



## 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 porta-loos, 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?