

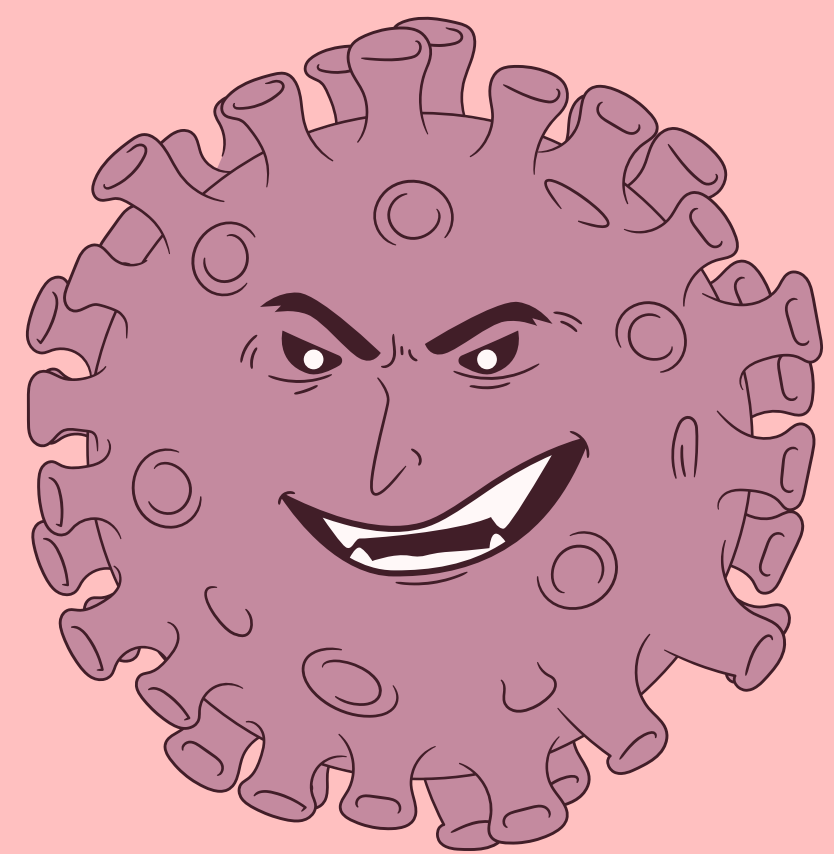
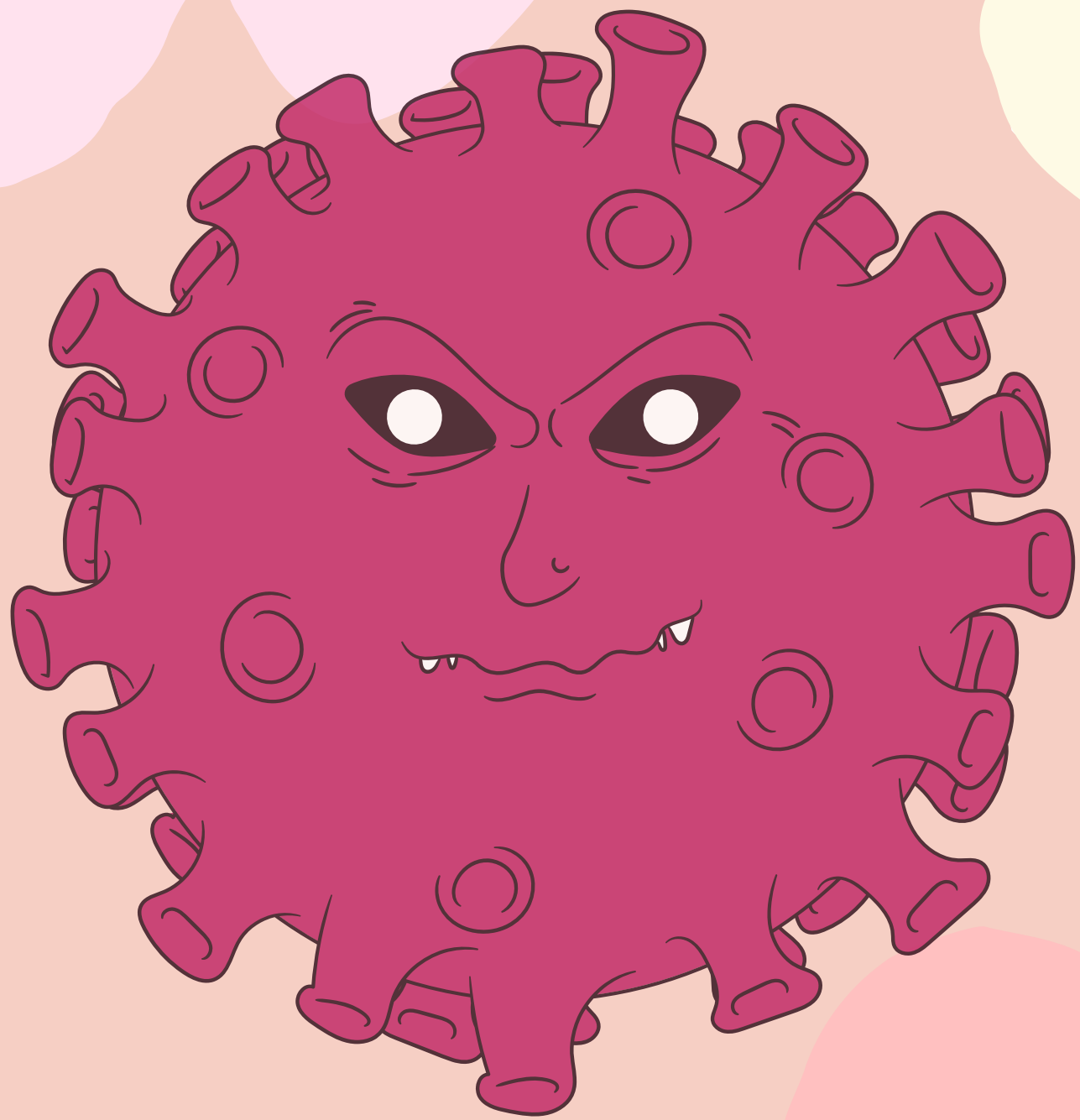
