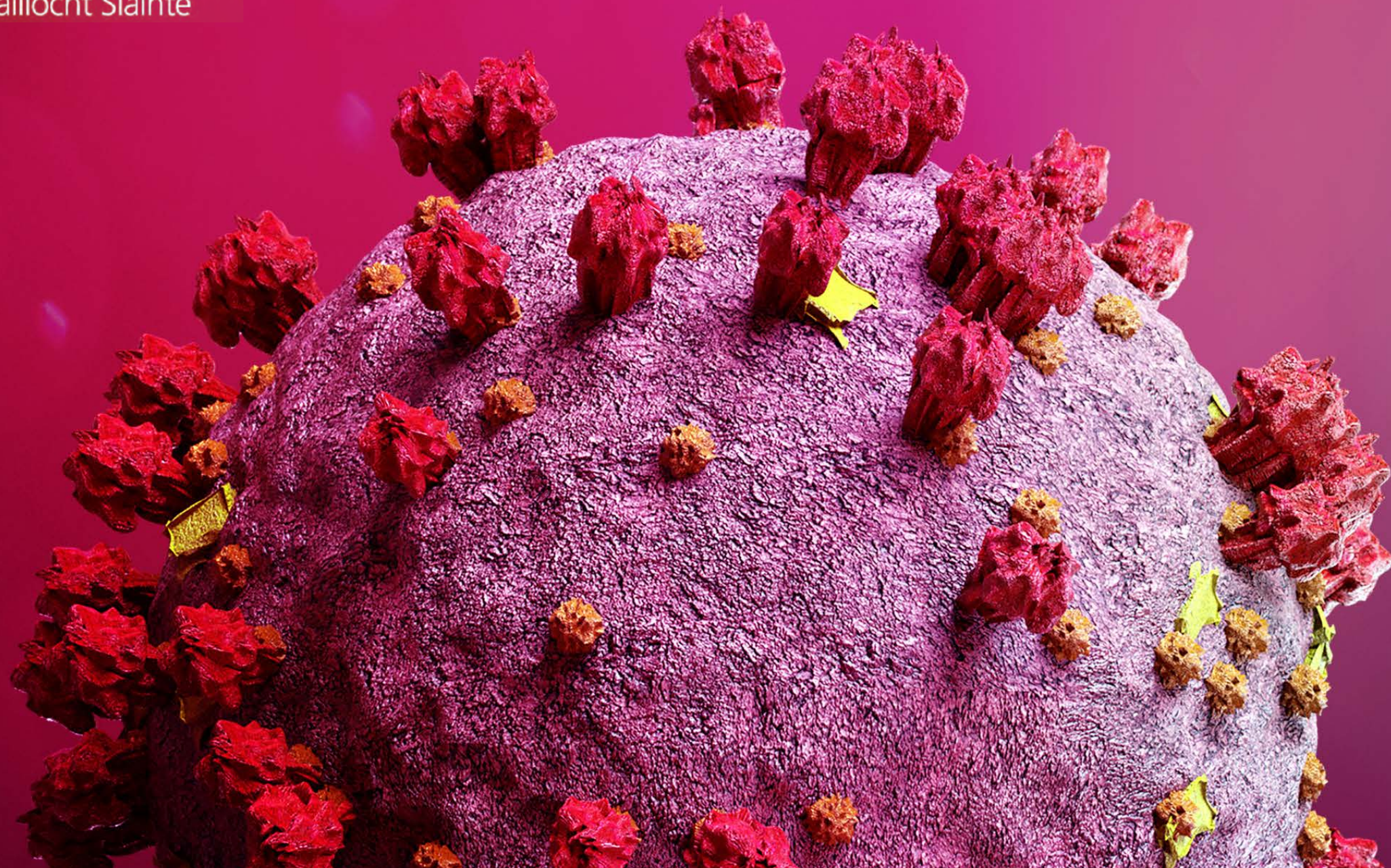




Health
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