

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #97 COVID-19.

Date: Tuesday 17th August 2021 @ 09:00am.

Members: Paul Reid, CEO; Damien McCallion, ND COVID Vaccination Lead; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; John Kelly; Corporate Affairs; Dr Martin Cormican, National Lead on Infection Control; Niamh O’Beirne, HSE EMT; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; John Swords, Head of Procurement; John Cuddihy, Director of Public Health; Angela Fitzgerald, Acute Operations for Liam Woods; John Delamere National HR for Anne Marie Hoey.

In Attendance: Dr Trish Markham, National Office for Emergency Management; Sinéad Fox, NiSRP Programme/NCMT Secretary.

Apologies: Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Yvonne O’Neill, Community Operations.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The CEO opened NCMT #97.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #96 approved.		Sinéad Fox
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	Review of actions deferred.		Dr Trish Markham
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
	Review of actions deferred.		Dr Trish Markham
5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE			
	<p>JC: Epidemiology Update.</p> <p>22,989 cases over last 14-day period, an increase from 17,648 in previous 14-day period.</p> <p>1,558 new cases reported in last 24hrs.</p> <p>Median age 24yrs.</p> <p>81% of cases <45yrs.</p> <p>National incidence rate of 482.8/100K.</p> <p>Counties with the highest 14-day incidence rate are Monaghan at 1130.6/100K, Donegal at 976.8/100K and Cavan at 854.6/100K.</p> <p>A total of 5,069 deaths have been reported up to 10am 15/08/21.</p> <p>As of 15/08/21 there were 259 admitted patients with COVID-19, of which 51 are in ICU.</p>		Dr John Cuddihy

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	<p>Outbreaks - Week 31* *Provisional data, may change, subject to validation. 112 new outbreaks notified in the last week. 4 in nursing homes and community hospitals/long-stay unit. 2 in residential care facilities. 5 in hospitals. 1 travel related. 3 in vulnerable populations. 29 workplace outbreaks. 0 in schools. 13 in childcare facilities.</p> <p>Global Epidemiology USA, India and Brazil have the highest number of cumulative cases and cumulative deaths.</p>		
6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS			
	<p>MC: Outbreaks in nursing homes happening, including vaccinated residents and staff, however the illness is not as severe as seen previously.</p> <p>JR: Some outbreaks in nursing homes/long term residential care.</p> <p>Reviewing logistics and impact of vaccination boosters.</p>		<p>Dr Martin Cormican Joe Ryan</p>

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7. ACUTE OPERATIONS			
	<p>MC: Week ending 08/08/21 there were 42 hospital acquired infections. This impacts staffing, admissions and bed availability. Morbidity and mortality impact linked with vaccinated cases seems less than previously experienced. The acute hospital group will be reconvened.</p> <p>AF: Hospital outbreaks remain under review. Three hospitals in particular experiencing challenges with hospital acquired COVID-19 infection.</p> <p>Emergency Departments have seen a sustained increase in attendances, these attendances are high when compared to 2019 activity data. Not all presentations are converting to admissions, may be a number of reasons for increased attendance, same discussed. A paper is in development with plans for elective access and the appropriate redirection of cases from Emergency Depts. to primary care services.</p> <p>Approx. 1,000 bed days being utilised in private hospitals each week.</p> <p>There are 296 funded ICU beds open, this fluctuates as required. Will increase</p>		<p>Dr Martin Cormican Angela Fitzgerald</p>

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	<p>to 321 later this year for Winter surge capacity.</p> <p>PR: Rising trends are of concern, particularly increase in hospital admissions.</p>		
8. TESTING & TRACING			
	<p><u>Testing</u> Testing has remained steady over the past few weeks, approx.15,000 tests/day. Weekends busier than in previous waves. Majority of referrals are self-referrals via the online portal. Sites still offering walk-in appointments at specific times. GPs are responsible for approx. 10% of referrals. Certain test centres are busier than others, NAS are assisting as required. Some areas still require pop-up testing facilities depending on public health advice, NAS assisting with same. A static testing site is being planned for Buncrana, Co Donegal.</p> <p>Serial testing positivity levels are starting to increase. Some nursing homes are contacting the Test&Trace Programme enquiring about recommencing serial testing, due to increase in case numbers. Any requests</p>		Niamh O'Beirne

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	<p>are being reviewed and serial testing will be recommenced if deemed appropriate.</p> <p>Antigen testing: No issues.</p>		
9. PROCUREMENT			
	Nil.		
NEXT MEETING			
	<p>NCMT #98 Tuesday, 24th July 2021 @ 08:30hrs.</p>		