

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. **Meeting #60, COVID-19.**

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2020, 09:00 hrs.

Attendance:

Members – Paul Reid, CEO; Ann O’Connor, COO; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; Niamh O’Beirne, HSE EMT; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; John Kelly, Corporate Affairs; 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; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Michael Redmond , IT (For Fran Thompson); Edna Hoare, HR (For AnnMarie Hoey).

In Attendance - Amanda Prior, HSE National Office for Emergency Management; Cara Regan Downey, HSE National Office for Emergency Management.

Apologies:

Martin Dunne, Director National Ambulance Service; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; Fran Thompson, CIO; Ann Marie Hoey, ND HR; Cahir O’Byrne – HSE National Office for Emergency Management.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The CEO opened NCMT #60.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #59 approved by all.		Cahir O'Byrne - National Emergency Management
3. NPHE ACTION LOG			
	The CEO requested an update on NPHE actions.	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.	Tom McGuinness - National Emergency Management
5. Public Health Update			
	<p>A national epidemiological update was provided by Lorraine Doherty, Clinical lead HPSC. Please find update attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total cases in the last 14 days is 14,758. – National incidence of confirmed cases is 309.9/100K. – Median age is 32. – 67.6% cases <45years. – Counties with the highest incidence per 100K are Cavan at 967.5/100K, 		

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	<p>Meath at 667/100K and Sligo at 442.5/100K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There has been 350 hospitalisations with 17 admitted to ICU. There have been 15 deaths in the last 14 days. – There were 720 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on 26/10/2020 bringing the cumulative total number of confirmed cases to 58,767. – The total number of deaths reported in COVID-19 cases to date to midnight 26/10/2020 is 1,890 (1,632 deaths in confirmed cases; 258 deaths in possible/probable cases). – There were 5 newly reported deaths among COVID-19 cases reported 26/10/2020, 4 in confirmed cases and 1 in a possible case. <p>** NOTE: This week’s data includes only “Confirmed” outbreaks, and no longer includes “Suspected” outbreaks. From Monday 21st September 2020 a revised COVID-19 case definition came into effect. Suspected COVID-19 outbreaks are no longer notifiable as COVID-19 outbreaks, but notifiable instead as ARI outbreaks. Only outbreaks with at least one laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case are now notifiable as COVID-19 outbreaks.</p>		

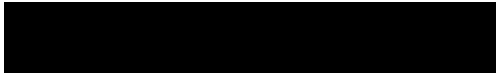
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	<p>Outbreaks: **Note: Data extracted Monday October 26th 2020. This is provisional data not yet fully validated, analysed or reviewed.</p> <p>-There are currently 672 outbreaks notified to CIDR for epi-week 43. The majority of outbreaks (n=512) occurred in private houses: 271 in the East, 118 in the West, 84 in the South East, 32 in the North West and the remaining 6 in the other regions.</p> <p>Direct Provision Centres -No new outbreaks in a DPC have been notified in week 42. There are four 'open' outbreaks in DPCs involving 29 cases.</p> <p>Vulnerable Populations -Seven new outbreaks in vulnerable populations have been notified in week 43 [REDACTED] There are 22 confirmed cases linked to week 43 outbreaks, none of which have been hospitalised. Since September 20th, 818 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported [REDACTED], 671 of these are associated with 36 outbreaks.</p> <p>Three outbreaks remain open among the [REDACTED]</p>		

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	<p>██████████ with 12 linked cases and two small outbreaks among ██████████ involving five cases</p> <p>Meat Plants and Food Processing Plants -Three new outbreaks in meat/food processing plants have been notified in week 43: one in the North West, one in the North East, and one in the South. There are 59 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. There were no admissions to hospital from these outbreaks.</p> <p>Construction Sector -Four new outbreaks in the construction sector have been notified in week 43, two in the East and two in the North West. There are seventeen confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. There were no new admissions to hospital among these outbreaks.</p> <p>Nursing Homes -14 new outbreaks in nursing homes have been notified in week 43: Four in the East, three in the West, three in the North East, two in the South, one in the South East, and one in the Mid-West. There are 102 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. There were three</p>		

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	<p>admissions to hospital among these outbreaks. Two nursing home outbreaks reported in week 43 have more than 20 linked cases.</p> <p>Hospitals -Five new outbreaks in hospitals have been notified in week 43: One in the East, one in the North East, one in the West, one in the Mid-West, and one in the South. There are ten confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks.</p> <p>Schools -39 new outbreaks in schools have been notified in week 43. There are 144 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. (Range 2-14 linked cases). In addition to those in the table below, there are a further 22 confirmed outbreaks associated with schools with either zero or 1 linked case to date.</p> <p>Childcare Facilities -Ten new outbreaks in childcare facilities have been notified in week 43: Five are in the East, one in the North East, two in the West, and two in the South East. There are 40 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. There were no new admissions to hospital among these outbreaks. In addition to those in the table below, there are a</p>		

