

Press Release: For Immediate Release

27th March 2020

Irish Rural Link Urge People to Heed the new Measures on Cocooning Announced by An Taoiseach

Irish Rural Link – the national network representing the interest of rural communities is urging everyone to now heed the new measures announced this evening, 27th March, by An Taoiseach, especially cocooning for the elderly and others in the high risk category.

We are also asking people to check on elderly and other vulnerable neighbours by phone and ensure they are ok, that they have adequate food, fuel and medicine and to alert the relevant local volunteers, agencies and services if help is needed.

People should keep their Eircode near their phone or in an easy to access place and use it if they need medical attention or if volunteers are collecting supplies for them. Also, always ensure that you know that you know the volunteer and ask to see identification of the volunteer if they are not known to you and the group they are with. Also, for older people with a Personal Alarm to wear this on your body at all times.

We would also like to remind those who will now be cocooning to not be afraid to ask for help from family members, if living nearby, or from neighbours. This is a time when communities will come together to ensure their elderly and other vulnerable neighbours and friends remain safe.

Again to note that if you or anyone you know are concerned about symptoms contact either your GP or the HSE Helpline on 1850 24 1850.

Alone, the organisation for older people, have a COVID-19 helpline that people can call with any concerns. The number is 0818 222024 open from 8am to 8pm.

-Ends-

For further information, please contact (anytime):

Seamus Boland (Chief Executive) 086 2491153 or Louise Lennon (Policy and Communications Officer) 086 1069244

About Irish Rural Link:

Irish Rural Link represents the interests of locally based rural groups in disadvantaged and marginalised rural areas by highlighting problems, advocating appropriate policies, sharing experiences and examples of good practice. It has a membership of over 600 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level.