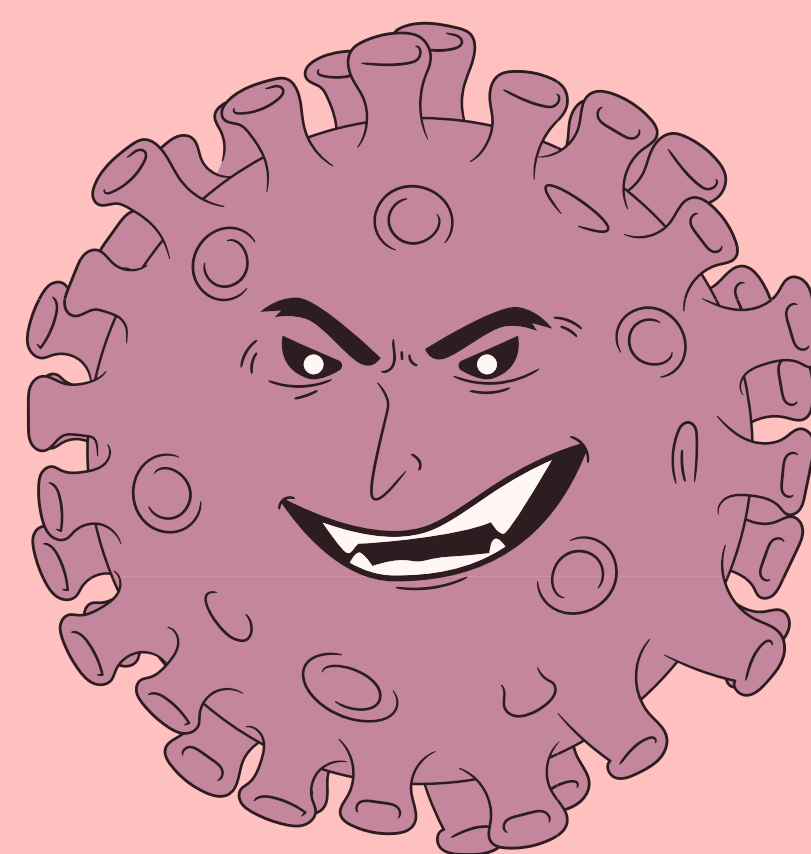
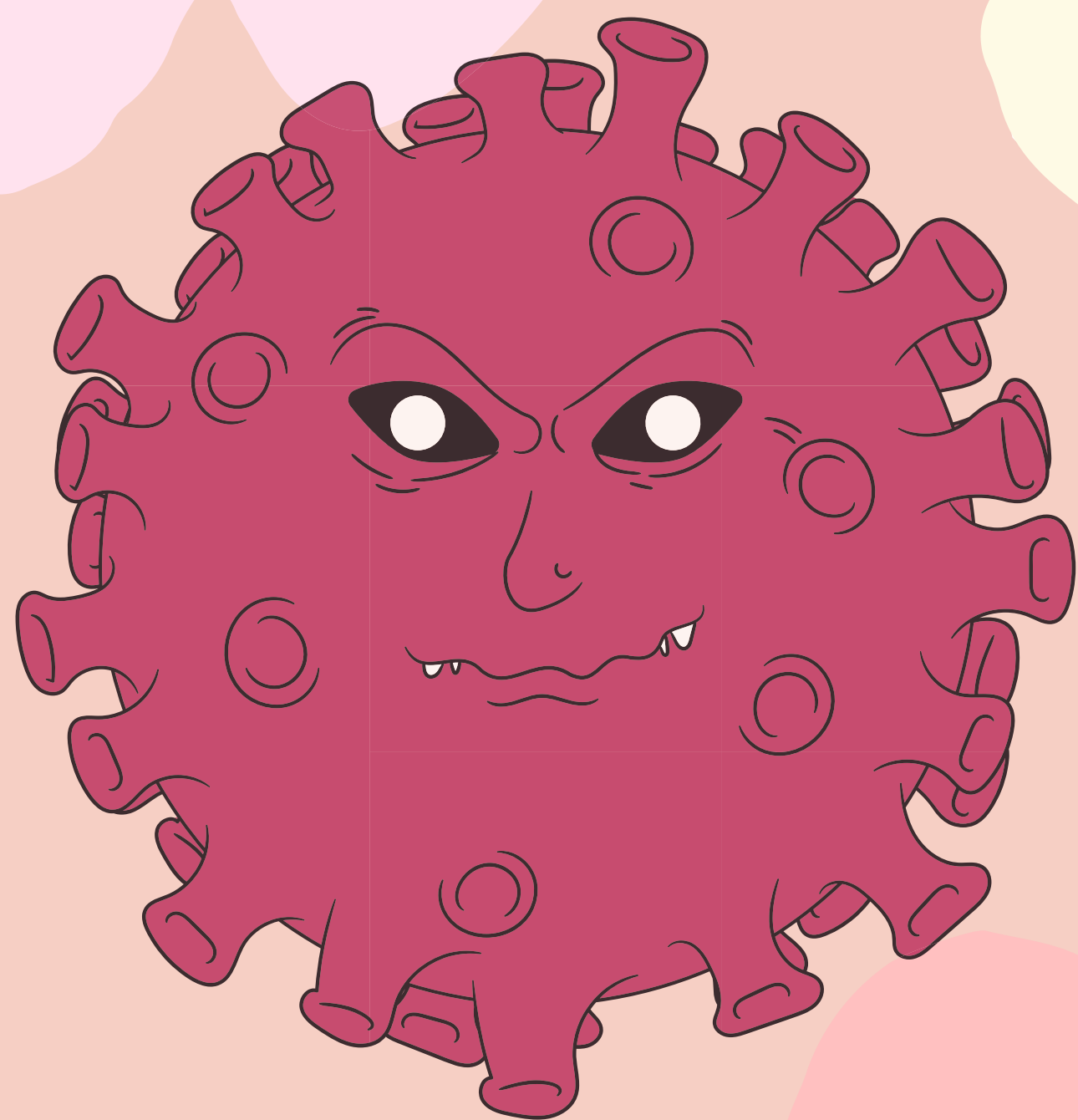
