



HSE and Local Authority Advocacy Document to enable Travellers self-isolate from COVID-19: Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit

Local Authority Recommendations:

For Travellers who have been advised self-isolate:

- Make provision for Traveller self-isolation (i.e. trailer or pod for sole purpose of isolation)
- Where empty bays are available, these could be used for extra/additional trailer or pod for sole purpose of isolation
- Void housing should be prioritised for Travellers who have been advised to self-isolate
- Fly-tipping on a number of sites throughout the region is at dangerous levels and therefore emergency vehicle services (if needed) would be obstructed from entering to help families
- Where local authority land is available beside the site and Travellers are advised to self-isolate- could land be used for isolation trailers/pods
- There has to be a safe distance between alternative isolation accommodation/pods
- Social spaces for homeless Travellers living in hotels, hostels, etc. who come to sites to spend their days with their families
- To provide a deep clean once individual has finished isolation
- Key concern around self-isolation of children or parents who get sick and are responsible for young children in particular
- Local Authorities to ensure a moratorium on evictions and on the use of Housing (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 2002–Trespass Act during this time. In the event that it is necessary for Travellers to self-isolate and move to a more appropriate location, the local authority to work with the family to ensure emergency facilities are provided (i.e.) water, sanitation, etc.

Prevention measures

- Proactive measures to take account of Travellers living in overcrowded conditions (e.g. access to hand sanitizers, bleach, water, etc)
- On sites where weekly bin collections are not taking place (unofficial, roadside, etc), this is necessary
- Where sites have shared portaloo facilities only, increase the number of portaloos, 1 per family unit (where possible) and provide access to regular disposal as a preventative measure
- For families on unofficial sites/roadside without/limited access to water, make provisions to support unlimited access to water through water tanks, etc. given the

increase need for hygienic practice and to stop the mitigate against spreading of virus. See measures from Slovakia [here](#)

- To provide gloves for sites for shared facilities such as water taps etc.
- Provision for free access to local authority facilities (e.g. swimming pools, sports facilities, etc.) for showering (if possible) and handwashing

HSE Recommendations

Traveller Primary Health Care Workers terms and conditions

- To facilitate this work & ensure key health messaging to Traveller families on the ground, CHWs continuing to carry out fieldwork must be supported with necessary PPE (hand sanitizers, face masks, etc)
- Support additional resourcing of additional work hours for Primary Health Care Workers
- Ensure PHCTPS have access to PPE's, where the HSE cannot directly provide this, the HSE to reimburse PHCTPs
- Dedicated phone line available for Travellers, particularly for parents with immunocompromised Traveller children.
- Could HSE Primary Care centres be used for self-isolation during day time for particularly vulnerable Traveller children who need to self-isolate?