

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #76 COVID-19.

Date: Tuesday 23rd February 2021 @ 08:30am.

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; 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 Operations (for Liam Woods).

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

Apologies: Joe Ryan, ND National Services; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The CEO opened NCMT #76.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #75 approved.		Sinéad Fox
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	Review of actions deferred to next meeting.		Dr Trish Markham
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
	Review of actions deferred to next meeting.		Dr Trish Markham
5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE			
	<p>LD: Epidemiological update.</p> <p>Cases continue to decrease, but at a slow rate.</p> <p>11,429 cases over last 14-day period. Median age 33yrs. 67.5% of cases <45yrs. National incidence rate of 240.01/100K. Counties with the highest 14-day incidence rate has changed, Offaly has highest rate of 437.4/100K, followed by Dublin at 335.5/100K and Galway at 328.6/100K. Hospitalisations: 790. ICU Admissions: 33. Deaths: 37.</p>		Dr Lorraine Doherty & Dr Kevin Kelleher

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	<p>686 new cases and 1 new death reported in last 24hrs. New cases figures has plateaued.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Funeral attendance has become a risk for outbreaks. Social inclusion and public health have been engaging with funeral service providers, re-emphasising public health guidance and directing them to information.</p> <p>33 Workplace Outbreaks 1 in meat/poultry factory. 10 in commercial. 0 in schools.</p>		

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	<p>Global Update USA, India and Brazil have the highest cumulative cases. USA, Brazil and Mexico have the highest deaths.</p> <p>EU/EEA Update There is a sense across Europe that they are starting to see the impact of vaccination of residents and carers in Long Term Residential Facilities (LTRF).</p> <p>COVID-19 Variants UK Variant (B.1.1.7) has been identified in 31 countries, approx. 10,700 cases.</p> <p>South African variant (B.1.351) has been identified in 16 countries, approx. 660 cases. 12 cases in Ireland, investigations ongoing to source two infections.</p> <p>Brazilian variant (P.1) has been identified in 9 countries, approx. 50 cases. 3 cases in Ireland, same family. Extensive contact tracing is on-going.</p> <p>Variants of Concern (VOC): The Biomnis laboratory has contacted both Public Health in the East and West re potential VOC. VOC Operational Team working to elucidate the testing of samples and the notification of results to the HSE and Public Health, in order to align with the</p>		

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	<p>process agreed with the National Virus Reference Lab (NVRL), Public Health and Contact Management Programme (CMP).</p> <p>MC: Smaller numbers of hospital outbreaks emerging. There are less staff effected than previously.</p>		
6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS			
	<p>YO’N: The number of new outbreaks in LTRF has reduced. 30% of nursing homes experiencing an outbreak, another 2/52 before these outbreaks are closed which has an impact on hospital discharges.</p> <p>Staff on COVID-19 leave: on average, there were 20 staff on leave related to each outbreak, this has reduced to an average of 12 staff.</p> <p>A number of advocacy agencies and other stakeholders are seeking the easing of visiting restrictions in LTRF due to the roll out of vaccinations. Last week letter submitted to CMO regarding the easing of visiting restrictions, CMO has replied that restrictions to remain in place for now and will review again.</p>		Yvonne O’Neill

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7. ACUTE OPERATIONS			
	<p>AF: Open outbreaks in hospitals at 135 at end of last week. 2 Dublin hospitals and one hospital in the West continue to be challenged with outbreaks. Outbreak management arrangements are in place.</p> <p>676 in hospital with COVID-19 yesterday evening compared with 726 yesterday morning - data being verified. Hospital acquired cases: 109. Lab confirmed cases: 95. Cases awaiting results: 194 yesterday.</p> <p>Critical care beds: 316 beds of which 294 are occupied, 156 are COVID-19 patients, 106 ventilated. Advanced respiratory support patients: 229.</p> <p>Private hospitals - last week there were 2,598 bed days used (BDU) an increase from the previous week. Primarily 5-day patients, 81% occupancy. 112% occupancy for ICU patients. Work on-going to review occupancy utilisation and to identify sites where utilisation of services will be extended or stood down.</p> <p>ED attendances: One Dublin hospital experiencing high numbers.</p>		Liam Woods/Angela Fitzgerald

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8. TESTING & TRACING			
	<p>Testing: Following query at cabinet committee meeting 22/02/21, NO'B clarified that guidance for testing for those quarantining after travelling is a different regime than testing for others. Those who travel are tested prior to travel and then tested on day 5. No guidance has been received to change to two tests for those travelling. Capacity is not an issue.</p> <p>Slight rise in demand for testing, up 20% over the weekend, due to day 10 testing recommencing. GP referrals are reduced. Lower cases from labs, 615 yesterday compared to 765 last Monday. Meeting this week to review various population groups for testing e.g. university students, teachers etc</p> <p>Contact Tracing: Enhanced work ongoing regarding new variants of concern.</p> <p>Antigen Testing: Study with meat industry has concluded and report gone to the DoH. Previous agreement to supply Dept. of Agriculture with tests, proposal in final stages. These are not HSE governed tests, but will be used in</p>		Niamh O'Beirne

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	between PCR testing to give additional support for testing.		
9. AOB			
	Nil.		
NEXT MEETING			
	NCMT #77 Tuesday, 2nd March 2021 @ 09:00.		