



Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. Meeting 69# COVID-19.

Date: Tuesday 5th January 2021 @ 09:00am.

Members: Paul Reid, CEO; Ann O'Connor, COO; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Martin Dunne, National Ambulance Service; Ann Marie Hoey, ND HR; Dr Martin Cormican, National Lead on Infection Control; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; Dr Siobhan Ni Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations; Niamh O'Beirne, HSE EMT; Mark Brennock, ND Communications.


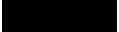
In Attendance: Dr Trish Markham, National Office for Emergency Management; Sinéad Fox, Office for Emergency Management.

Apologies: Joe Ryan, ND National Services.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The CEO opened NCMT #69. PR welcomed Mark Brannock, newly appointed National Director of Communications.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #68 approved.		Sinéad Fox
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	Review of actions deferred until next week's meeting.		Dr Trish Markham
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
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5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE			
	<p>LD - Epidemiological update.</p> <p>22,370 cases compared to 5,343 in previous 14-day period. Median age = 35yrs. 64.9% of cases <45yrs. Monaghan has highest rate 1060.5/100K, followed by Louth (941.2/100K) and Limerick (895.3/100K) compared to National incidence rate of 469.77/100K. Hospitalisations: 572 compared to 262. ICU Admissions: 10 compared to 13. Deaths: 36 compared to 12.</p>	Government cabinet committee meeting this afternoon.	Dr Lorraine Doherty

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>6,110 new cases and 6 new deaths reported in last 24hrs. Cumulative total cases at 107,997. Issues with testing backlog resolving. Outbreaks - Week 53 154 in the last week. 50 in private homes. 22 in Nursing Homes. 1 in Community hospital/long stay units. 23 in hospitals (national oversight group established). Workplace Outbreaks 0 - Meat factory. 1 – Manufacturing. Globally - USA, India and Brazil have the highest cumulative cases and deaths.</p> <p>CH - reports that the number of close contacts being reported has started to reduce.</p>		
6. TESTING & TRACING			
	<p>Testing: 24,500 GP referrals for swabbing-quite high, but expected as it was the first day back after Christmas. 19,000 swabs in the community yesterday (04/01/21) and 20,000 booked for today. Positivity rate remains high, Dublin, Cork and Limerick at >50%. Lab positives on Sunday 03/01/21 were 6,835, and 4,359 on Monday 04/01/21. Between 26-29,000 lab tests per day which is above capacity, but managing.</p>		Niamh O’Beirne

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	<p>Nursing home testing offshore at the moment to cope with the demand, working well, results coming back quickly.</p> <p>Tracing: Reconfiguration of calls team, additional support and retraining being undertaken to cope with increased number of call 1s- which was at 7,500 on 04/01/20 – highest number. Continue to monitor and agree on prioritisation as required.</p>		
7. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS			
	<p>YO’N: Increasing numbers of outbreaks in Nursing homes. A number of centres of concern due to being impacted by staff on COVID leave.</p> <p>Approx. 750 nursing home staff on COVID leave.</p> <p>Following a meeting with CHO, Chief Officers - Business Continuity Plans are under review and a risk assessment is being undertaken to ensure safe level of prioritised services is maintained. There will not be a blanket closing of services. Review of resources ongoing to maximise methods to provide services e.g. online OP appointments.</p> <p>Louth and Limerick areas being continuously monitored.</p> <p>Mental Health and Disability Services also under review.</p> <p>Good Communication Plan in place.</p>		<p>Anne O’Connor Yvonne O’Neill</p>

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8. GENERAL SURGE PREPAREDNESS			
	<p>SB gave an update. </p> <p>Oxygen Good supplies in hospitals. YO’N asked for a review of bottle O₂ availability of supply and refill in Nursing homes.</p> <p>PPE 3/12 buffer of supplies effective as there is now increased demand. No supply issues. Nitrile gloves - steady supply to system.</p> <p>Drug supplies LW - good supplies of drugs at present. As demand on drugs increases internationally, the supply is being closely monitored.</p>	<p>SB to link with  on current status of ventilator supplies.</p> <p>YO’N and SB to review O₂ requirements for Nursing Homes.</p>	Sean Bresnan
9. ACUTE OPERATIONS			
	<p>ICU surge capacity and elective admissions being monitored. Surge plans continues in elective care and outpatients. It takes one patient discharge cycle to create a capacity impact. Daily data reports on capacity and empty bed numbers being monitored.</p>		Liam Woods

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	An increase in ED attendances was reported.		
9. COMMUNICATIONS			
	Current media focus on hospital capacity. Schools a media focus presently. Vaccine programme continue to feature. Current figures on COVID cases receiving public media interest.		Mark Brennock
10. HR			
	<p>Weekly reporting. Staff on COVID leave will be available on a weekly basis from tomorrow. Mental Health industrial action. Discussions on-going and seeking solution with both unions - SIPTU and PNA. Derogation Guidance. Derogation guidelines will be used as appropriate. If/when there are updates to guidance - same will be communicated. MC – Pragmatic approach to be appropriately adopted in implementation to support staff.</p>	To continue to progress these areas and engage with the relevant union individuals.	Anne Marie Hoey
11. AOB			
	PR thanked all the teams from the flow through process. The work done over Christmas and New Year has been phenomenal, to deal with the high volumes of workload. NCMT members asked to communicate and feedback to all teams and thank them for their work.		

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	NCMT will continue weekly. Urgent meetings will be convened if and when required.		
NEXT MEETING			
	NCMT #70 Tuesday, 12th January 2021 @ 09.00hrs.		