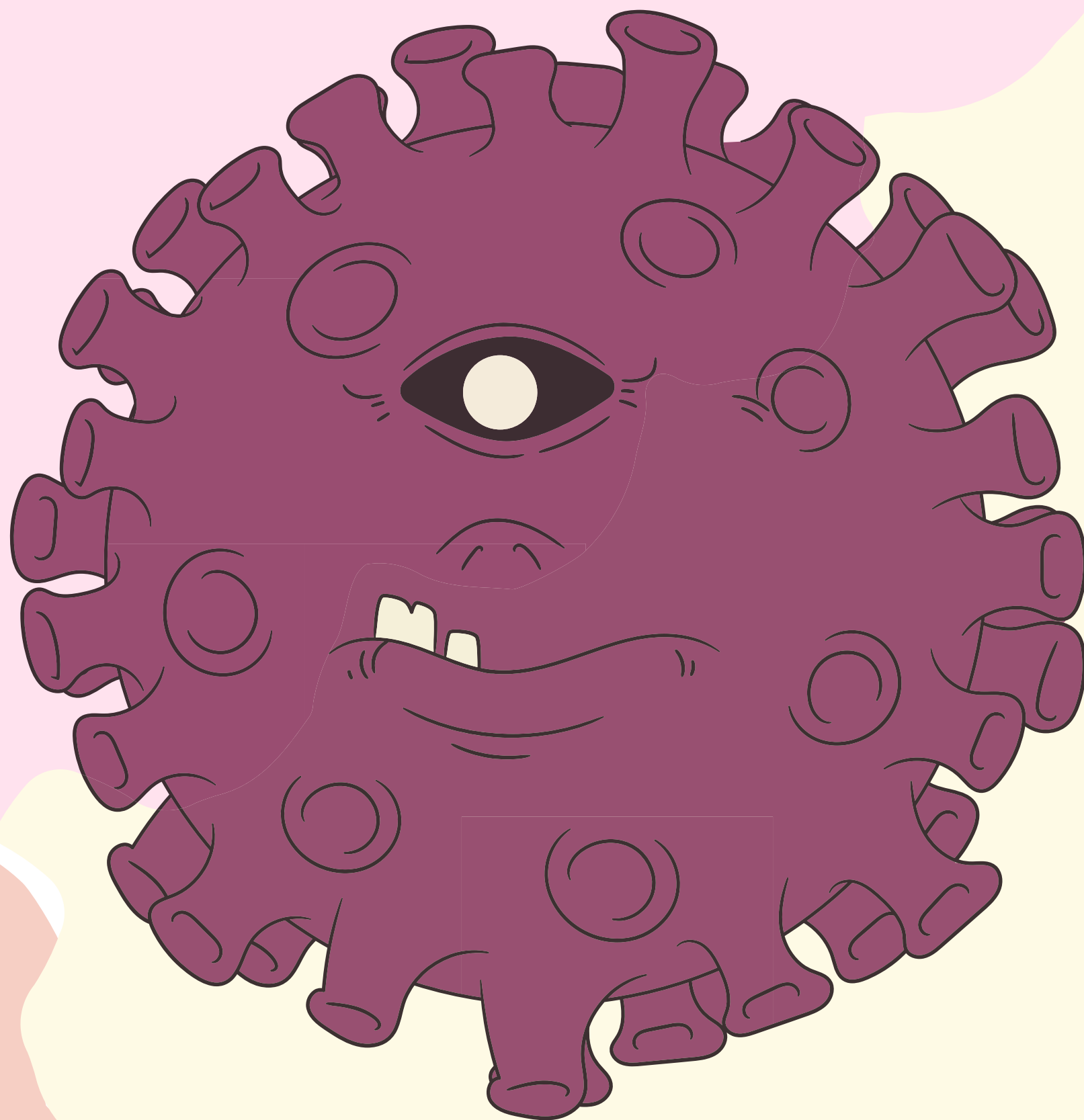
An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte



