



**Meeting:** National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #70 COVID-19.

**Date:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Fran Thompson, CIO; John Kelly, Corporate Affairs.

**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
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>			
	The CEO opened NCMT #70.		
<b>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>			
	Minutes of NCMT #69 approved.		Sinéad Fox
<b>3. NPHET ACTION LOG</b>			
	6 NPHET actions outstanding. 5 related to papers endorsed by NPHET. 1 related to COVID PCR testing at day 5.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>4. NCMT ACTION LOG</b>			
	1 NCMT action outstanding.	JR progressing.	Dr Trish Markham
<b>5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE</b>			
	LD: Epidemiological update.  65,650 cases between 14-day period. Median age 37yrs. 62.4% of cases <45yrs. Monaghan has highest rate - 2,687.9/100K. National incidence rate of 1,379/100K. Hospitalisations: 1,456. ICU Admissions: 67. Deaths: 71.  4,929 cases and 8 deaths reported in last 24hrs. Cumulative total cases at 152,539.  Outbreaks - Week 1, 2021 226 in the last week. 52 in Nursing Homes.		Dr Lorraine Doherty

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>6 in Community hospital/long stay units.  17 in hospitals.  21 in Disability Centres.  4 in Addiction Services.  3 in Prisons.  3 in Irish Travellers.</p> <p>Workplace Outbreaks  2 in Meat factory.  3 in Manufacturing.  8 in Defence/Justice and Emergency Services.</p> <p>Globally - USA, India and Brazil have the highest cumulative cases and deaths.</p> <p>Ireland has the highest growth rate per head of population globally at present.</p>		
<b>6. TESTING &amp; TRACING</b>			
	<p>Serial Testing in Nursing Homes:  Additional testing commencing on Wednesday, which will increase volume from 23,000 to 35,000 per week.</p> <p>Cycle 6 of serial testing began on 04/01/21. Detection rate of 2.1%, 456 cases over 21,000 swabs.  Cases yesterday – 1,970 compared to 3,000 on previous day.  Reduction in cases referred for testing, 16,700 referred yesterday compared to 24,000 referred last Monday.</p>		Niamh O’Beirne

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
<b>7. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS</b>			
	<p>YO’N: Two main issues of concern are staffing and the number of outbreaks. Number of nursing homes of concern are increasing.</p> <p>30 outbreaks in 1-day last week – 20 of which were Nursing Homes. High number of outbreaks in CHO 2 and 4, and centres in the North East and Midlands of concern.</p> <p>80 deaths being linked to 93 outbreaks. January and February are traditionally months with a higher number of deaths. Data is being reviewed to ensure the death rate is accurately represented.</p> <p>Private nursing homes are being supported – some resistant to intervention and support.</p> <p>KK: Peak in March – nearly 1,000 deaths. Difference of 150 deaths in the Winter compared to the Summer.</p> <p>Home support: work on-going to prioritise cover in areas where staff are absent. Some non-essential work has been reviewed and stepped down.</p>		<p>Anne O’Connor Yvonne O’Neill</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
<b>8. GENERAL SURGE PREPAREDNESS</b>			
	<p><b>Oxygen:</b> LW- a group met yesterday, which includes Estates, reviewing oxygen nationally, no issues have been flagged to date. Telemetry system in place now and that provides information on the total load pressure on the system.</p> <p><b>PPE:</b> SB - no supply concerns.</p> <p><b>Drug supplies:</b> LW - being monitored as demand on drugs is high in Europe.</p>		Sean Bresnan
<b>9. ACUTE OPERATIONS</b>			
	<p>Remote hospitals are coming under pressure in terms of ambulance turnaround.</p> <p>Oxygen and medicines being monitored. Staffing the main issue in hospitals.</p> <p>Private Hospitals: Final SLA went to all private hospitals yesterday, with the exception of two. A deadline was set to confirm signing of the SLA (11am today). Any residual issues will be dealt with post SLA signing. Some cancer services have already moved to the private hospitals because of weekend pressures.</p> <p>Some private hospitals have less capacity than at the start of the pandemic as they are dealing with space</p>		Liam Woods

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>management issues. Utilisation of private beds will be recorded and monitored. Unique identifier to be used.</p> <p>Hospital Discharges: LW noted that if there is an outbreak in a Nursing Home the Nursing Home cannot accept admissions for 28 days. This may become an issue when discharging patients from hospitals in the coming weeks, not an issue to date.</p> <p>SNiB: Emphasised the importance of hospital discharges for patient safety, to reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections. May be important to include in communications with the public.</p> <p>CH: Letter being scripted around hospitals requirements. Discharge – 2 pathways for COVID and non-COVID patients identified. Focus is on vaccinations at present. Launch of vaccine coinciding with 3<sup>rd</sup> surge - high media interest focusing on case numbers.</p>		
<b>9. HR</b>			
	<p>Weekly report will be available tomorrow with staff absence detail. Approx. 4,000 staff absent in acute settings.</p>		Anne Marie Hoey

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
	<p>YON – 1,000 Nursing Homes and 500 Home Support staff absent. Remaining detail to be captured in weekly report.</p> <p>Derogation: has been activated in both the Community and Acute Care settings. Monitoring system in place to keep track on the use of derogations.</p>		
<b>11. AOB</b>			
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>			
	<p><b>NCMT #71</b>  <b>Tuesday, 19th January 2021 @</b>  <b>09.00hrs.</b></p>		