

NPHET - Review of Existing Policy Personal Behaviours & Social Distancing

Quantitative Tracker

The latest public opinion tracker data, dated Tuesday 2 Jun, is available online [here](#)

Key insights

- For the first time a majority (55%) of adults feel that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, reflecting other indicators such as the level of worry about COVID-19 (5.4 in this wave) falling below the level first recorded at the start of March (5.6).
- However, 59% of people think it likely that Ireland will experience a second wave of COVID-19
- While the more than 90% say they will continue to practice hand and cough hygiene, only 46% think that 'everyone/most people' are following the social distancing guidelines

Qualitative Tracker

Key insights from the latest focus group feedback, dated 29 May, reveals that:

- Sentiment remains cautious but optimistic. While it is acknowledged that Ireland has achieved a in suppressing the virus there is still very much a sense, particularly amongst older cohorts, that risk and danger remain. This risk is both for now (spread of the virus) and for the future (second wave).
- The easing of restrictions means more people are visible for the first time in weeks. While this suggests progress it also creates conflict and anxiety for people who fear that people will become complacent as they ease back into more 'normal experiences.' Stories and anecdotes of 'back ally hairdressers' and house parties are creating further anxiety and leading to an increase in mistrust of others.
- People want to feel that they have the power, through the right information, to protect themselves and others
 - They want the information to be provided in a structured and unambiguous way because they perceive that without structure there is only chaos
 - They are looking for absolute clarity around the public health advice so that they can be reassured each individual in the collective knows the right thing to do