A ROUND UP OF OUR

REPORTS, REVIEWS AND ADVICE

Submitted to support the National Public Health
Emergency Team to inform its work in June 2021





Mandatory home quarantine and post-travel testing



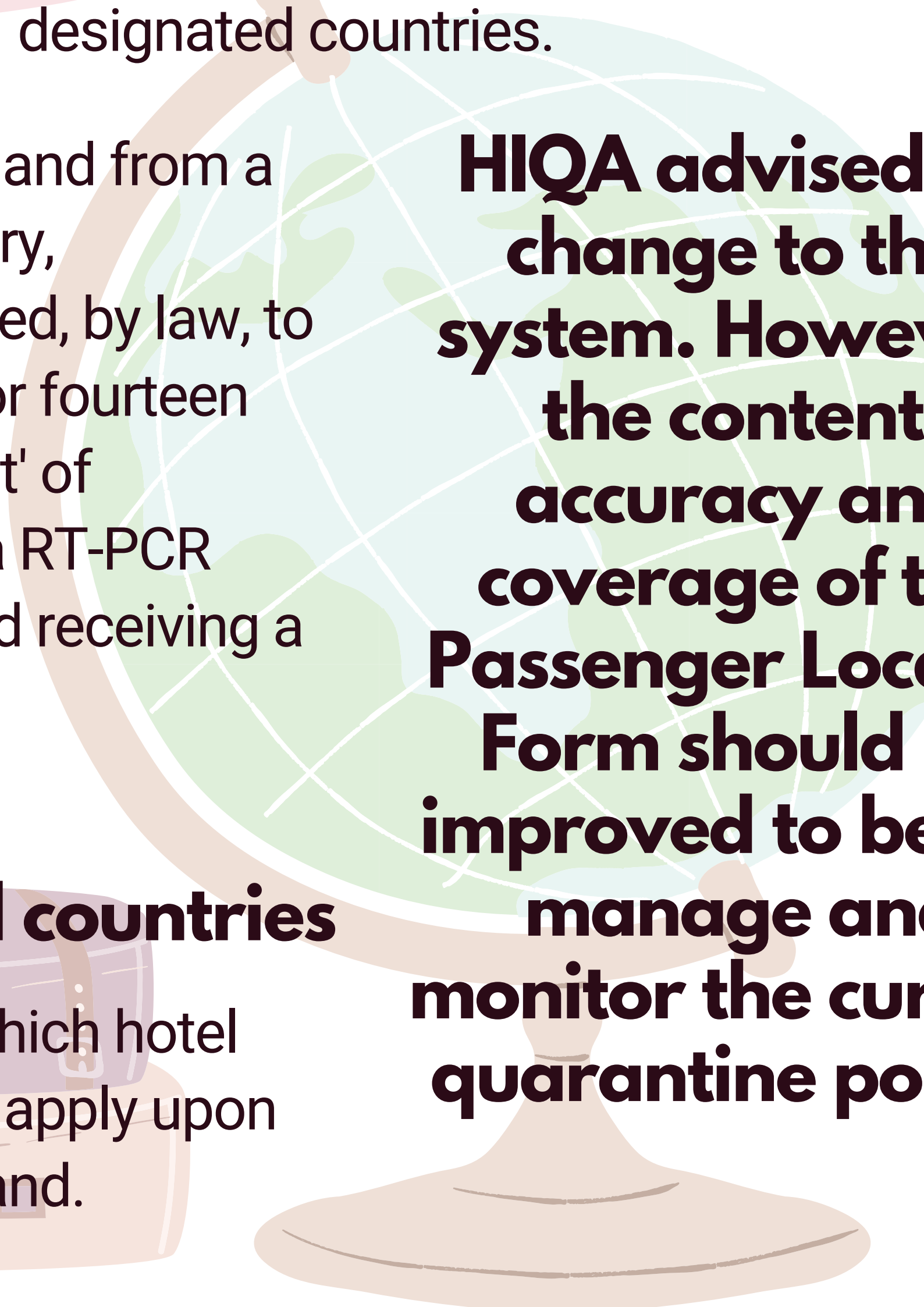
We advised the Health Service Executive (HSE) on the potential impact of **different testing scenarios** and **durations of mandatory home quarantine** for people **travelling to Ireland** from non-designated countries.

After traveling into Ireland from a non-designated country, passengers are required, by law, to quarantine at home for fourteen days. You can 'test-out' of quarantine by taking a RT-PCR test after five days and receiving a negative result.

Non-designated countries



are countries for which hotel quarantine does not apply upon entering Ireland.



HIQA advised no change to this system. However, the content, accuracy and coverage of the Passenger Locator Form should be improved to better manage and monitor the current quarantine policy.

