

## OUTDOOR SEX WORK AND COVID-19

COVID-19 can be transmitted through either touch, saliva or breath droplets. Due to COVID-19 it is safer not to sell sex. **If you are selling sex, where possible:**

- **Avoid the customers face anywhere on you (kissing, oral, rimming). This is the most important piece of advice**
  - Try not to see any customers who have fever, cough, cold or shortness of breath
  - Carry hand sanitiser, antiseptic wipes, and condoms
  - Use antiseptic wipes before touching a car/door handle
  - Clean or sanitise your hands and face before and after every job
  - Avoid the customer's face throughout (sex from behind is recommended to lower COVID risk but not recommended for physical safety)
  - Avoid touching your own face, or the customer's face
  - Tie your hair back to prevent it coming into contact with the customer's body
  - Outside in fresh air is safer than in a car
  - If you do get into a car, try to have the windows down as much as possible, avoid using the air con
  - Keep contact to less than 15 minutes if you are face to face or within 2 metres
  - If you are giving a hand job do it from behind to stay away from their face
  - Carry a soft bag for your knees so you can do oral while the customer stands
- Try to shower frequently, change, then wash your clothes when you have finished working.**

**Gardaí cannot arrest you for street sex work. BUT during COVID-19 restrictions, Gardaí had extra powers and could ask you to move on. If you refused, they may have arrested you. COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted, they no longer have these powers.**

Any form of contact with anyone could potentially transmit COVID-19. The only way to avoid contact with COVID-19 is to stay indoors and not work.

For peer-led support contact the Sex Workers Alliance Ireland (SWAI) **085 8249305** or [www.sexworkersallianceireland.org](http://www.sexworkersallianceireland.org).

For free condoms posted out to you in a plain bag, contact Susan from the Sexual Health Centre via text/WhatsApp/email **086 028 6227** or [susanwalsh@sexualhealthcentre.com](mailto:susanwalsh@sexualhealthcentre.com), and request The Bag - full discretion, no questions asked and this will be posted free of charge. For more resources search SafeRsexwork on [www.sexualhealthcentre.com](http://www.sexualhealthcentre.com).

If you need someone to talk to or are unsure about what supports are available for you, please contact Billie from GOSHH via text/WhatsApp/email **087 219 2848** or [support@goshh.ie](mailto:support@goshh.ie).

