizens, returning home after a period abroad

However, there are some few exceptions*, you do **not** need to self-isolate if you fall into the following categories:

- return to the Republic of Ireland from Northern Ireland
- are an essential supply chain worker - for example, a pilot, haulier, maritime staff member
- are briefly stopping over at an airport on your way to another country

Self-isolation means staying indoors and completely avoiding contact with other people, including people you live with. If you live with others, they will also need to restrict their movements. Depending on your circumstances, it may be possible to self-isolate safely in the same property as someone who is designated highly medically vulnerable to COVID-19.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has published detailed guidance on how to self-isolate effectively when you live with other people. These, together with additional information on safe self-isolation are available via: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/managing-coronavirus-at-home/self-isolation.html>

If you cannot safely self-isolate at home, you may need to be admitted to a self-isolation facility. However, as a general rule, people must have a referral from a doctor, hospital, or contact tracing team to be admitted to this short-stay facility. There **may** be some exceptions to this in certain crisis /exceptional circumstances, however, this is very much being assessed on an area by area and case by case basis at the moment. Please contact the Safe Home office for more information.

Important Note! It is recommended on public health grounds that passengers who arrive in Ireland **do not use public transport or taxis**. Where possible, you will need to have your own transport or arrange for someone to collect you. The Irish Government, in conjunction with carriers, is making every effort to notify passengers of these recommendations before they travel to Ireland.