



To DCYA stakeholders, funded youth services and organisations

12 March 2020

**Re: Covid 19 communication to DCYA funded youth services and organisations**

Dear all,

You will be aware of the Taoiseach's announcement on upgraded measures to protect public health in relation to Covid 19. The announcement stated that colleges, schools and childcare facilities (creches etc.) are to close from 6pm today. It advised that indoor gatherings exceeding 100 persons and outdoor gatherings of more than 500 persons should not go ahead. This statement covers the period up until 29 March 2020.

The Department is very much aware that voluntary youth organisations may have concerns as to the availability of funding during this unprecedented period of action to protect public health. **It wishes to confirm that funding will continue as normal throughout this period.**

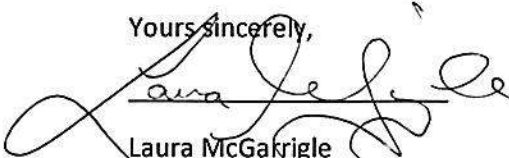
The Department acknowledges that each organisation must consider its own local circumstances when making decisions around how this outbreak will affect the management of their day to day activities. Organisations should record the impact on services for future reporting to the Department. They should also record innovative solutions for maintaining services to young people, particularly vulnerable young people.

The guidance on managing interactions with members of the public or work colleagues remains in place and can be found on the HSE's website: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/> The Data Commissioner has also provided advice in relation to the sharing of information, which can be found here <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/news-media/blogs/data-protection-and-covid-19>

The Department will issue further communications as the situation evolves.

Thank you for your continued work in the interests of young people across Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



Laura McGarrigle  
Assistant Secretary General  
Youth Justice, Adoption, Youth & Participation