

On 28th February the first report of a new coronavirus - or Covid-19 touching Irish shores was in relation to a woman who travelled through Dublin Airport on her way to Northern Ireland from Northern Italy. She subsequently tested positive for the illness on returning home to Belfast.

On 1st March a secondary school closed in the East of the Country for 14 days as it was confirmed that a male student had the virus. He had returned from a ski-ing trip.

On 2nd March the majority of Google's 8,000 staff and contractors in Ireland were told to go home after one member reported flu-like symptoms.

Various people developed the virus between then and

Thursday 12th March The Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announces that schools, colleges and childcare facilities will close until 29 March. Online learning began for those who had Google Classroom or Seesaw and work was issued to children via the internet. Eventually all Junior Cert & Leaving Cert exams cancelled and an announcement made that Schools would not return until September or October.

Friday 12th March most businesses made urgent arrangements for the majority of employees to work from home from Monday 16th March.

15th March. All pubs, including hotel bars were asked to close until at least 29th March in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19.

On 28th March lockdown began in Ireland with a mandatory order for everyone to stay at home for a two week period apart from certain exemptions and essential workers throughout the whole Country. You can only leave your house for medicine, shopping (food) or vital reasons (ie medical appointments). Only those considered essential workers must go to work. This has been extended and is still ongoing today. It is not being reviewed until Monday 18th May 2020.

Community support groups were established, to support the vulnerable, elderly, immunocompromised and people in enforced isolation due to exposure, in their community who were asked to co-con and stay indoors at all times 🧓👴👵👶

Some played music,, some sang songs and some played Bingo! Some delivered food packages, did food shopping and did whatever they felt necessary to help their neighbours.

From Thursday 26th March at 8pm and every Thursday night thereafter, we all stood united on our doorsteps, balconies and open windows and applauded and cheered for all our amazingly brave NHM/HSE staff 🙌👮🙌👮🙌👮 who so courageously and selflessly battled on to try and save as many lives as possible ❤️ We lit candles in memory of those who died from the virus 🕯️

Petrol 🛢️ price close to home 🏠 €1.11 per litre

Social distancing measures required of a minimum of 2 meters 📏

Tape on the floors at grocery stores 🏪 and others to help distance shoppers 🛒 from each other.

Limited number of people were allowed inside stores, therefore, queuing outside the store doors, still 2 meters apart 🏪

Non-essential stores and businesses mandated to closed 🚫 People who can are instructed to work 👤 🏠 👤 🏠 from home 🏠

The Government is paying 80% of wages to all employees across the country who were furloughed due to Covid-19. Anyone who lost their job gets €350 (including self employed).

Every airline ✈ grounded either all or at least 85% of its fleet. All crew were grounded and some used their skills to work for the NHS or HSE at Letterkenny or Altnagelvin Hospital, the Ambulance Service, 111 telephone handlers or community support.

Air pollution improved. Rivers cleaned up. City & traffic emissions reduced. ♻

Parks 🌳 trails, entire cities 🏙 closed or restricted to locals who can get there by foot. Not permitted to drive anywhere to exercise.

Entire sports ⚽ 🏏 🎾 seasons cancelled. No GAA, no Wimbledon, no end to the Premiership, no Boat Race, no Dublin Marathon, no Darkness into Light.

Olympics postponed to 2021.

Concerts 🎵 tours 🚌 festivals 🎪 🏠 entertainment events 🎭 all cancelled

Weddings 👰 👤 family celebrations 🎉 holiday gatherings 👥 even funerals ⚰ cancelled 🚫 In Ireland a maximum of 10 people from the deceased's immediate family are permitted to attend funerals while maintaining social distancing of 2 metres.

Families got creative and found entertaining ways of passing time by doing Tik Tok videos or going Live on Facebook. 📹

Singers and bands played live sets on their driveways or on their balconies for all to hear 💡 🏠

Households that can't see their friends and loved ones come together across the country by using Zoom or Houseparty to play games or host pub quiz nights.

No masses, churches 🏪 are closed 🚫

No gatherings of 50 or more, then 20 or more, then 10 or more. Now, don't socialize with anyone outside of your home 🏠

Children's outdoor play parks are closed 🎡

We are to distance from each other. Shortage of masks 🤒 gowns 🧥 gloves 🧤 for our front-line workers.

Shortage of ventilators for the critically ill 🤒 in many parts of the world. Formula 1 racing teams and Virgin Galactic designed and produced ventilators in the space of a week.
Refrigerated trucks for the dead outside hospitals in the USA 🇺🇸 Italy 🇮🇹 Spain 🇪🇸 China 🇨🇳 and more.

Panic buying 🛒 sets in and we have limits on toilet paper 🧻 disinfecting supplies, paper towels, staple foods, hand sanitizer 🧴 Flour is hard to get because the packaging comes from China 🇨🇳 and borders are closed 🚧

Manufacturers, distilleries and other businesses 🏢 switch their lines to help make visors, masks 🤒 hand sanitizer 🧴 and PPE 🧤

Fines are established for breaking lockdown rules 🚫

Stadiums 🏟️ and recreation facilities overseas open up for the overflow of Covid-19 🔄 patients.

Public Park 🌳 areas turned into caravan parks for stranded tourists to self isolate 🚐

Press conferences daily from the Taoiseach 🗣️ and other government 🏛️ officials. Daily updates on new cases, recoveries, and deaths 📰

Government incentives to stay home. Barely anyone on the roads 🛣️

People wearing masks 🤒 and gloves outside 🧤

Essential service workers are terrified to go to work 🧑🏻‍💼 🧑🏻‍🔧 🧑🏻‍🎓

Medical field workers are afraid to go home to their families 🧑🏻‍👩🏻‍👧 🧑🏻‍👩🏻‍👦

Today we wait anxiously to see what lies ahead. It is hoped and anticipated that sanctions placed upon us will begin to lift. Albeit slowly. There has been a significant drop in the number of new cases of the virus which hopefully is a good sign and we can continue next week with the next phase of the Governments plans to slowly reopen society.

A reminder that life is precious and not to take the things we dearly love for granted ❤️

We have so much we need to appreciate that we take for granted.

Be thankful. Be grateful 😊

Be kind to each other - love one another - support everyone 🤗

We are all one! Stay home, stay safe. ❤️