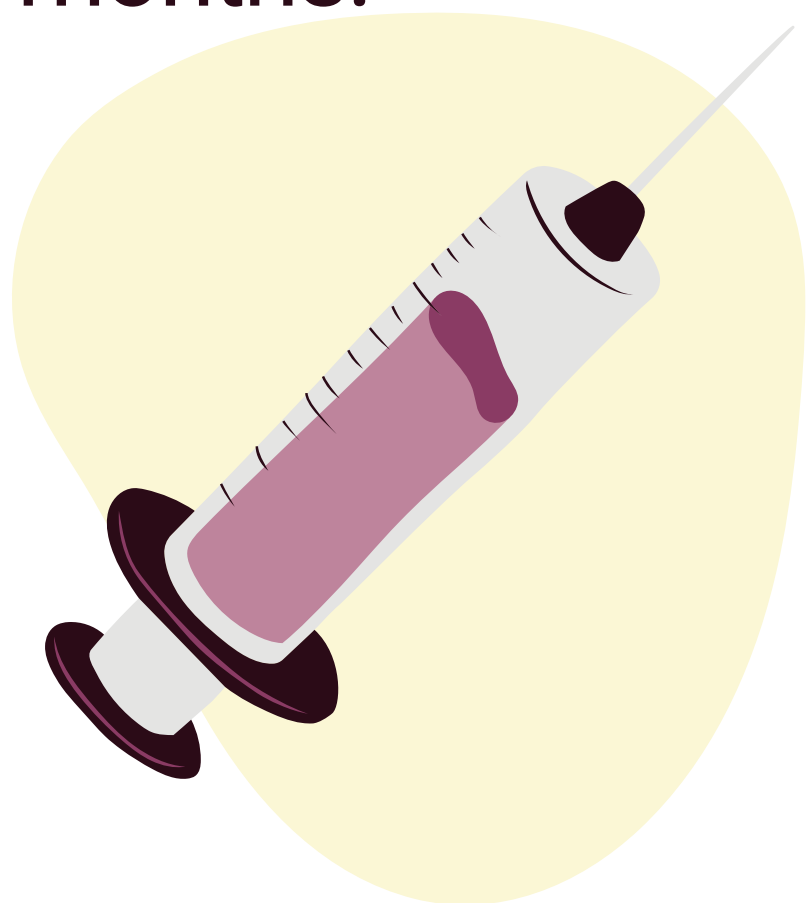


Duration of immunity

We have completed our seventh review into the duration of immunity following a SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Across all the studies we examined, the risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection was consistently low, with no increase in infection risk over time.

In addition, studies suggests that most people develop immune memory after a SARS-CoV-2 infection that lasts for at least nine months.



HIQA advised NPHET to increase the period of presumptive immunity post-infection to nine months.

To note...

The potential impact of new variants on natural immunity is evolving rapidly and needs to be kept under review. Any change to policy must be informed by the latest international evidence and national surveillance data.





Measures to limit transmission at events

We have reviewed studies on how effective measures are at limiting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 at mass events.

We found that implementing a broad range of public health measures can reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.