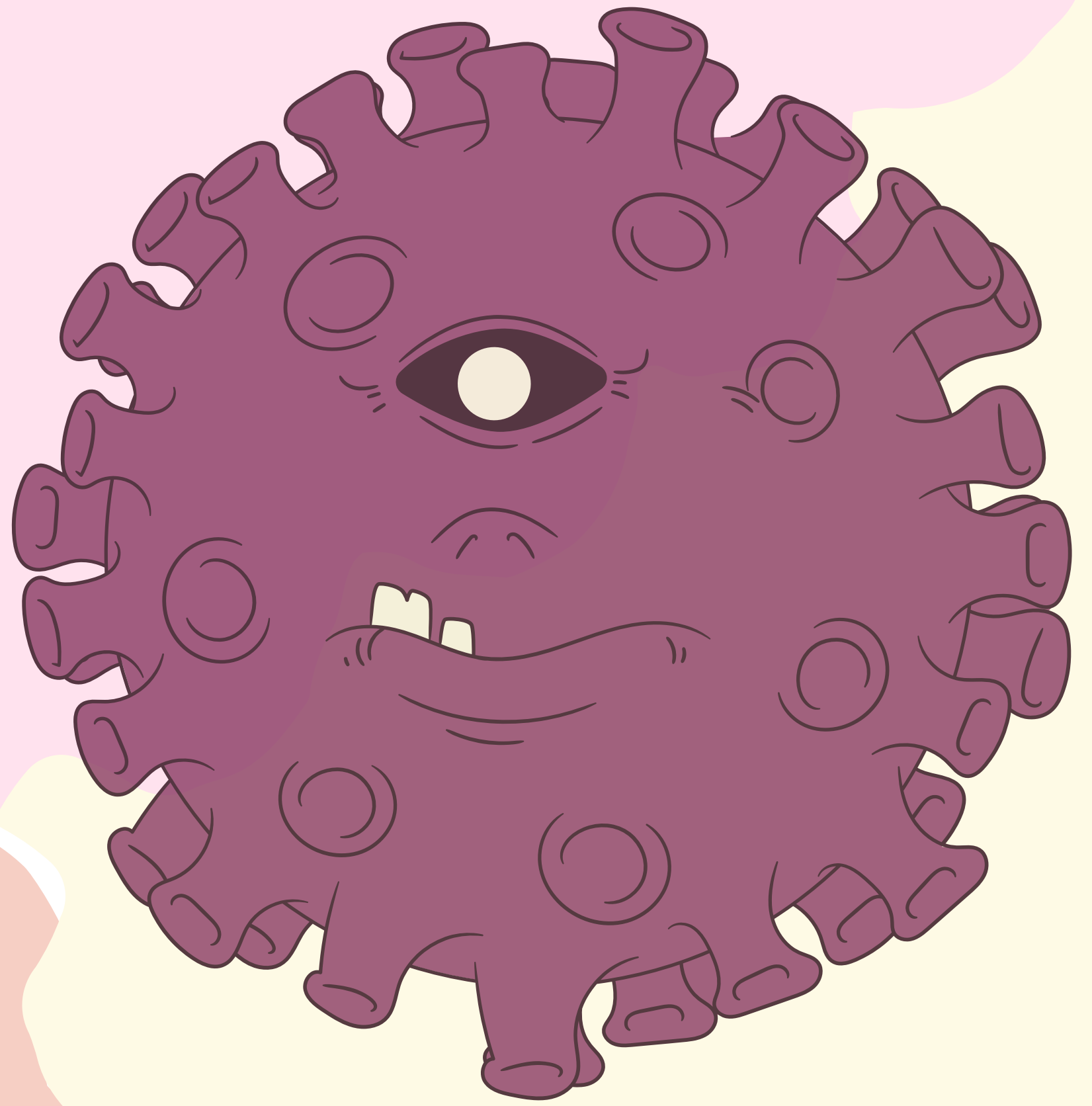


