

# A review of public health emergency stockpiling in European countries.

## What is stockpiling?

Stockpiling involves storing a large supply of items in case they are needed in the future.



## What did we review?

HIQA looked at stockpiling for public health emergencies (such as a pandemic) in five countries: France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway.

## Physical stockpiles...

Are items stored in warehouses, quick to access if needed. All five countries used this type of stockpile as it was cheaper and quicker than a virtual stockpile. Virtual stockpiles are where companies store a certain amount of stock that the government can buy if needed in an emergency.



## COVID-19...

Changed what countries stockpiled, adding facemasks, gloves and ventilators during the pandemic. Due to high costs, it is not certain this should continue.



## Challenges

Unused expired stock poses a large challenge. To manage this, some countries rotate stock. Rotating stock means that when items are close to their expiry date they are either sold or given away to hospitals or charities.



The information in this report will be used to help develop a stockpiling strategy for Ireland.