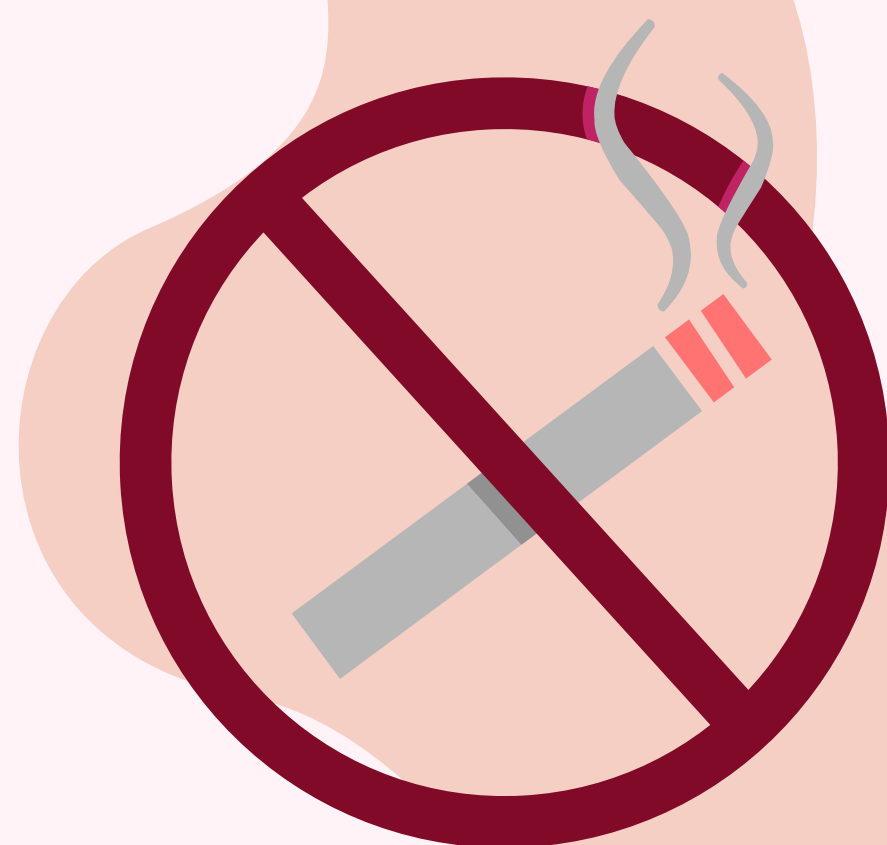
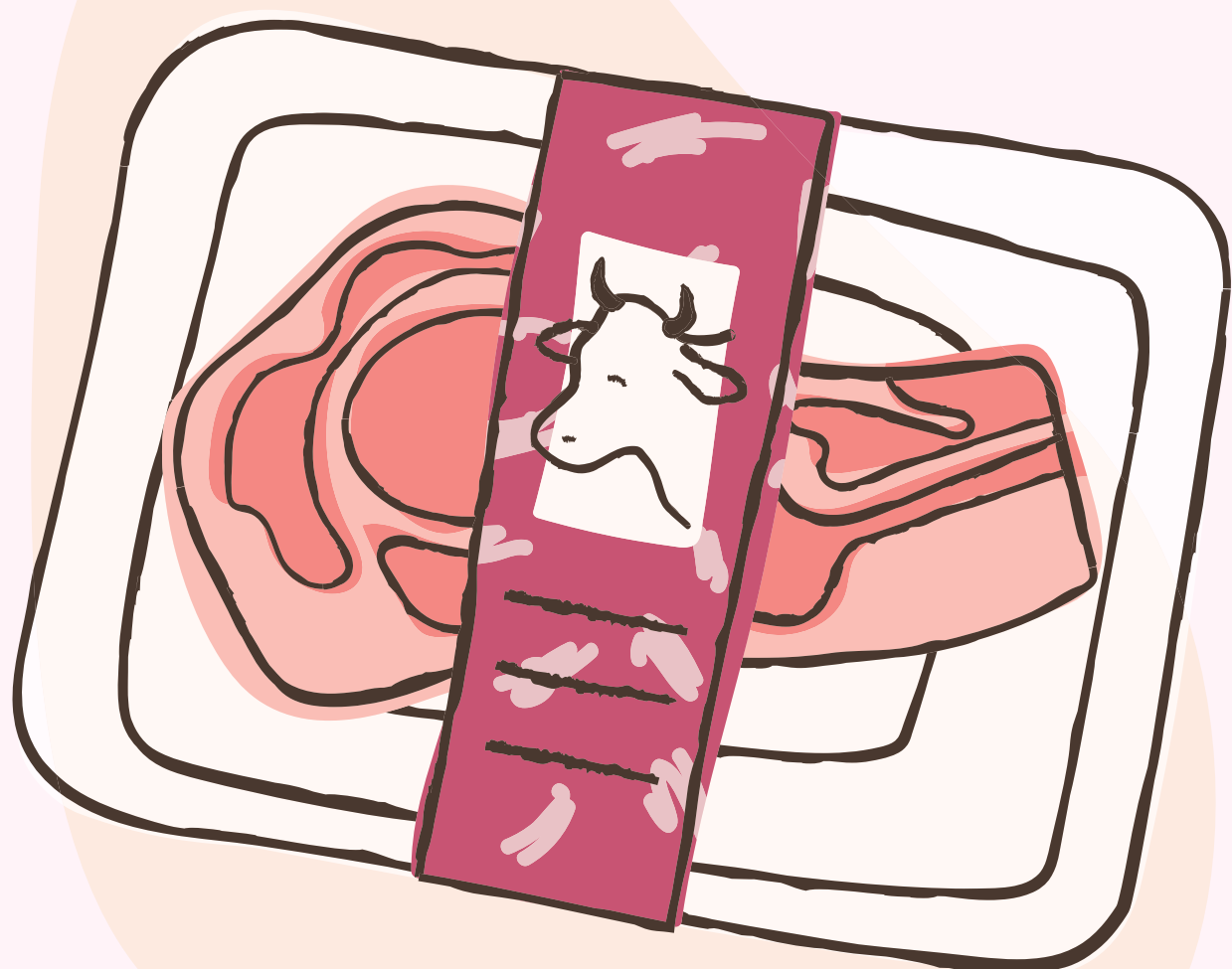
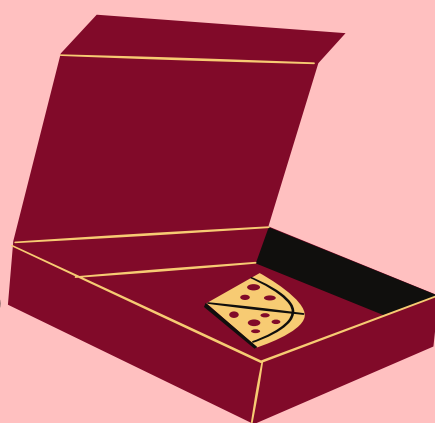
We advised...

A **gradual approach** to lifting restrictions, which takes into consideration the **infection levels in the community**, levels of **vaccination coverage**, the risk posed by **circulating variants of concern**, and the **capacity of the healthcare system**.



In Ireland, pilot events have been launched to guide the safe return of mass gatherings. These are important opportunities to assess the public health impact of large events on the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the wider community.







Interventions that prevent or minimise COVID-19 disease

We published advice on the effectiveness of certain interventions, such as medication, and modifiable health factors, such as increased physical activity, on preventing or reducing the risk of serious COVID-19 disease.

We reviewed the evidence relating to **health risk factors** and **medications** (ivermectin and bamlanivimab).

While results were mixed with health risk factors, maintaining a **healthy weight**, **not smoking**, **exercising** often, being **Vitamin D sufficient** and **moderating alcohol consumption**, is beneficial and may reduce risk.

At present, we did not find any high-quality evidence to suggest any drug or non-drug interventions, apart from vaccination, prevent COVID-19 or minimise the risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

We encourage anyone who has the opportunity to avail of the COVID-19 vaccine to do so, as it continues to be the most effective safeguard against severe illness due to COVID-19.

