

Meeting: National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #98 COVID-19.

Date: Tuesday 24th August 2021 @ 08:30am.

Members: Anne O'Connor, COO; Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; 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; Dr John Cuddihy, Director of Public Health; Cathal Morgan, for Yvonne O'Neill; Dr Máirín Boland, National Clinical Lead, Health Threats Emergency Preparedness Programme; John Swords, Head of Procurement.

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

Apologies: Paul Reid, CEO; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Angela Fitzgerald, Acute Operations; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The COO opened NCMT #98.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #97 approved.		Sinéad Fox
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	<p>TM: Action 145 - Implement a national wastewater surveillance network for SARS-CoV-2 in Ireland. Report to be available next week.</p> <p>Action 180 - HSE to complete epidemiological profile of COVID-19 in educational settings and put measures in place so as to ensure a public health response to emerging trends in those settings. Epidemiological profile complete and planning for response in progress.</p>		Dr Trish Markham
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
	Action 131 - Continues to be progressed.		Dr Trish Markham
5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE			
	<p>KK: Epidemiology Update</p> <p>Vaccinations are continuing and have commenced in the younger age groups. Since society has re-opened there has been widespread disease in the community.</p>		Dr Kevin Kelleher

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	<p>Internationally there is continuous monitoring for new variants, particularly in countries with low vaccination numbers.</p> <p>24,957 cases over last 14-day period, an increase from 19,393 in previous 14-day period. 1,592 new cases reported in last 24hrs. Median age 25yrs. 77.9% of cases <45yrs. National incidence rate of 524.1/100K. Counties with the highest 14-day incidence rate are Monaghan at 1472.6/100K, Cavan at 1146/100K and Donegal at 1126.3/100K. A total of 5,080 deaths have been reported up to 08.30am 23/08/21.</p> <p>As of 22/08/21 there were 318 admitted patients with COVID-19, of which 60 are in ICU.</p> <p>Outbreaks - Week 32* *Provisional data, may change, subject to validation. 105 new outbreaks notified in the last week. 13 in nursing homes and community hospitals/long-stay unit. 6 in residential care facilities. 5 in hospitals. 4 travel related.</p>		

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	<p>9 in vulnerable populations. 16 workplace outbreaks. 0 in schools. 14 in childcare facilities.</p> <p>Global Epidemiology USA, India and Brazil continue to have the highest number of cumulative cases and cumulative deaths.</p>		
6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS			
	<p>CM: Some outbreaks in nursing homes, 4 nursing homes are of concern and are being continuously monitored. The Community Group is meeting this week re reviews of outbreaks.</p>		Cathal Morgan
7. ACUTE OPERATIONS			
	<p>MC: Hospital acquired COVID-19 infection numbers had decreased on week ending 15/08/21. Some sites still challenged with managing outbreaks. Hospital Working Group has reconvened.</p> <p>AO'C: Hospitals remain busy and under pressure, with increased activity as well as increased COVID-19 activity which is impacting bed capacity.</p> <p>SNíB: Backlog in some care areas exists due to the impact of COVID-19.</p>		<p>Dr Martin Cormican Anne O'Connor Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain Joe Ryan</p>

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	<p>AO'C: General Surge Preparedness for Winter/Winter Planning is underway. Documents and templates have been circulated for completion.</p>		
8. TESTING & TRACING			
	<p><u>Testing</u> There was a slight increase in testing yesterday (15,500) compared to last Monday (14,700). The numbers attending for testing at the weekends remains stable. CHO 1, 5 and 8 have seen an increase in attendances for testing. CHO 3 has reduced attendances. The testing demand remains within the capacity of the system, currently approx. 130,000 tests/week.</p> <p>With the re-opening of schools and third level institutions, there is an expectation of an increase in the demand for testing and contact tracing. Both Testing and Tracing services are preparing for an increase in demand.</p> <p>Antigen Testing Programme continues in the early years and third level institutions. A number of other institutions are going to join the programme. Pop-up testing facilities are still in use</p>		<p>Niamh O'Beirne</p>

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	when and where required. NAS continue to support testing.		
9. VACCINATION			
	AO'C: Vaccination Programme is progressing well.		
NEXT MEETING			
	NCMT #99 Tuesday, 31st August 2021 @ 09:00hrs.		