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	<p>further six confirmed outbreaks associated with childcare facilities with either 0 or 1 linked case to date.</p> <p>Globally, as of 26th October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 435,528 new cases - 42,966,344 total confirmed cases - 1,152,604 total deaths - Countries with highest total number of cases: USA- 8,485,747 and India 7,909,959 <p>KK provided an update regarding schools. Work is ongoing with the department of education to allow schools to remain open. The level of disease in schools appears to be less than the community. There is a positivity rate within schools of 2-3%. There is a lot of anxiety within the school setting amongst staff. PH are currently enhancing existing teams to help support the education sector return to schools after the mid-term break.</p>	<p>Colm Henry to forward completed document regarding schools and multi-disciplinary teams to CEO to allow for publication 29.10.2020.</p>	<p>Dr Colm Henry – Chief Clinical officer</p>
6. Testing & Tracing Update			
	<p>An update was provided by Niamh O’Beirne, HSE. The overall system is moving well. 90% of suspected cases are receiving appointments within a 24hour period. Labs are performing up to 17,800 tests per day. The last 48hours saw a reduction in the volume of GP</p>	<p>Niamh O’Beirne to update at next meeting.</p>	<p>Niamh O’Beirne – HSE EMT</p>

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	<p>referrals and close contact referrals. This is linked to lower levels of contacts. This will ease pressures within swabbing in the short term. The tracing metrics have improved significantly from 3.8 days to 1.5 in the last 3 days. The aim is to reach 1 in the coming week.</p> <p>There has been in total 180 swabbers recruited since beginning. They are coming into the system at a rate of 68 per week. There are more available to recruit and work is ongoing regarding onboarding and training. This will be the focus over the coming week. It is hoped to reach 90-100 per week minimum. There is no supply issue at present. There has been a total of 274 new recruits over the last few weeks. There is an additional 85 due the end of this week. There is 70-80 due the following week also. YO'N noted onboarding issues may be limited to one CHO area. There are also still some residual issues in relation to contract to acceptance stage which is delaying the process.</p>	<p>The CEO requested YO'N push forward to onboarding issues.</p>	<p>Yvonne O'Neill – Community Operations</p>
7. Community Operation			
	<p>An update was provided by Yvonne O' Neill, Community Operations. The CEO requested YO'N send brief status note of current situation regarding nursing</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>homes to Sarah Maxwell in advance of press briefing.</p> <p>There has been a monitoring group for nursing homes established within the last two weeks with representation from COVID response team's leads, YO'N, KK and Disability Services. This group has recognised that there is a LTRC facility issue as opposed to nursing home specific. This group gives an opportunity to have twice weekly engagement with the Department. Updates will be sent to CEO.</p> <p>Concern remains around increase in rate and profile of some nursing homes.</p> <p>Trend also shows rates are high in small nursing homes and nursing homes unaffected during previous wave. There are 13 centres of high concern including 3 with strong number of HSE staff present.</p> <p>There has been an outbreak over the previous weekend </p> <p>Issues remain regarding availability of staffing for nursing home. Work is ongoing with smaller nursing homes in</p>	<p>The CEO requested YO'N send brief status note of current situation regarding nursing homes to Sarah Maxwell in advance of press briefing.</p>	<p>Yvonne O'Neill – Community Operations</p>

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	<p>particular those who have not availed of the tax scheme to allow them to do preparatory work.</p> <p>CH noted [REDACTED] wrote a useful letter on this issue and the governance on HSE intervention.</p> <p>YO'N noted that clinical governance has posed issues also and recommendations are given in the expert panel report on how nursing homes should handle situations. There are also issues ensuring there is clinical assessment of residents.</p>		
8. Acute Operations			
	<p>An update was provided by Liam Woods. The CEO expressed concern re number of discharges made following the weekend. LW confirmed this had been noted and is being monitored. CEO requested CH support in monitoring this situation. LW noted concerns arise if there is a delay in flow around the availability of senior decision makers. There are pressures in sites such as Mayo and this is being worked on with acutes and community.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>An update was provided regarding private hospitals. A request was issued to private hospitals regarding critical care cover. Work is ongoing.</p>	Liam Woods to provide update at next meeting.	Liam Woods – Acute Operations

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	<p>The next competition due is for medical beds (Due in coming days).</p> <p>The Minister for Health met with private hospitals to request they sign up to some type of agreement in advance of official deal to avoid negotiation in an emergency situation. Those present (8) indicated they would agree and these are being followed up on.</p>	<p>The CEO requested LW to send brief update to CEO via Sarah Maxwell.</p>	<p>Liam Woods – Acute Operations</p>
9. Clinical Coalition			
	<p>No further updates other that 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>An update was provided by Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement regarding Viropro hand gel. This is an arrangement the HSE entered into with a 'The Portfolio Group' at the outset of the pandemic. Hand gel stocks were purchased based on compliance with WHO specifications and the product was licenced for sale in Ireland. The issues were highlighted by the Dept of Agriculture a number of weeks ago. Procurement have ringfenced all stock. Sampling took place with the outcome being the revocation of suppliers licence. All stock has been quarantined and recall issued to the system. Uplifting and replaying is taking place on a daily basis.</p>		<p>Dr Kevin Keller</p>

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	<p>The 2 identified risks related to the level of alcohol and some traces of methanol found. 2.3m have been quarantined with an expected 0.8m in the system. This situation is being actively managed. It is understood there are no local purchasing arrangements with Viropro in the system</p>		
11. NEXT MEETING			
	<p>NCMT #61 Tuesday, 3rd November at 09:00hrs</p>		