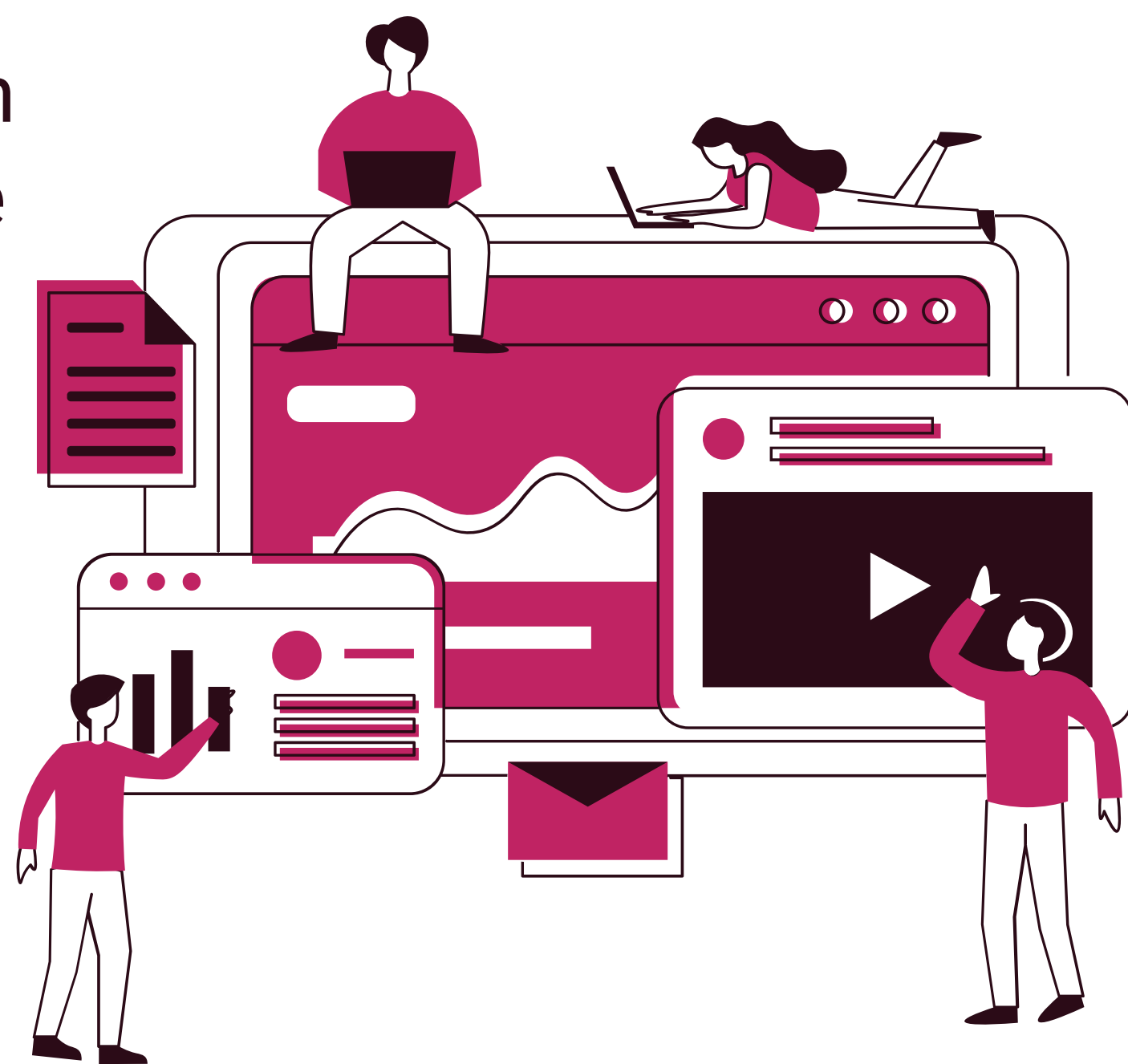


DATA COVID-19 DATABASE

Once a week we update our database of public health guidance on COVID-19 to include latest guidance from governments, public health organisations and NGOs.

The database is mostly used by relevant stakeholders in the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, the National Public Health Emergency Team, the Department of Health, and Health Service Executive.

However, it is accessible and available on our website for everyone and if you are interested in finding out more about how other countries are reacting to COVID-19, we encourage you to use it.



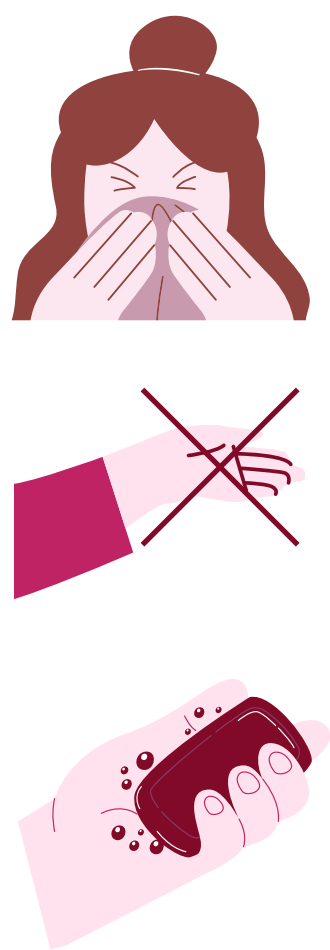


PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

We updated our review of public health guidance issued to protect vulnerable groups who may be at risk of severe COVID-19 twice in June.

