

# Businesses and public in Galway City asked to consider accessibility issues associated with social distancing measures

Galway City Council, Galway Chamber and Galway City Partnership in association with Access for All, have

launched a call for both businesses and members of the public to consider the challenges faced by people with disabilities,

including those with visual impairment and those with mobility issues, as a result of the new social distancing regime we all now find ourselves having to adapt to.

The request comes following a meeting between members of the Galway City Council Mobility Team and Access for All to discuss issues people with disabled people can face on a daily basis due to necessary social distancing measures.

"While these new arrangements pose difficulties for all of us, they often pose more significant challenges for people with disabilities. Many people with a disability plan out their journey around the city in advance and have a regular routine in place, and any unexpected change or unnecessary obstacle to this can have a significant impact on someone's day" commented Marian Maloney from Access for All.

"There are 11,000 people living in Galway City living with a disability. In addition to



Pictured at the launch of the campaign were Gina McNamara with her dog Cherie, Mayor Mike Cubbard, Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber, Fiona Blaney, Galway City Partnership, David Kennedy and Marian Maloney with her dog Leon pictured in Eyre Square. Photo: Boyd Challenger

this, many older persons have mobility challenges. Many of these have spent the past three months cocooning as a result of government recommendations and are nervous as they emerge back into society and our city. As many as 13.5 per cent of the population of Ireland have a disability, it is likely that a significant number of domestic visitors to Galway city this summer will have mobility

challenges and each and every one of these people are customers and consumers." said Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Mike Cubbard.

The general public are being asked to have consideration for the additional challenges faced by people with disabilities as they try to deal with measures and restrictions resulting from COVID-19 Health Emergency, by considering the following

- points:
  - Avoid parking in parking spaces designated for people with disabilities
  - Avoid blocking footpaths with illegal parking
  - Recognise that not all disabilities are visible and that some people may have difficulty seeing signage and judging distances
  - Allow time and space to people with disabilities in queues for

- public transport
  - Be considerate of the fact that guide dogs are not trained to socially distance
  - Verbal communication is essential and can avoid miscommunication and confusion
  - While businesses are struggling through the worst economic shock of their lives, many owners and their staff accept that there are those who the experience of coming into town and trying to move about as normal is all the more challenging. This initiative shines a light on some of what we've taken for granted, the unique physical and sensory capabilities individuals live with and the changes to our society as we now know them' said Kenny Deery, CEO Galway Chamber.
  - Some of the measures businesses are being asked to consider are:
    - Installing hand sanitisers for the public to use at a level that takes wheelchair users into account
    - Making staff aware of the issues faced by people with disabilities in relation to signage and queuing and to be cognisant of potentially hidden disabilities
    - Ensuring any new measures introduced, in-store or on-street do not have an impact on the accessibility of the business
    - Making sure accessible toilets are opened and available
  - Improving the accessibility of a medieval city such as Galway will take a collective effort by us all, but can certainly be helped by taking a few extra moments to consider the difficulties faced by disabled people.

Discover Galway with your friends, co-workers or hen/stag party with our exciting city centre adventure escape game!

Use discount code **SAVE15** to save €15 per team when you book online!

**OPENING**  
AUGUST  
6th, 7th,  
8th & 9th

[www.theclueacademy.com](http://www.theclueacademy.com)

# SKIP HIRE

**WE DELIVER, YOU FILL, WE COLLECT**

EXISTING CUSTOMER? YOU SAVE AN EXTRA **10%**

**1800 33 66 99**  
**CITYBIN.COM**  
WE DELIVER & COLLECT 6 DAYS

**RACE WEEK 2020 at GALWAY SUMMER GARDEN**

**BOOK YOUR RACE WEEK EXPERIENCE NOW!**

7 Days of Race Week Entertainment

Get your Frocks On for Ladies Day!

Best Dressed Competitions in association with **GALWAY 2020**

**BOOK YOUR EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE NOW**

[WWW.GALWAYSUMMERGARDEN.IE](http://WWW.GALWAYSUMMERGARDEN.IE)

**WWW.GALWAYSUMMERGARDEN.IE**  
A Milestone Inventive Production

# Phase 4 of the Reopening Roadmap is being paused



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme

Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on Ireland, on our communities, our businesses and our families. In responding to the crisis the priority has always been the wellbeing of our people and our communities.

Thanks to the extraordinary commitment, sacrifice and solidarity of the Irish people, we have limited the impact of the disease and saved lives, thank you. But the virus is still with us, it still poses significant risks - and we must continue to be cautious.

There has been an increase in cases in Ireland. We are in a good position as regards the progress we have made with the disease. We want to hold on to that. So we are taking a cautious approach and pausing Phase 4 until August 10th to allow us to continue to monitor the changes we have seen in the last 2 to 3 weeks.

We want to take a prudent approach so that we can continue to protect the vulnerable, enable schools to reopen and to continue the careful resumption of healthcare services.

## These are the five main things you should know

1	2	3	4	5
<p><b>Phase 4 of the reopening roadmap is being paused until 10th August.</b></p>	<p><b>We must limit our contacts.</b></p> <p>You should limit direct contacts with those outside your household.</p> <p>You are advised to limit the number of visitors to your home to a maximum of 10 - from no more than 4 other households.</p> <p>Organised gatherings must not exceed 50 people indoors or 200 outdoors.</p> <p>Continue to avoid crowded spaces.</p>	<p><b>Face coverings are now mandatory on public transport.</b></p> <p>All customers in shops and shopping centres are asked to wear face coverings.</p>	<p><b>Pubs, bars and casinos will remain closed.</b></p> <p>Pubs and bars operating as restaurants that opened for Phase 3 must be fully compliant with the regulations.</p>	<p><b>All non essential international travel must continue to be avoided.</b></p> <p>On Monday 20th July, The Government will publish a Green List of countries which have a similar risk of infection to Ireland. However, we are still asked to avoid all non essential international travel.</p>

The Pandemic is not over. The Public Health guidance remains the same:



Observe hand hygiene



Social distancing rules still apply



Observe coughing and sneezing etiquette

We are still in this together.

Find out all details, and public health advice at [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland