

# Factsheet for Northern Ireland Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

## COVID-19 centres continue to open

GP-led centres have opened in Belfast, Dungannon and Banbridge.

The first centre opened last week in Londonderry.

COVID-19 centres are **not testing facilities**. Patients **must** be referred by their GP or Out of Hours centre.

They are only for patients who are unwell, are suspected of having Covid-19 and require medical attention.

Further centres will open in Antrim, Coleraine, Newtownards, Lisburn, Downpatrick and Enniskillen. Read more: [www.bit.ly/2UTIO2L](http://www.bit.ly/2UTIO2L)



Dr Ursula Brennan, Lead GP, COVID-19 Centre, Belfast (right) and Dr Margaret O'Brien, Head of General Practice, Northern Ireland (left) at the newly opened COVID-19 centre in Belfast

**Stay at home - Wash your hands - Keep your distance**

## Emergency dental clinics to be set up

Emergency dental clinics are being set up across the five health and social care trusts in Northern Ireland. These clinics will see only those with urgent dental needs and COVID-19 positive patients. Patients will have to be referred by their local dentist.



Read more: [www.bit.ly/2QYiNK](http://www.bit.ly/2QYiNK)

## Look after your mental health and wellbeing

To support the fight against COVID-19, we have all been advised to stay at home and while we understand that this is absolutely the right thing to do – it can come with its own challenges.

It's a difficult time for everyone, but for those who already suffer with anxiety or other mental health issues this may present new and difficult challenges.

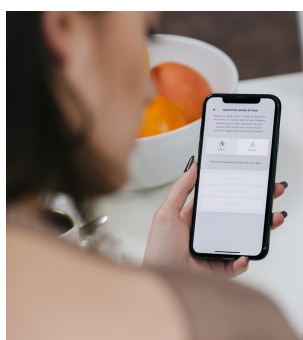
For anyone in distress or despair, the 24/7 Lifeline helpline is available on 0808 808 8000.



It's important that people obtain further support if they feel they need it.

Read more: [www://bit.ly/2UxkROL](http://www://bit.ly/2UxkROL)

## COVID-19 Community Helpline



Supporting vulnerable people, the COVID-19 Community Helpline is available daily from 9am-5pm, 7 days per week.

Telephone: 0808 802 0020

Email: [covid19@adviceni.net](mailto:covid19@adviceni.net)

Text: ACTION to 81025.

## Call for oxygen cylinders

Can you return any oxygen cylinders you no longer require? These are essential to **maintain supplies** during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can return these at your local community pharmacy, or if you are unable to get to your local pharmacy, please call 028 9536 3513 between 9am-5pm (Monday to Friday) and we will arrange to have these picked up.

# Got oxygen?



**HSC** Health and Social Care

## Join the fightback against COVID-19

Play your part in Northern Ireland's fightback against COVID-19.

The Covid-19 HSC Workforce Appeal is recruiting to boost the health and social care workforce.

Clinical and social care workers are needed as well as non-clinical staff. Find out more and register at: [www.hscworkforceappeal.co.uk/](http://www.hscworkforceappeal.co.uk/)

The Department for Communities and Volunteer Now are also coordinating community volunteer opportunities – including to help support older and vulnerable people during the pandemic.



Volunteer Now's #HelpEachOther campaign helps safeguard those most at risk in the community.

It will coordinate a growing number of requests by people looking for opportunities to help their local community.

More information can be found: [www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/helpachother/](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/helpachother/)

## Surge planning steps up

Plans for the anticipated increase in COVID-19 patients requiring intensive care are underway. Hospitals have started to reconfigure their services to ensure hospital beds are available. Some of the main changes include:

- Belfast City Hospital's tower block transformed into Northern Ireland's first Nightingale Hospital.
- Closure of two hospital emergency departments - Daisy Hill Newry and Downe in Downpatrick
- The Downe's Minor Injuries Unit Day Procedure and outpatients unit will also temporarily close
- Development of more critical care beds at Altnagelvin and Ulster Hospital sites
- Assessment of the potential of the Eikon Centre at Balmoral Park, Maze as a second Nightingale hospital later this year.
- Plans are in place to protect children's and maternity services while releasing bed space to contribute to the overall surge response. There will be changes to the delivery of a number of services in coming days and weeks.



**Latest:** Testing and Personal Protective Equipment. More: [www.bit.ly/2JuX3Vv](http://www.bit.ly/2JuX3Vv)

Health Minister Robin Swann stresses the importance of rigorous social distancing and how it can save many lives and protect our health and social care services.

Read more: [www.bit.ly/3bIYMT6](http://www.bit.ly/3bIYMT6)

### For more advice and information

- [www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus)
- [www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19)
- [www.hscboard.hscni.net/coronavirus](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/coronavirus)
- [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)