

# Effective public health systems must be built on more than health protection finds HIQA report

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has published a report on the configuration and reform of Public Health systems in the following countries:

- Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



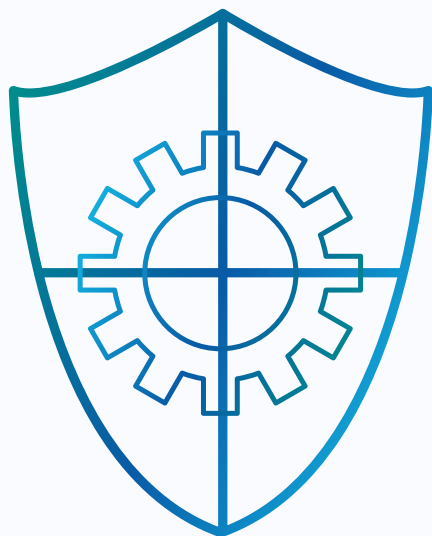
The COVID-19 pandemic placed additional stress on health systems. Governments worldwide are now considering how to strengthen their Public Health systems to prepare for future pandemics.

This report examined how Public Health systems in 12 other countries are designed and operated, and how they reacted and adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The lessons learned will help inform the work of the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group.

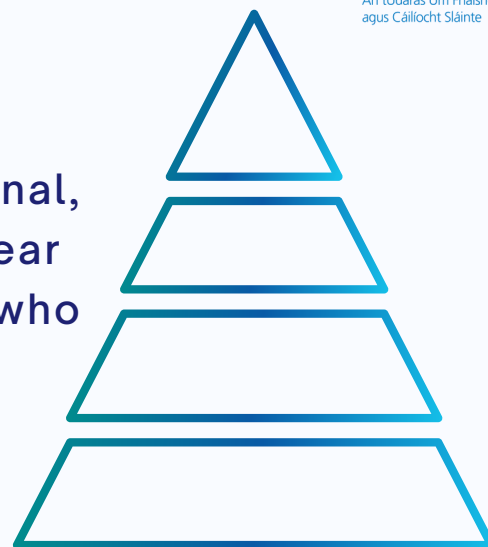
You can find the full report on our website, [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie).

The three main findings to ensure a sustainable and comprehensive public health system were:

Public health may be delivered at national, regional or local levels. If devolved, clear governance and communication about who is responsible for each Public Health function is necessary.



Robust IT infrastructure (for data collection, surveillance and linkage) should be put in place to allow for smoother transitions during emergencies.



A process for evidence synthesis is required, with a clear link between scientific evidence and decision-making.



**DURING THE PANDEMIC, PUBLIC HEALTH WAS LIMITED TO HEALTH PROTECTION.**

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLBEING, HEALTH INTELLIGENCE AND HEALTH SERVICE IMPROVEMENT WERE PLACED ON THE BACKBURNER. AS SYSTEMS RETURN TO “BUSINESS AS USUAL”, THESE FUNCTIONS MUST ALSO BE STRENGTHENED.**

Further information:

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