



ADVICE &  
INFORMATION



OUTREACH  
VISITS



HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

June 2021 – Issue 233

## CONTACT US:

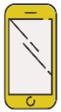


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Find us on:  
facebook.



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## Safe Home office hours:

**Monday to Thursday:**  
**9.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Friday:**  
**9.00am to 4.00pm**

**Thinking of returning or  
moving to Ireland?  
Get in touch!**

Safe Home Programme CLG  
trading as Safe Home Ireland  
Charity No: 20049119  
Company Reg No: 351678



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme

An Boinn Góthaí Fachtraíochta agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



## Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to the June edition of our Newsletter. It has been an incredible year and another one which will go down in the history books! However, with the easing of restrictions here in Ireland, we are beginning to feel a little bit of normality and freedom returning. It is early days and we must not get too carried away, but with the rapid roll out of vaccinations, it is looking good and a new sense of hope is on the horizon!

It has been a busy time for us all here at Safe Home Ireland and I am delighted to report that on 24<sup>th</sup> May we started up our **Outreach Service** here in Ireland, after almost five months of closure. This outreach and home visiting service assists those who have recently returned home, so if you know of anyone who returned recently and would like an in-person appointment, please do get in touch with us. This is a unique aspect of our service and is required now more than ever. We know that for recent returnees the transition has been very challenging as many have not been able to see family or friends or embrace the moving home process fully due to Covid restrictions.

We held a number of virtual **Moving/Returning to Ireland Information Clinics** in the past month, one in partnership with The Luton Irish Forum, two in partnership with The London Irish Centre. We also held a clinic with groups in the north of England, involving staff and volunteers at Irish Community Care Liverpool, Irish Community Care Manchester and Leeds Irish Health and Homes, which we co-facilitated with Dublin based, Crosscare Migrant Project. We had incredible interest in all clinics and want to thank all the Irish welfare and advice agencies and staff and volunteers for their help with those and the trojan work which they all do in supporting Irish abroad and especially those most in need.

I want to thank you all for tuning in to our **Facebook Live Events** over the past 13 months, the most recent one this week to mark the Summer Solstice on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Hosting online events was a new venture for us and our intention was to connect with our diaspora abroad during a time when we could not come together/meet in person. We are humbled and indebted by the support and the amazing contributions from artists from all over Ireland and from USA, UK, Australia, Portugal, Germany and UAE. We know that it has been an incredibly difficult time for artists too so we hope that once they start performing again you will support them in-person. I would also like to thank those of you who tuned in and who generously made donations to support our service. These donations help us to continue our vital work, particularly for those who are most in need of our support. We have launched a **Planned Giving Campaign** too and will be in touch again about that!

Finally, we are currently in the planning stages of the next event to mark our **21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**, which we hope will be an in-person event, so we will keep you posted over the coming months!

**Until next month, take care, keep in touch and stay safe from  
Karen and the staff and board of Safe Home Ireland.**



## Travel

The Irish Government continues to strongly advise against all non-essential travel to and from Ireland until 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. In the event of urgent travel to Ireland, passengers are advised to contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate before commencing the journey or contact The Department of Foreign Affairs Emergency Travel Advice Line – **Tel: + 353 1 613 1700** or check [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie) for more information

All passengers arriving in Ireland must: complete a [COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form](#)

As well as provide evidence that you have a negative or 'not detected' result from a COVID-19 (RT-PCR) test carried out no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Ireland, or have evidence that you are exempt from this legal requirement. **Please be aware that only PCR tests are valid. The PCR test usually comes at a cost and results may not be immediate, therefore we suggest you arrange appointments in advance.**

### **From 16<sup>th</sup> June requirements for all passengers arriving in Ireland from Great Britain**

- The following advice also applies to individuals who travel to Ireland from Northern Ireland and who have been in Great Britain in the 14 days prior to their arrival in Ireland.
- All arriving passengers from Great Britain are required by law to quarantine at home for 14 days. If you do not fulfil the legal requirement for mandatory quarantine, you are committing an offence.
- Passengers are requested to arrange a COVID-19 (RT-PCR) test to be taken at least 5 days after arrival in Ireland. This test is free of charge and can be booked in advance on [www.gov.ie/test](http://www.gov.ie/test) or by visiting any [HSE testing centre](#). The test should be booked in advance of arrival in Ireland and must be booked for a date at least five (5) days after arrival.
- For fully vaccinated people the 14-day period of home quarantine can be shortened if you receive a not-detected RT-PCR test result from this test taken at least 5 days after arrival
- However, if you are not fully vaccinated, you are advised to stay in quarantine and arrange a further RT-PCR test to be taken at least 10 days after arrival in Ireland. You are requested to stay in quarantine until you get a 'not detected' RT-PCR test result from this day 10 test

**Other passengers arriving from non-designated states** must self-isolate for 14 days, however the 14-day period of home quarantine can be shortened if you receive a not-detected RT-PCR test result from this test taken at least 5 days after arrival

You should retain the written confirmation of your test results for at least 14 days.