**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

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 September 2021



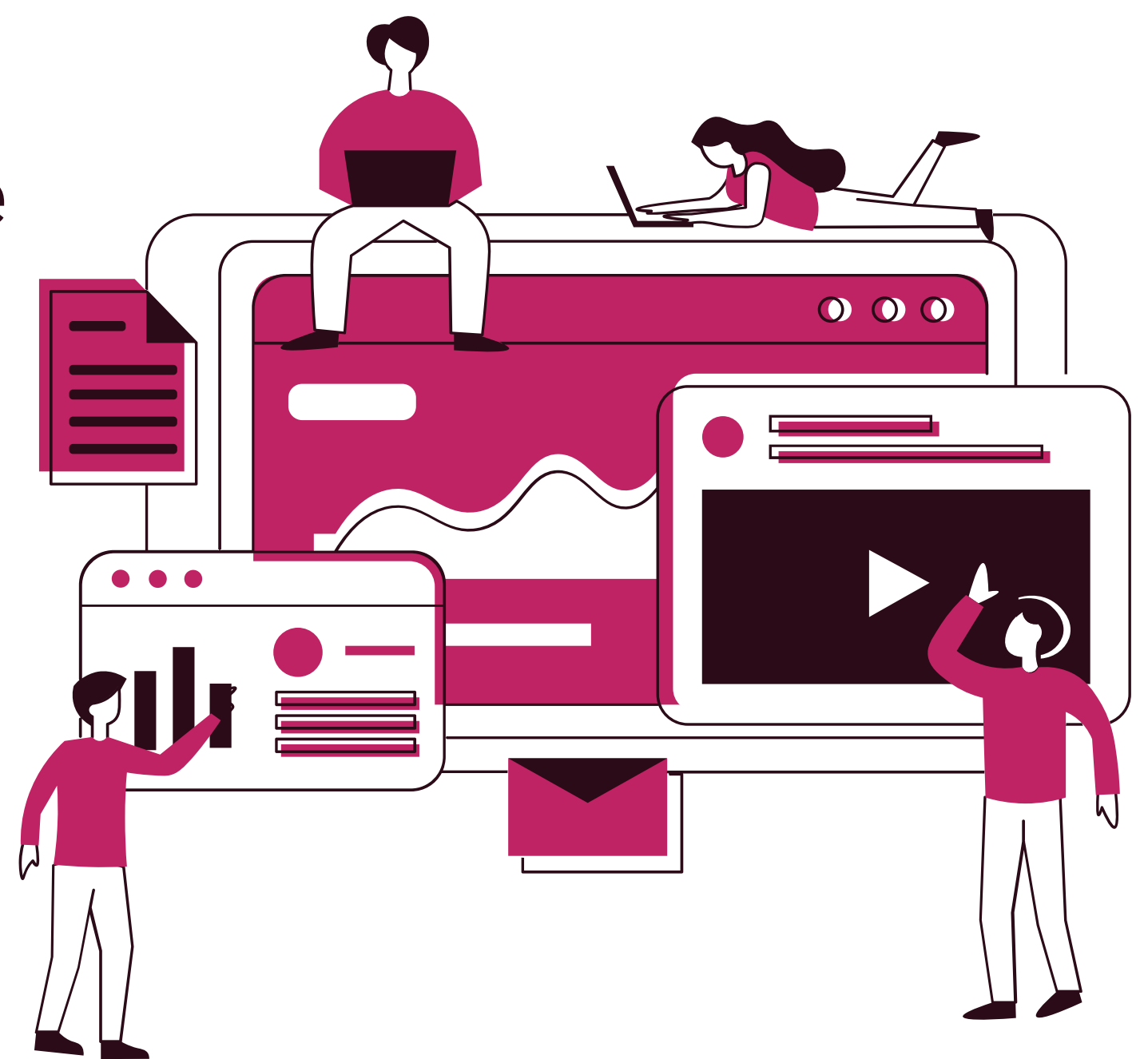


DATA COVID-19 DATABASE

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

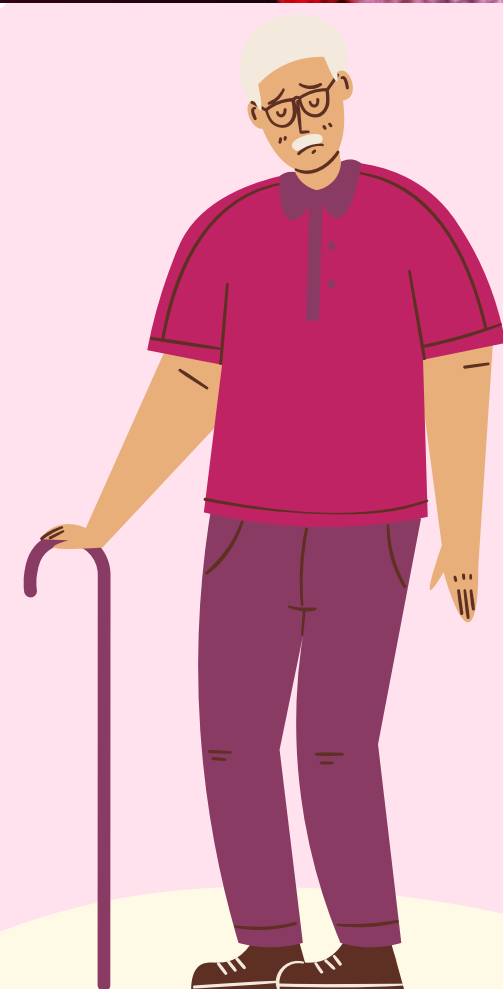
However, it is accessible and available on our website for everyone and if you are interested in finding out more about how other countries are reacting to COVID-19, we encourage you to use it.



Guidance for residential care facilities

Our latest rapid review of guidance for residential care facilities (RCFs) in the context of COVID-19 included a summary of updated guidance for residential care settings in British Columbia and Ontario, Canada, as well as from Ireland and New South Wales, Australia, which does not permit new residents to enter RCFs with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.

Residential care facilities 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.





Rapid antigen testing of asymptomatic individuals

We published our advice to NPHET on the use of rapid antigen testing for screening or surveillance of asymptomatic individuals to limit transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

We found that the current evidence is uncertain regarding the effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals with the aim of limiting transmission of SARS-CoV-2. We also noted significant resource, implementation, regulatory, ethical and social considerations with RADTs

We advised...

that RADTs may have a role in limiting transmission in certain circumstances, but only as an additional public health measure, rather than a replacement for known mitigation measures.

"A negative antigen test in an asymptomatic person should not be viewed as a 'green light' to engage in activities that would be otherwise considered as high risk for transmission."

Dr Conor Teljeur, HIQA's Chief Scientist






PPE Modelling Report

We have published our PPE modelling review for the Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) team within the Health Service Executive (HSE).

The goal was to inform how estimations of the optimal supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to protect healthcare workers and patients and support infection prevention and control practices during COVID-19 are made.

