

Key Measures from COVID-19 Update 23rd March

- From 23rd March 2020 people must stay at home except for 'very limited purposes' shopping for basic necessities, daily exercise, any medical need and travelling to and from essential work.
- People are warned not to meet friends
- Shops selling non-essential goods will also be shut and gatherings in public of more than two people who do not live together prohibited.
- Police will have the power to fine people and disperse gatherings
- Libraries, places of worship, other public gatherings are banned including all social events
- Public parks will be open but dispersed if there are gatherings
- Restrictions will be under constant review and checked in three weeks

Northern Ireland updates regarding COVID-19 23rd March

Health

- As of 2pm on Monday 23 March, testing has resulted in 20 new positive cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in Northern Ireland to 148. To date two people who tested positive have died. The total number of tests completed in Northern Ireland is 2692.
- First Minister says she expects the Health Minister to outline details of more testing centres for Covid-19 across NI in the next few days.
- Letters are being sent to 40,000 people across NI with most serious conditions urging them to stay home.
- Enforced social distancing, including the closure of all non-essential shops, is likely to come soon in Northern Ireland, says Health Minister.

Business / worker conditions

- The First Minister announced that more progress was needed for those who are self-employed but that the Executive is engaged constantly to try and get more support.
- Arlene Foster has urged businesses who haven't sent staff home yet or put in place social distancing measures to do so immediately.
- Health Minister Robin Swann published details of a new bespoke home childcare scheme to meet the childcare needs of keyworkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme will support those who are on the front line in the fight against



COVID-19 and is open to the key workers who are providing clinical care to coronavirus patients.

- Finance Minister Conor Murphy has put in place new measures for NI civil service agency workers to give them enhanced sick pay and special leave arrangements backdated to 13 March.

Transport

- The Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) will suspend the testing of HGVs (lorries) and trailers, and buses for three months from the last test today.

