

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. **Meeting #52, COVID-19.**

Date: Tuesday 1st September 2020, 09:00 hrs.

Attendance:

Members – Paul Reid, CEO; Ann O’Connor, COO; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Anne Marie Hoey ND HR; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Yvonne O’Neill, Community Operations; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; Martin Dunne, Director National Ambulance Service; Niamh O’Beirne, HSE EMT; Dr Siobhan Ni Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC; Sara Maxwell (for John Kelly), Corporate Affairs; Dr Paul Connors, Communications.

In Attendance - Cahir O’Byrne, HSE National Office for Emergency Management; Killian McGrane Nat Program Director, Contact Tracing.

Apologies:

Fran Thompson, CIO; Amanda Prior, HSE National Office for Emergency Management.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	<p>The CEO opened NCMT #52.</p> <p>The CEO extended thanks to all in meeting surge demand in Testing and Tracing over the previous week.</p>		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #50 & #51 taken as read and approved.		Cahir O'Byrne - National Emergency Management
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	The CEO requested an update on NPHET actions at NCMT #53.	The action list will be updated as necessary to include new actions and status of existing ones.	Tom McGuinness - National Emergency Management
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
	The CEO requested an update on open NCMT actions.	The NCMT action list has been updated and will be circulated with the minutes.	Cahir O'Byrne - National Emergency Management
5. Public Health Update			
	<p>A national epidemiological update was provided by Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC.</p> <p>Epidemiology 14-day period: 16th August 2020 – midnight 29th August 2020:</p>	Update to be provided at next meeting.	<p>Dr Lorraine Doherty - Clinical Lead HPSC</p> <p>Dr Lorraine Doherty – Clinical lead HPSC</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,514 total confirmed cases notified compared with 1,096 confirmed cases in previous 14-day period 2nd August 2020 – 15th August 2020 • National incidence of confirmed cases: 31.79/100K population compared with 23.02/100K in previous 14-day period • Median age 31 with 72.1% of cases age <45 years, compared with median age of 33 and 71.5% of cases < 45 in previous 14-day period • The majority of cases were in Dublin 40.3%, Kildare 15.5% and Tipperary 8.7%, compared with Kildare 37.5%, Dublin 18.3% and Offaly 9.8% in previous 14-day period. <p>The incidence rates for this period were highest in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kildare 105/100K population • Tipperary 82.7/100K population • Carlow 72/100K population • Compared with Kildare 184.7/100K, Offaly 137.2/100K and Laois 60.2/100K in previous 14-day period <p>Past 24-Hour Epidemiology In the 24-hour period between midnight 29th August and midnight 30st August</p>	<p>Lorraine Doherty forwarded epidemiological report to CEO 01SEP20.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>there were 55 confirmed cases reported on CIDR, bringing total confirmed cases in Ireland to 28,813 as of midnight 30th August 2020.</p> <p>Overall there is a continuing trend toward community transmission. House parties are a cause of concern and communications may need to strengthen message to reflect that concern. Note LD has engaged with the Garda Commissioner to explain current trends and how the virus is spreading and impact of house parties.</p> <p>Dr Kevin Kelleher also noted that there is ongoing rise in hospitalisations (39), while small, is still 4 times the number at lowest point. These cases are not translating into ICU cases at the same rate as previous hospital admissions.</p> <p>LD has reported to NPHE on impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups and NPHE has requested ongoing updates.</p>		
6. Testing & Tracing Update			
	The CEO noted the concerns expressed by opposition leaders re Testing and Tracing at a meeting which included the	Niamh O'Beirne to update at next meeting.	Niamh O'Beirne – HSE EMT

