



**Meeting:** National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #109 COVID-19.

**Date:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 @ 08:30 hrs.

Members: Paul Reid, CEO; Anne O'Connor, COO; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR;

Damien McCallion, ND COVID Vaccination & Test & Tracing Lead; John Swords, ND Head of Procurement; Liam Woods ND Acute Hospitals; Joe Ryan, ND Operational Performance and Integration; Dr Martin Cormican, National Lead on Infection Control; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Sean Bresnan, SRO Vaccine Supply Chain & Logistics; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations; Tom McGuinness, AND Emergency Management; John Kelly, Head of Corporate Affairs; Dr Máirín Boland, National Clinical Lead, Health Threats Emergency Preparedness Programme; Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC;

Robert Morton, Director NAS; Patrick Lynch, ND Governance and Risk; Geraldine Smith, Internal Audit.

**In Attendance:** Cahir O'Byrne, National Office for Emergency Management, Tara Rowe, National Office for Emergency Management.

**Apologies:** Dr John Cuddihy, Director HPSC; Fran Thompson CIO.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
1. INTRODUCTION			
	The CEO opened NCMT #109.		Paul Reid
	Ongoing close monitoring of the situation continues.		
	situation continues.		
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES			
	Minutes of NCMT #108 approved.		Cahir O'Byrne
3. NPHET ACTION LOG			
	Update deferred.		Tom McGuinness
4. NCMT ACTION LOG			
4. NCMI ACTION LOG	Update deferred.		Tom McGuinness
	Opuate deferred.		Totti McGuilliess
5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE			
	LD: Summary of the last 14-day period		Dr Lorraine Doherty
	(up to 19Dec2021).		·
	Case numbers – 64,317 representing a		
	2.6% increase from 62,612 cases in the		
	preceding 14-day period.		
	National incidence – 2.6% increase from		
	1,314 to 1,350 per 100k compared to		
	previous 14-day period.		
	Median age 31yrs.		
	75% of cases are <45yrs.		
	Hospital admissions - 543 representing		
	a 5% increase, compared to 515 in the		
	previous reporting period.		
	ICU admissions – 25 compared to 17 in		
	the previous reporting period		
	representing a 38% increase.		

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	*Provisional data may change, subject to validation. 96 new outbreaks in the last week. 6 in nursing homes. 1 in community hospitals/long-stay unit. 19 in residential care facilities. 8 in other healthcare services. 8 in acute hospitals. 13 in vulnerable populations. 4 workplace outbreaks. 22 in schools. 2 in childcare facilities.  Booster vaccines administered – 1.5m. Additional dose vaccine administered – 1.4m. Immunocompromised dose vaccine administered – 101k.  152 confirmed Omicron cases.		
6. COMMUNITY OPERATIONS			
	YO'N: Within LTRC the number of outbreaks has steadied with a reduced average number of cases per outbreak.  Serial testing within nursing homes is indicating a positivity rate of .57%. Covid related staff absence remains high.		Yvonne O'Neill

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7. ACUTE OPERATIONS					
	AO'C: Given the continued significant rate of Covid related absenteeism, staffing levels remain a concern. New guidance surrounding close contacts may further impact staffing levels.  AO'C will meet with Hospital Groups and CHOs to identify priorities in the context of increased demand across testing, vaccination and community. This coupled with the expected surge of Covid cases after Christmas is indicative of further challenging periods, particularly for the delivery of acute care, with specific challenges for maintaining staffing levels.  LW: Work continues to agree a revised arrangement with private hospitals. This new agreement will be implemented once the existing		Anne O'Connor  Liam Woods		
	agreement ceases on January 12 <sup>th</sup> .				
8. TESTING & TRACING					
	DMcC: Testing: Increase in numbers and demand at centres. Increase in positivity rates in the community -17.7% to 19.9%.		Damien McCallion		

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner	
	A Working Group - comprised of reps from both the HSE & the Department of Health will meet today to finalise surge plans for PCR testing and Antigen testing. Arrangements have been put in place to distribute up to 50k antigen tests per day if PCR testing becomes overwhelmed.			
9. AOB				
Conti Cyber and data breaches	PR: Noted the increased incidence of cyber-attacks in voluntary hospitals in recent days.  AO'C advised there is a letter being issued to hospitals today re-enforcing the messages around good cyber security practices and protection of data.	AO'C and LW to liaise with FT today.	Paul Reid	
NEXT MEETING				
	NCMT Covid 19 #110 Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 @ 09.00hrs.			