**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Ireland (Generally)***

1. What actions are being taken to protect the island community from Covid 19? In particular, how are travel restrictions being put in place and enforced?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * Very few travel restrictions; flights and ferries are still operating between Ireland and Britain, but the number of passengers is very much less.
* The Irish Government has already undertaken, and is continuing, a wide range of measures. All pubs, theatres, sporting venues and other places where people gather, are shut. The only shops which are open are those selling essential foodstuffs, pharmacies are also open, and some hardware and DIY shops will re-open soon. Everyone is urged to stay at home, wash hands frequently, and avoid contact with people other than their immediate family with whom they share living space.
* The rules are based on advice from the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Control. The wearing of face masks is not obligatory, but is advised.
* The number of deaths has risen to 1029 by 22 April.
* One of the country's epidemiological advisers has stated that Ireland possesses the great advantage of being an island, and therefore able to control its borders, but this advantage has been thrown away by having two separate jurisdictions and two separate Health Service Agencies which are not co-operating. In the Republic of Ireland, the Health Service Executive is closely following scientific and medical advice, and in constant contact with the WHO, the ECDC, other EU Member States, and has received advice and assistance from China. In the North of Ireland, the Health Service takes its orders from the British Government in London, and there is disagreement among the political parties represented in the Legislative Assembly which acts as the regional government. The epidemiological expert has stated that it would be more logical to have a single Health Service Executive for the entire country.
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1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

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| Respondent | Date | Response  |
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure that essential goods and services are provided to the island community?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * Roll-on and roll-off vehicles are carrying essential food into Ireland, and also exporting meat products and dairy products to other European countries (Ireland imports around 80% of some foods, while exporting 80% of meat and dairy products). Air cargo flights into and out of Ireland are still continuing.
* Electricity supplies are stable, being powered by onshore and onshore wind, and by natural gas from Europe (mainly Norway) which comes via Britain through three separate interconnector undersea pipelines. There are also two electricity interconnectors with Britain, and an undersea connector with France is planned, and has been given EU support. A more controversial plan to import LNG by sea from the US is also under consideration.
* At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and when restrictions were imposed on peoples' movement, there were occasional shortages in some shops (household materials, face masks, disinfectants, some foodstuffs), but at present (23 April) all essential goods are available. However, there has been a major increase in the sale of home baking and food preparation materials, as greater numbers of people are baking bread and cooking at home, in preference to shop produce.
* From this time onwards, as fruit and vegetable come into season, the government has allowed workers from Bulgaria and Romania to enter the country (one or two flights maximum) to assist with harvesting. These workers have had to undergo testing, and they will be isolated for 14 days.
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure that people working on the islands, not only in the tourism sector, are sustained financially in the short term and in the long term?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Garry KendellenGalway AtlantaquariaGarry@nationalaquarium.ie | 22 March 2020 | * Social welfare payments.
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| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * The Irish Government has provided a payment of 70% of the normal wages paid to a person who has become out of work (laid off) because of the Covis-19 epidemic. No long term plans have been formulated as yet.
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1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * Numerous voluntary organisations and local government agencies are providing mental health services for people affected by loneliness (because of self isolation, loss of income, failure of small businesses, etc), and the these are widely advertised on radio and TV.
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1. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to share any data about people who have Covid 19 on your island and of people who, sadly, have passed away because of Covid 19.

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
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1. If applicable, how are the lockdown measures being relaxed?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * No relaxation yet, but 05 May has been set as a target date for when the current measures will be considered; and, if the number of cases continues to reduce, there will be some easing of the restrictions on a phased basis. Those activities which are of the greatest social and economic benefit, and which pose the least risk, will be the first to have restrictions relaxed.
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1. Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent  | Date | Response |
| Jack O’SullivanEnvironmental Management Servicesjackosullivan2006@gmail.com |  23 April 2020 | * As mentioned in my reply to an earlier question above, the complication of having two separate health authorities on the island of Ireland has not helped matters; and the problem has been made more intractable by one of these health authorities (in the North of Ireland) following the practice initially adopted by the British Government, i.e., reliance on "herd immunity, before this concept was discredited. The health authority in the North also delayed the closure of schools, so that we had the problem of school students living in one of the jurisdictions finding that their school in the other jurisdiction remained open; while children living in the North of the country (where schools remained open) but who were attending school in the Republic of Ireland found that their school was closed.
* As in the United States, there has been some politicisation of the response to Covid-19 in the North of Ireland. Of the two major political parties which comprise the majority of members of the Legislative Assembly, Sinn Féin has been advocating the following of WHO and ECDC protocols, and especially maintaining a consistent lockdown regime with the rest of Ireland (i.e., the Republic); while the DUP (a Unionist Party) has advocated that the North of Ireland should follow the instructions of the British Government. This is one of the reasons why some of the country's medical experts have recommended a single health authority for the entire island, i.e., for All-Ireland.
* The spread of Covid-19 could have been further restricted, and the number of deaths reduced, if lockdown measures had been implemented a week or two earlier.
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1. Resources

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| Resource | Date | Link |
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*This information has been collated by the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance in collaboration with Island Innovation and can be found at* [*https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/*](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/)*.*