If you are travelling from or via a [designated state](#) (deemed high risk) then you must also pre-book and pre-pay for a place in a designated facility for mandatory hotel quarantine. List of designated states (deemed high risk) are available on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) under Travelling to Ireland during the Covid-19 Pandemic





## Brexit and UK/NI Driving Licenses

As a visitor to Ireland you can drive on a driving licence from any state outside the EU/EEA (this now includes UK/NI) for up to one year provided the driving licence is current and valid. However, on taking up **'normal residence'** in Ireland you must either exchange your UK/NI driving licence or apply for a driving licence in Ireland.

A UK/NI driving licence is regarded as a licence from a 'recognised state' for exchange purposes and UK/NI driving licence will not be accepted for exchange if it has expired for more than one year. If it is expired over a year applicants will need to apply for a theory test and learner permit.

A UK/NI exchange application must be accompanied by an eyesight report unless it is accompanied by a medical report dated within one month. The eyesight report is a specific test taken at the opticians for a fee of €20.

If you hold a current N.I licence and do not have it in your possession, you will need to submit an original letter of entitlement / driver statement from the appropriate licensing authority. If you hold a UK licence you will be contacted by the NDLS to provide a check code so your licence details can be verified.

You can now quickly and easily exchange your UK/NI licence for an Irish licence online if you have a Public Services Card (PSC) and verified MyGovID. The current or most recent UK/NI driving licence (to be submitted by post to the address provided to you during the online application process) Proof of your address dated within the last six months is required if your current address is not recorded on your permit and it differs from that provided to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) if and when you applied for a PSC.

Proof that you are normally resident in Ireland if your place of birth and nationality are outside the EU/EEA.

Fully completed eyesight report is required unless application is accompanied by a medical report dated within one month.

The application fee is €55.00. If you are 70 or over you are exempt from paying the fee.

For the most up to date information: <https://www.ndls.ie/licensed-driver/exchange-my-uk-ni-licence.html>.



## Hearing Aid Grants

As part of the Department's Treatment Benefit Scheme, a flat rate grant of up to €500 is available towards a hearing aid, while a grant of up to €1,000 is available for a pair without requirement for a co-payment. The Department of Social Protection will also provide a grant of up to €100 towards the cost of hearing aid repairs. The customer will pay the balance of the cost of their hearing aid in excess of €500 per device and the balance of the cost of repairs to in excess of €100.

The Treatment Benefit Scheme provides dental, optical and aural services to insured workers, the self-employed, retired people and their dependent spouse/partner who have the required number of social insurance (PRSI) contributions. To check eligibility to this grant and to all treatment benefits see [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie).





## Irish & USA Travel Restrictions Webinar

With all the confusion regarding travel between USA & Ireland/Northern Ireland, The Irish Community Services are organising a webinar hosted by Fiona McEntee who is Managing Attorney at McEntee Law Group as well as contributions from guests as below: The webinar is on 1<sup>st</sup> Jul at 6.30pm (CT)  
To register or for more information: [www.irishchicago.org](http://www.irishchicago.org) or **email** [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org)



### COVID-19 UPDATE

## Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions in Ireland

# Summer re-opening plan

### 2nd June

-  Hotels, B&Bs guesthouses, Self-Catering accommodation and hostels can re-open. Indoor dining and bar services for residents can resume

### 7th June

-  Outdoor matches upto 100 or 200 depending on venue
-  Outdoor Events upto 100 or 200 depending on venue
-  Outdoor Restaurants, Cafes, Bars tables of 6 with additional provisions for children under 12
-  Gyms, swimming pools, Leisure Centres - individual training only
-  Wedding Celebrations/Receptions upto 25 guests
-  Cinemas and Theatres
-  Indoor visits in private homes from one other household for unvaccinated households

### 5th July (subject to the prevailing covid situation)

-  Outdoor matches upto 200 or 500 depending on venue
-  Indoor visits in private homes from three other households
-  indoor matches upto 50 or 100 depending on venue
-  Outdoor Events upto 200 or 500 depending on venue
-  Indoor Restaurants, Cafes, Bars tables of 6 with additional provisions for children under 12
-  Indoor Events upto 50 or 100 depending on venue
-  Wedding celebrations/Receptions upto 25 guests
-  Indoor Training in pods of upto 6
-  Hotels, B&Bs guesthouses Indoor dining and bar services open to non-residents

### 19th July

-  Travel new travel advice and EU Digital Covid Certificate will come into effect

With the further easing of restrictions in Ireland came the simple joys of being able to enjoy a variety of outdoor events and outdoor dining, though the weather hasn't always co-operated, so we are hopefully heading towards our next easing date on 5<sup>th</sup> July, where indoor events and indoor hospitality resume, then 19<sup>th</sup> July when we hope International Travel can recommence. With the vaccination programme really forging ahead now, we are hopeful that our final event commemorating our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary may be an in-person event in December.