

# COVID-19 Notice

Thursday 16 July 2020

## Crisis Accommodation Team to Stand Down



The Trust acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic is the most difficult and challenging health emergency we have ever faced, and appreciates the exceptional dedication of our staff during these difficult times. We understand that many of our staff found it necessary, on a voluntary basis, to request temporary crisis accommodation in order to continue at work or to isolate away from home. We also understand that moving out of your own home into temporary crisis accommodation during the COVID-19 outbreak was a difficult decision for you to make, especially for those of you who moved away from your homes and families in order to help protect vulnerable and extremely vulnerable persons in your household from the virus, while you continued at work.

We are pleased to note that as the spread of the virus has reduced over the last number of weeks, so too has the demand for crisis accommodation, both within NIAS and across the HSC, with the majority of staff opting to return to their homes.

NIAS, along with other HSC Trusts, stopped using hotels for crisis accommodation on 30/06/20. HSC Trusts have now given notice that they are closing their remaining accommodation facilities (university and hospital accommodation) that a small number of our staff are currently residing in, with effect from 31/07/20. The Trust will therefore be standing down its Crisis Accommodation function in accordance with the regional position, and in light of the Health Minister's plan to 'pause' shielding for those most vulnerable to the virus from 31/07/20.

All NIAS staff are encouraged to adhere to the Department of Health's (DoH) guidance on social distancing, staying safe, and helping to prevent the spread of the virus. Those staff who have vulnerable or extremely vulnerable persons in their household and who have, or are about to, return to their homes are encouraged to note the following DoH guidance:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/coronavirus-covid-19/vulnerable-people>

A decorative blue arc with a gradient from light to dark blue, containing several stylized virus particles with red and blue spikes, positioned along the top and bottom edges of the page.

Individual members of staff with particular concerns or special circumstances related to the virus and their accommodation from 01/08/20 onwards are advised to contact line management.

The Trust wishes to express its appreciation to all staff for pulling together to help tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and for continuing to work tirelessly to deliver our service and ensure that our patients, staff and the public are as safe as possible. Please be assured that we will remain vigilant to the virus, and will consider all aspects of our COVID-19 arrangements again in the event of a second wave, including crisis accommodation arrangements.