

**Meeting:** National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #75 COVID-19.

**Date:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 @ 09:00am.

**Members:** Paul Reid, CEO; Ann O'Connor, COO; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Martin Dunne, National Ambulance Service; Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR; Dr Martin Cormican, National Lead on Infection Control; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Niamh O'Beirne, HSE EMT; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; John Kelly, Corporate Affairs; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Angela Fitzgerald, AND Acute Operation (for Liam Woods).

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

**Apologies:** Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>			
	The CEO opened NCMT #75.		
<b>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>			
	Minutes of NCMT #74 approved.		Sinéad Fox
<b>3. NPHET ACTION LOG</b>			
	Review of actions deferred to next meeting.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>4. NCMT ACTION LOG</b>			
	Review of actions deferred to next meeting.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE</b>			
	<p>LD: Epidemiological update.</p> <p>KK: Case numbers continue to decrease but at a slow rate.</p> <p>12,959 cases over last 14-day period.  Median age 36yrs.  63.1% of cases &lt;45yrs.  National incidence rate of 272.14/100K.  Monaghan incidence rate remains highest rate at 451.2/100K, Dublin incidence rate has increased and is now second highest at 368.2/100K, Carlow at 347.8/100K.  Hospitalisations: 944.  ICU Admissions: 34.  Deaths: 63.</p>		Dr Lorraine Doherty & Dr Kevin Kelleher

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	<p>821 new cases and no new deaths reported in last 24hrs.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>22 Workplace Outbreaks  3 in meat/poultry factory.  9 in commercial.  5 in childcare and schools.</p> <p>Globally - USA, India and Brazil have the highest cumulative cases. USA, Brazil and Mexico have the highest deaths.</p> <p>UK Variant (B.1.1.7) has been identified in 85 countries, approx. 70,700 cases. Transmissibility of this strain is 56% higher than previous strain. Possibility that B.1.1.7 is associated with increased risk of death compared to non-B.1.1.7 cases, investigations ongoing.</p>		

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	<p>South African variant (B.1.351) has been identified in 42 countries, approx. 1,500 cases. 11 confirmed cases in Ireland. Transmissibility of this variant is 50% higher than previous strain. 295 cases of this variant recently identified in the Austrian region, Tyrol, a skiing region.</p> <p>Brazilian variant (P.1) has been identified in 18 countries, approx. 200 cases. Not yet identified in Ireland. No transmissibility estimate for this variant yet.</p> <p>28 cases of new variant in North and South West UK- this is being monitored.</p> <p>EMA have requested all vaccine manufacturers to review their vaccine for protection against these new variants.</p> <p>There are 20 countries on the list of 'high risk' countries for travel.</p>		
<b>6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS</b>			
	<p>YO'N: The number of new outbreaks in long term residential facilities (LTRF) has reduced. Still high numbers, 1/3 of nursing homes experiencing an outbreak compared to 6% of nursing homes 2/12 ago. This has an impact on</p>		Yvonne O'Neill

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	<p>hospital discharges, same being monitored.</p> <p>Serial testing in LTRF: rate of detection has reduced 0.6% for current cycle, was at 1.9% in previous cycle. There is a reduced number of staff on COVID-19 leave.</p> <p>Home supports: monitoring same, at last count 1,000 staff on COVID-19 leave. Also 500 where because of COVID-19 detection or the receiver of home support has decided to stand down the support.</p> <p>Disability and Mental Health: level of detection was at 0.28-3% following targeted serial testing.</p>		
<b>7. ACUTE OPERATIONS</b>			
	<p>AF: Number of new cases in staff has reduced.</p> <p>Critical care beds: 324 beds, of which 155 had COVID-19 patients and 36 were available. An improvement on previous weeks, but still remains very high.</p> <p>Hospitals which received patients for critical care are reporting that these patients are staying longer in the hospital, i.e. not being repatriated, resulting in longer lengths of stay (LOS)</p>		Liam Woods

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	<p>and slower discharges in the Model 4 hospitals. One Dublin hospital remains a concern due to the levels of outbreak.</p> <p>Private hospitals - last week there were 2,364 bed days used (BDU) an increase from the previous week. Critical care occupancy in the private hospitals is either at or above the target of 30%. Discussions ongoing with one hospital in the West re utilisation. Good occupancy in most sites and significant work planned for this week.</p> <p>Trolleys maintaining good performance. One Dublin hospital experiencing high numbers. It has been noted that similar to previous surges, non-COVID-19 patients are deferring attending ED and as a result when they do present are sicker and are requiring admission, and longer admissions.</p> <p>Advanced respiratory support patients: at approx. 200 last Friday. AF to confirm current number and send same to PR.</p> <p>MC: Improvement in numbers of new cases among healthcare workers in acute hospitals, week ending 7<sup>th</sup> Feb</p>	<p>AF to send number of patients on advanced respiratory support to PR.</p>	<p>Angela Fitzgerald</p>

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	<p>2021 there were &lt;200 new cases, compared to 1,000 cases 3/52 ago. Hospital acquired cases: week ending 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 there were 177, improvement on peak of 488.</p> <p>Clinical impression from some of the hospitals is that the outbreaks are becoming smaller and easier to manage, where there is good vaccine coverage. No evidence to confirm same yet.</p>		
<b>8. TESTING &amp; TRACING</b>			
	<p><b>Testing:</b> Drop in demand. Monday normally highest number of the week, yesterday 5,780 referrals, down 18% on last Monday. This includes day zero, day 10 and GP referrals. 30,000 at the peak. CHO positivity still quite high, average of 18%, ranging from 0%-29% across all counties.</p> <p>Acute positivity has reduced to 3.9%. Higher number of cases (68%) are from close contacts and 18% is community transmissions.</p> <p><b>Contact Tracing:</b> Full PPA for tracing. Good metrics- meeting turnaround time targets.</p> <p>Close contacts positivity rates: 22% last week and 29% in household contacts. The report for the last 7 days will be available by tomorrow.</p>		Niamh O’Beirne

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	<b>Serial testing:</b> Good trends. 0.2-0.3% in mental health and disabilities, 0.6% in nursing homes, 0.9% in food sector.		
<b>9. PROCUREMENT</b>			
	SB: PPE demand remains high. >20m items issued last week. >1m of which were FFP2 masks. Additional supply lines for 16m masks, deliveries commenced last week. No shortfalls anticipated.		Sean Bresnan
<b>10. AOB</b>			
	Nil.		
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>			
	<b>NCMT #76 Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 @ 08:30.</b>		