

# **Mental Health Commission to risk assess and support long term residential mental health centres**

On 1 April the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) tasked the Mental Health Commission with monitoring and risk-rating approved mental health centres and long term community settings.

These are particular vulnerable people to Covid-19, as recognised by the WHO due to their age, the high prevalence of underlying medical conditions and circumstances where high-care support with the activities of physical living is required in collective high physical contact environments.

We have already requested that all approved mental health centres notify us as soon as they become aware of any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, and we have asked to see all contingency plans that they have in place. We will be monitoring centres on a regular basis to ensure plans are adequate and appropriate.

We will continue to monitor and risk-rate each centre and community residences based on disease progression, environment and staff and liaise with HSE national and regional governance structures to deliver mitigating actions.

Together with other bodies, we will work to ensure resources are targeted to the most vulnerable, and strive to interrupt transmission of the disease and prevent onward spread.

Chief Executive of the Mental Health Commission said “Our staff have worked hard in the background with the HSE to support frontline services to protect patients over the last few weeks. We will support all the doctors, psychiatrists, nurses, health professionals and admin staff who are proudly defending the health and well-being of persons with mental illness in Ireland. We will not fail for lack of effort.”