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>Taoiseach, Minister for Health and A/CMO and CEO HSE.</p> <p>CEO further noted that HSE needs to maintain focus in these areas. This may require accepting an element of redundancy in the system to allow for rapid flex to increase services as demand spikes.</p> <p>NO'B provided an update: 58K tests undertaken last week, likely this will be exceeded in current week. Serial testing in meat plants was focused on Kildare and showed 0.52% positivity rate (2,500 people tested – 13 positives). This will now be expanded to all of the State, 17K tests to be carried out.</p> <p>PH request focus is on production facilities for Meat, Fish and Mushrooms as these are deemed to be high risks. Other facilities may be included following appropriate risk assessment.</p> <p>Serial testing in NHs continues and shows a positivity rate of 0.17% (45k tests – 80 positives). CHO 7 and Kildare in particular have higher positivity rates as compared to earlier series of tests (30 positives). Elsewhere positivity rates are</p>		

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>in line with previous testing. NHI are very supportive of this program and are keen to see it continue. 90% of NHs are now self-swabbing. Turnaround times can be slower due to the method of testing, NHs anxious to test all staff but that means that some tests are carried out up to 48hrs in advance of scheduled collection time for transportation to lab.</p> <p>The first serial testing at Direct Provision site will commence on Friday at [REDACTED]. This will involve quite a number of children so may present some challenges in how to manage process.</p> <p>End to End testing is taking 2.2 days on average.</p> <p>Referral to appointment time has recovered with 90% of appointments within 24hrs.</p> <p>223 staff currently engaged in contact tracing.</p> <p>NO'B will be joining a meeting with DoH at 10:00 regarding testing of schools in the event of an outbreak. FAQ sheet to be prepared for parents and school staff.</p> <p>Kevin Kelleher noted that he will be meeting with school management bodies and unions to provide information to them. This process has worked well in</p>		

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>the past for non-covid scenarios and engagement is useful in order to try to bring these groups onboard.</p> <p>NO'B noted that recruitment is ongoing for testing and contact tracing staff in order to have a dedicated workforce in place.</p> <p>An updated operational model to include all improvements will be released in October.</p> <p>Yvonne O'Neill highlighted the DNA rate for Day 7 tests. The message must continue re the importance of attendance for day 7 tests. Day 0 currently 70% attendance Day 7 48% attendance.</p>		
7. Community Operation			
	<p>Yvonne O'Neill noted that positivity rates in some NHs have increased. Community response teams are monitoring based on reports received from LD's team. They will continue to ensure that appropriate supports are available as required.</p> <p>HIQA have identified some NH sites where they have concerns about ICP following inspection.</p>	<p>Community Ops will update at next NCMT.</p>	<p>Yvonne O'Neill</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
-------	------------	--------	-------

8. Acute Operations

	<p>An update was provided by Liam Woods regarding Private Hospital Agreements to create surge capacity. [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Liam Woods to forward note to CEO with update on tenders once details are available.</p>	<p>Liam Woods – Acute Operations</p>
--	--	---	--------------------------------------

9. Clinical Coalition

	<p>No further updates other than those already covered in this minute.</p>	<p>Dr Colm Henry to update at next NCMT.</p>	<p>Dr Colm Henry – Chief Clinical Officer</p>
--	--	--	---

10. AOB

	<p>Winter Plan is progressing and is with DoH. Taoiseach keen to have it signed off by next Monday at latest.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the need and / or benefit of COVID messaging regarding Leaving Cert celebrations.</p> <p>PR & Dr Colm Henry noted that the Interim Cancer Care Report needs to be</p>	<p>AOC, SM and CEO continue to engage with DoH.</p> <p>Dr Lorraine Doherty, Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain are to work with Communications to draft some references for messaging around Leaving Certificate celebrations.</p> <p>CEO . CCO to update as required.</p>	<p>Anne O’Connor COO</p> <p>Dr Lorraine Doherty, Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, Dr Paul Connors.</p> <p>Paul Reid, Dr Colm Henry.</p>
--	--	---	---

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	published. DoH stated that Minister may want to bring it to cabinet prior to publication.		
11. Next Meeting			
	NCMT #52 Tuesday, 8th September 2020 @ 09:00am	[REDACTED]	