

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. **Meeting #59, COVID-19.**

Date: Tuesday 20th October 2020, 09:00 hrs.

Attendance:

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

In Attendance - Cahir O’Byrne, HSE National Office for Emergency Management; Amanda Prior, HSE National Office for Emergency Management.

Apologies:

Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Martin Dunne, Director National Ambulance Service.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	<p>The CEO opened NCMT #59.</p> <p>The CEO discussed the decision made by government based on NPHEH advice to move to Level 5 restrictions for a 6-week period. A meeting took place between the CEO, Taoiseach and Minister for Health and their call to the HSE was made clear, regarding leveraging the opportunities over the 6 – week period.</p> <p>The CEO emphasised these will have real and significant implications to the economy and people. These sacrifices are to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health system.</p> <p>All senior managers must use this period to do what is required to further protect the health system.</p> <p>Support from government is strong and ongoing, including funding of €600 million for the Winter Plan. There is also full government support for the business cases put forward to hire a permanent workforce for testing and tracing, as well as PPE supplies and Public Health personnel.</p> <p>The CEO highlighted 3 areas of focus in coming days and weeks re NCMT:</p>		

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	<p>Crisis Management team to continue to do what HSE have committed to in terms of Implementation and delivery of the Winter Plan and to do so at pace.</p> <p>Public Health and Testing and Tracing ensure all issues are addressed collectively.</p> <p>Protecting the vulnerable - Ensure the right supports are in place and see what more can be done.</p> <p>This is a good opportunity for HSE to galvanise and address issues across the Health Service.</p>		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #58 approved by all.		Cahir O'Byrne - National Emergency Management
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	The CEO requested an update on NPHET actions at NCMT #61.	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 NCMT actions.	The action list will be updated as necessary to include new actions and status of existing ones.	Cahir O'Byrne - National Emergency Management

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5. Public Health Update			
	<p>A national epidemiological update was provided by Lorraine Doherty, Clinical lead HPSC. Please find update attached. There has been a huge surge in cases in recent days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The national incidence rate has risen to 250.95 per 100K. - Median age is 31 with 70 % cases aged less than 45 years. - Counties with the highest cases are Dublin, Cork and Meath. Those with highest incidence per 100K are Cavan, Meath and Monaghan. - There has been a big increase in hospitalisations in last 14 days and ICU admissions. - There have been 7 deaths. - In the last 24 hours, there has been 1031 cases. - The total number of cases is 50,993. - Total deaths reported is 1,852. - No new deaths yesterday. <p><u>Outbreak Data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 601 outbreaks identified in week 42. 437 in private households. Many in east but seen nationwide. Working on validating data. 	Update to be provided at next meeting.	Dr Lorraine Doherty - Clinical Lead HPSC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are a number of outbreaks in schools however these are very small. - No new outbreaks in direct provision centres in last 7 days. - 18 new outbreaks in vulnerable populations all in Irish Traveller Community. Many associated with celebrations. - 3 new outbreaks in food processing plants. - 3 new outbreaks in construction sector. Engaging with NI re contacts related to those cases. - 6 new outbreaks in nursing homes. Beginning to see larger outbreaks in nursing homes, some with 40-50 cases. PH have asked for enhanced data relating to these outbreaks in terms of where they are occurring, i.e. were these settings affected previously, to gain idea of experience they have dealing with COVID-19 and what they might have learned re PPE & IPC. - 5 new outbreaks in hospitals. - 23 new outbreaks have been notified from schools. It has also been noted in relation to school's cases, many of these are acquired in the community and not in the school setting. - 6 new outbreaks have been 		

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	<p>identified in childcare settings.</p> <p>Globally, the USA has the highest cases followed by India, Brazil and Russia.</p> <p>KK noted the serial testing has seen a large increase in positive cases. 50 nursing homes now have positive cases. 22 with more than 2 confirmed cases and 28 with 1. These numbers are larger than previously seen at any time.</p> <p>CH noted due to increase in numbers of confirmed cases in the previous 7 days. Trace and PH not configured to follow up with increased numbers. The system is required to recalibrate how it deals with backlogs created and prioritise school and healthcare sectors.</p>		
6. Testing & Tracing Update			
	<p>The CEO acknowledged the huge work undertaken to date in establishing the Testing and Contact Tracing systems. He also thanked all involved in the work undertaken in responding to the recent surge in cases. This is also acknowledged by government.</p> <p>The CEO advised that now is the time to further prioritise, and scale up the TAT system where that scale is needed. HSE needs to ensure that the system is</p>	<p>Niamh O’Beirne to update at next meeting.</p>	<p>Niamh O’Beirne – HSE EMT</p>

