

**Meeting:** National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #100 COVID-19.

**Date:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 09:00am.

**Members:** Paul Reid, CEO; Anne O'Connor, COO; Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Joe Ryan, ND National Services; John Kelly, Corporate Affairs; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Mark Brennock, ND Communications; 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; Tom McGuinness, AND Emergency Management; Dr Máirín Boland, National Clinical Lead, Health Threats Emergency Preparedness Programme; John Swords, Head of Procurement; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations.

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

**Apologies:** Nil.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>			
	The CEO opened NCMT #100.		
<b>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>			
	Minutes of NCMT #99 approved.		Sinéad Fox
<b>3. NPHET ACTION LOG</b>			
	No new actions.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>4. NCMT ACTION LOG</b>			
	Review of actions deferred.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE</b>			
	<p>KK: Daily case numbers have plateaued and may be starting to reduce. Cases are being seen primarily in the younger age groups. There are high case numbers in the border counties. Hospital and ICU admissions are static.</p> <p>21,464 cases over last 14-day period, a decrease from 24,957 in previous 14-day period.</p> <p>1,144 new cases reported in last 24hrs. Median age 27yrs.</p> <p>74.3% of cases &lt;45yrs.</p> <p>National incidence rate of 450.7/100K.</p> <p>Counties with the highest 14-day incidence rate are Monaghan at 1269.0/100K, Donegal at 1039.6/100K and Cavan at 825.7/100K.</p> <p>A total of 5,130 deaths have been</p>		Dr Kevin Kelleher

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	<p>reported up to 08.30am 06/09/21.</p> <p>As of 13:30 on 06/08/21 there were 384 admitted patients with COVID-19, of which 59 are in ICU.</p> <p><b>Outbreaks - Week 35*</b>  *Provisional data may change, subject to validation.  120 new outbreaks notified in the last week.  11 in nursing homes and community hospitals/long-stay unit.  5 in residential care facilities.  11 in hospitals.  1 travel related.  7 in vulnerable populations.  19 workplace outbreaks.  0 in University/College  12 in schools.  22 in childcare facilities.</p> <p><b>Global Epidemiology</b>  USA, India and Brazil continue to have the highest number of cumulative cases and cumulative deaths.</p>		
<b>6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS</b>			
	YO'N: Community sector dealing with increased demand in testing. The controlled redeployment of staff being reviewed in the event of antigen testing		Yvonne O'Neill Dr Colm Henry

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	<p>roll-out. There are 13 outbreaks in community facilities, with two private nursing home sites of concern, which are being monitored closely. HIQA and Nursing Homes Ireland are engaged. The weekly call with the COVID-19 Response Team has been convened.</p> <p>CH: Meeting with Nursing Home Ireland, who have appointed a clinical advisor. The checklist used in HSE acute sites has been shared with Nursing Home Ireland to assist them in managing COVID-19. Testing and Tracing remains very busy, the positivity rate is decreasing. Public Health remain very busy.</p>		
<b>7. ACUTE OPERATIONS</b>			
	<p>MC: There were 51 hospital acquired infections, impacting 154 staff in the week ending 29/08/21 - this is an increase on the previous week. The majority of cases are in two acute hospitals in the East. The majority of staff cases are vaccinated and experiencing mild illness.</p> <p>AO'C: The hospitals remain busy, with high Emergency Dept. presentations and high trolley counts in a number of sites. Hospitals are continuing to deal with the</p>		<p>Dr Martin Cormican Anne O'Connor</p>

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	combined challenge of COVID-19, presentations, outbreaks and core business of providing scheduled and unscheduled care.		
<b>8. TESTING &amp; TRACING</b>			
	<p><u>Testing:</u> Community testing is very busy. Yesterday was the third busiest day of testing with 20,800 tests. Primarily in 0-14 years. The national positivity rate of all age groups is at 10%. The coming week is expected to be busy as there are a high number of referrals from primary and post- primary schools, 12,000 cases with an average of 15 close contacts each. Considering the use of antigen testing for school referrals in the coming weeks to meet demand, the logistics of same is being explored. Public Health are under pressure to meet the demands of schools and completing risk assessments.</p> <p>Serial Antigen Testing of staff in Nursing Homes in Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Wicklow and North Dublin will commence in the coming days. Serial testing in Universities is being explored.</p>		Niamh O'Beirne

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	PR: Thanked the community testing teams for managing the increase in demand for testing.		
<b>9. AOB</b>			
	<p>PR: Nationally the situation is improving, with numbers plateauing. All sites are very busy due to high levels of activity and wider demands. Even though restrictions are easing, there is still high demand on HSE services.</p> <p>JS: Dept. of Education have been in contact with HSE requesting equipment - same is being provided. Third-level institutions have requested masks for students returning to campuses.</p>	Stock levels to be monitored.	<p>Paul Reid</p> <p>John Swords</p>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>			
	<b>NCMT #101 Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 @ 09:00hrs</b>		