Our review summarises the variety of protective measures being taken to protect vulnerable groups who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 across 14 countries.

Advice for vulnerable groups typically includes stay at home, practice hand hygiene, physical distancing and avoid contact with others.



Our latest report included new data from the ECDC and updated advice from Germany, Wales and Norway.

**We have updated
this report**

50
times

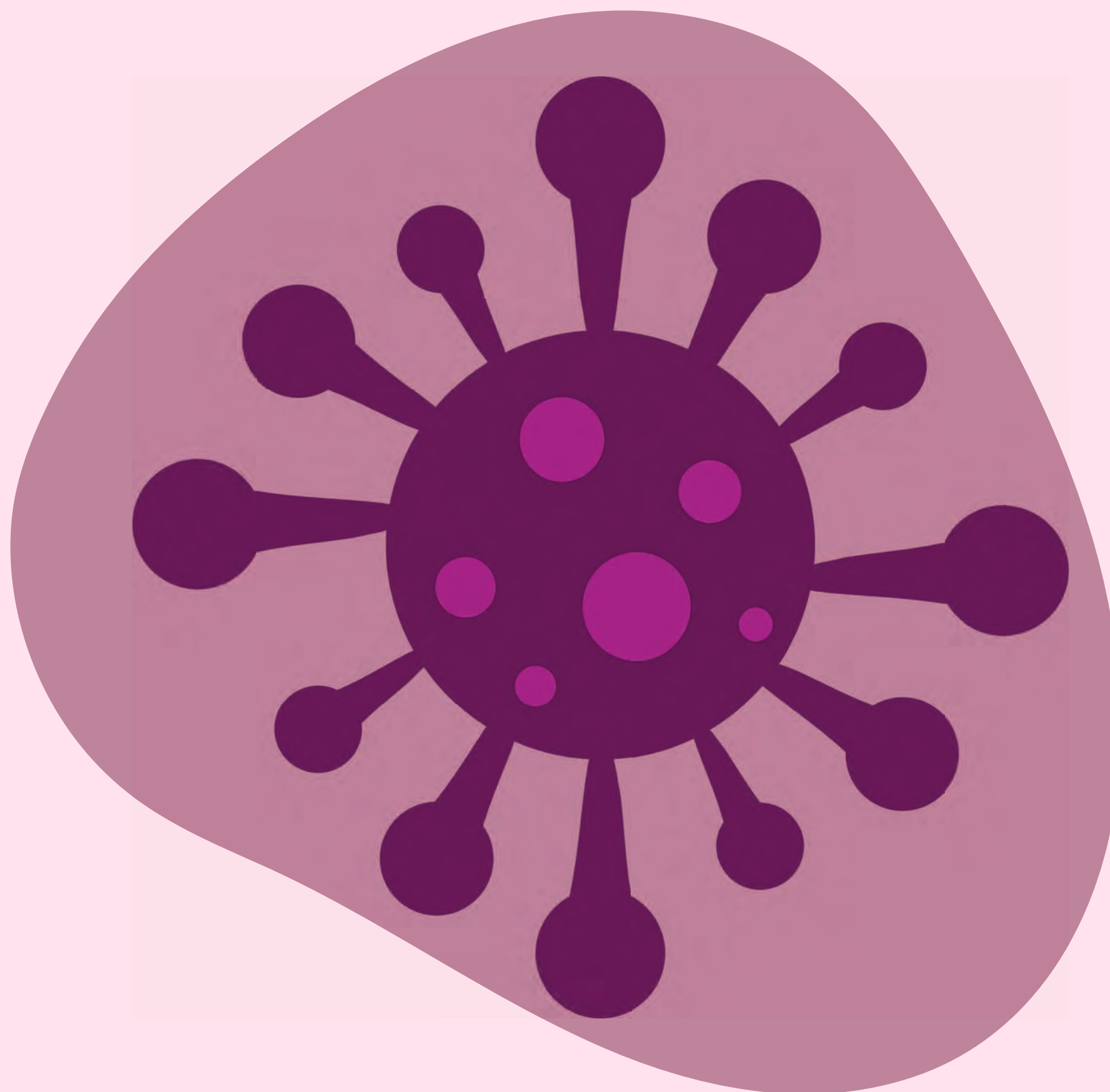


Guidance for residential care facilities

Our latest rapid review of guidance for residential care facilities in the context of COVID-19 included a summary of updated guidance for residential care settings in England, Ireland and Ontario. In Scotland, they have announced that they will be archiving all COVID-19 guidance to preserve and ensure that it remains publicly accessible on a permanent basis.

Residential care facilities (RCFs) in Ireland and across the world have been affected by outbreaks of COVID-19. Our rapid review summarises the guidance issued by national and international agencies to protect residents and staff of RCFs in the context of COVID-19.







Published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

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