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	<p>sustainable through this surge and others that are likely to follow.</p> <p>An update was provided by Colm Henry, CCO, regarding Public Health and contact tracing. A meeting is scheduled this morning between CH and NO'B to discuss issues within the systems. The system is in danger of becoming overwhelmed in dealing with case numbers of 1000+ per day as seen in the last 10 days. Backlogs in the system require review and the prioritisation of cases in healthcare settings, vulnerable groups and schools.</p> <p>The CEO queried focus of today's meetings and what can be seen to emerge to address these issues. Niamh O'Beirne, HSE EMT, noted a meeting took place last week between public health and Test and Trace Departments, in order to improve communications. Testing and tracing have appointed 8 leads to directly interface with each of the 8 Public Health Directors. PH Directors have been asked to speak to some of the proposed business partners, review what the role would be, and how best the role would move forward. The meeting today is to discuss these outcomes and allow for reorganisation of CTC.</p>		

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	<p>LD noted she was unaware of the meeting this am, however there has been various local liaison as to how to improve the linkages between contact tracing teams and public health. From PH point of view, LD noted there is an anxiety within PH in relation to missing important cases due to overwhelming volumes of cases. NO'B, CH, LD asked to attend call with CEO to allow for a firm understanding of the current situation. The CEO confirmed supports are available if required.</p>		
7. Community Operations			
	<p>An update was provided by Yvonne O' Neill, Community Operations. The increasing level of NH outbreaks is concerning. Nursing home outbreaks are being closely monitored, with 1 of particular concern. There is ongoing engagement with HIQA with regard to that facility and this includes seeking legal advice.</p> <p>Generally, there are concerns about the capacity to staff LTRC where their own staff are self-isolating. There are clear indications that agency staff are unwilling to go into LTRC settings if they (the sites) are known to be COVID-19 positive. HSE staffing banks across acute and community services (as established previously) may be required again.</p>	<p>Chief Operations Officer and Community Ops will update at next NCMT</p>	<p>Ann O'Connor – Chief Operations Officer/ Yvonne O'Neill – Community Operations</p>

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	<p>YO'N also noted that there is an escalating issue as regards sourcing of staff to replace NH staff who have to self-isolate. The HSE must adopt a strong position to facilitate the release of staff across the organisation for deployment to private nursing homes as required.</p> <p>An update was provided by Ann O'Connor, COO. Winter Plan work is ongoing on the various work streams. There are 600 deliverables in the plan across all areas including private hospitals, building HSE bed capacity and actions to scale up community response. There is a group of CHOs that work on specific initiatives within the plan and ACMT's have been tasked with integrated initiatives.</p> <p>The CEO, queried ICU position, in particular 17 beds and breakdown of locations of same. LW confirmed a note is available and will send to AOC for forwarding.</p>		
8. Acute Operations			
	No further updates other than those already covered in this minute.	Acute operations to provide update at next meeting.	Liam Woods – Acute Operations
9. Clinical Coalition			
	No further updates other than those already covered in this minute.	Dr Colm Henry to update at next NCMT.	Dr Colm Henry – Chief Clinical Officer

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10. AOB	<p>KK provided an update regarding schools. PH have been very active within schools.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>and KK interacting with Dept. of Education on daily basis. The current focus is on trying to put in place a system for return of schools after mid-term. Specific HSE Public Health team's education focal points are being established to streamline communications with schools affected.</p>	Kevin Kelleher will update as appropriate.	Dr Kevin Keller
11. NEXT MEETING	<p>NCMT #60 Tuesday, 27th October 2020 @ 08:30 hrs</p>	[REDACTED]	