

# HSE COVID-19 Update January 2021



**Public Health Measures:** We are experiencing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in Ireland. Right now, we all need to stay at home and act as if we have COVID-19. Following a government announcement last night, Ireland is now in Level 5 restrictions. You can see the [measures in place](#)

## Updates to COVID-19 Testing and Tracing

Main changes to COVID-19 Testing and Tracing, effective from the December 31:

- The HSE will not be referring close contacts for a test. This is so that people who are symptomatic can be prioritised and receive a test as quickly as possible.
- People who received notification by SMS that they are a close contact must restrict their movements for 14 days. If they develop symptoms, they should call their GP or GP Out of Hours service and arrange a test.
- The text message that is sent to close contacts will now advise every close contact that they should restrict their movements and if they show symptoms, they should immediately contact their GP to arrange a test. Close contacts can also access our advice for them on this link <https://hse.ie/cvdc>



This temporary measure is being implemented in consultation with GPs, to ensure those who have symptoms are tested as quickly as possible and that we can continue to try to reduce the spread of the virus.



Since 29th December, the HSE has been giving the vaccine to people in the highest priority groups – frontline healthcare workers, and people living in long-term care facilities who are aged 65 or over.

The COVID-19 vaccine will offer you protection from COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine should also protect you from the

serious complications of COVID-19. The aim in offering the vaccine to the population is to protect people and reduce the illness and deaths caused by this virus.

We encourage everyone to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source – [www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine](http://www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine) is a good place to start, and you can find COVID-19 vaccine information materials at [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials)