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agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

# **Protocol for the identification and review of new and updated public health guidance - COVID-19**

**14 April 2020**

<b>Version</b>	2.0
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<b>Revision Record</b>		
<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Revision Author</b>	<b>Description of change</b>
14 April 2020		Addition of HSE and Department of Health as stakeholders Revision of contents to reflect the use of the excel database as the exclusive means of storing data Addition of criteria for choosing international organisations to be searched

## **1. Purpose and Aim**

The purpose of this protocol is to outline the process by which the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) team will identify, review and present COVID-19 public health guidance produced by international organisations.

The output from this exercise will be provided daily to relevant stakeholders within the HPSC, Department of Health and HSE. The aim is to inform public health guidance development using international evidence and practice.

## **2. Process outline**

It is important that a standardised approach to the process is developed and documented, to allow for transparency and to mitigate risks which may arise due to changes in staff delivering and/or receiving the information.

Three distinct steps in the process have been identified that will be completed each working day. These are listed below and described in more detail in sections 2.1-2.3.

- 1.** Search relevant international resources.
- 2.** Review and summarise identified public health guidance for COVID-19.
- 3.** Send updated COVID-19 public health guidance database to relevant stakeholders in the HPSC, Department of Health and HSE.

### **2.1 Search relevant international resources**

The international resources included for review are a range of ministries of health and public health agencies. These were chosen, based on them being in a similar phase of pandemic response, guidance being available in English, widespread use of the organisation's advice, and or working constraints of the HTA team. The following websites will be reviewed daily, to identify new or updated public health guidance on COVID-19:

- World Health Organization (WHO)  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)  
[https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/search?s=&sort\\_by=field\\_ct\\_publication\\_date&sort\\_order=DESC&f%5B0%5D=diseases%3A2942](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/search?s=&sort_by=field_ct_publication_date&sort_order=DESC&f%5B0%5D=diseases%3A2942)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>
- Public Health England  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance> (click on [+ show all updates](#))

- Health Protection Scotland <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>
- Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>
- Australian Government Department of Health <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>
- Government of Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals.html>  
Search for updates <https://www.canada.ca/en/sr/srb/sra.html>
- Ministry of Health New Zealand <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>
- Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov.html>
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) <https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/>
- Ministry of Health Singapore <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/advisories-for-various-sectors>

## **2.2 Review and summarise identified public health guidance for COVID-19**

All identified guidance published and updated will be reviewed, summarised and entered into the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance Database. The topics covered by the identified guidance will be extracted, along with links to the guidance and the date of publication/update.

## **2.3 Send database to relevant stakeholders**

The updated COVID-19 Public Health Guidance Database will be sent to the relevant stakeholders in the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, the Department of Health, and Health Service Executive. This will be provided in Excel format.

This summary, where feasible, will be provided by 18:00 each working day.

### **3. Review and Update**

Given the rapidly changing environment, this protocol will be regarded as a live document and amended when required to ensure it reflects any changes made to the outlined processes.

Where it is identified that a rapid review of the international sources is required for a particular topic. For example, guidance for long term residential care facilities. This will be undertaken by searching the database developed by the HTA team, the listed websites above and other relevant and available databases and literature sources.

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