In total, 14 studies reporting on 13 separate models (eight models, one technical report and five journal articles), were included in the review





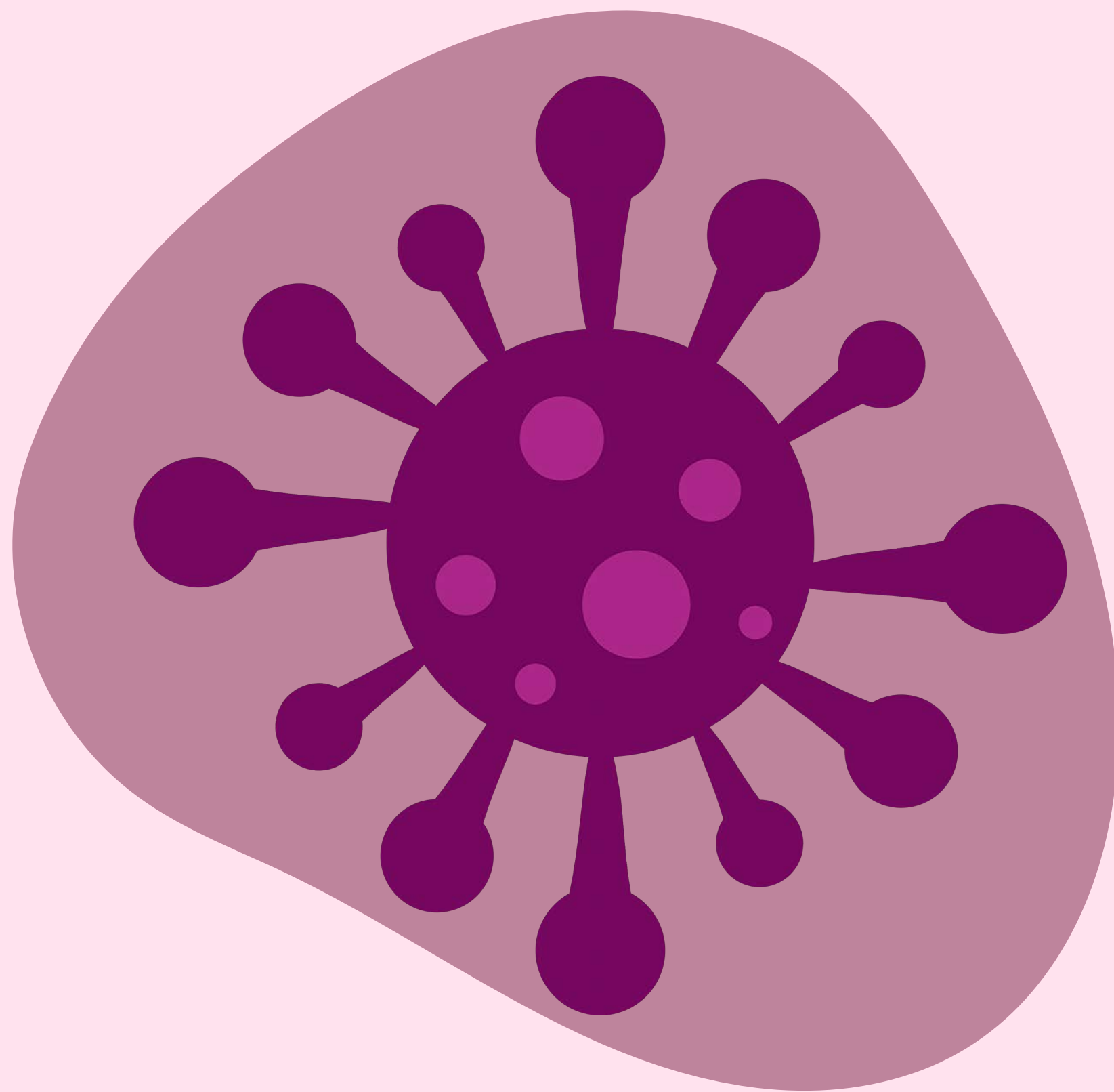
Minimum age for mask wearing

Updated since April 2021

We advised NPHET that no change was necessary to the current minimum age of mask wearing. This advice was informed by the latest international evidence and practice as well as input from HIQA's COVID-19 Expert Advisory Group.

The use of layered mitigation measures in schools and childcare facilities, such as physical distancing, increased ventilation, hand hygiene and not attending when you have symptoms of COVID-19, reduces the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2







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For further information please contact:

Health Information and Quality Authority
George's Court
George's Lane
Smithfield
Dublin 7
D07 E98Y

Phone: +353 (0) 1 814 7400
info@hiqa.ie
www.hiqa.ie

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