

**Meeting:** National Crisis Management Team. Meeting #92 COVID-19.

**Date:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 @ 09:00am.

**Members:** Paul Reid, CEO; Ann O'Connor, COO; Anne Marie Hoey, ND HR; John Kelly, Corporate Affairs; Dr Kevin Kelleher, AND Public Health; Dr Martin Cormican, National Lead on Infection Control; Ray Mitchell, Parliamentary Affairs; Sean Bresnan, ND Procurement; Tom McGuinness, AND National Emergency Management; Liam Woods, ND Acute Operations; Niamh O' Beirne, HSE EMT; Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, National Lead Integrated Care; Mark Brennock, ND Communications, Joe Ryan, ND National Services.

**In Attendance:** Dr Trish Markham, National Office for Emergency Management; Mary Heaney, Regional Emergency Management West.

**Apologies:** Damien McCallion, ND COVID Vaccination Lead; Dean Sullivan, CSPO; Fran Thompson, CIO; Stephen Mulvany, CFO; Yvonne O'Neill, Community Operations; Dr Lorraine Doherty, CL HPSC; Dr Colm Henry, CCO; Sinéad Fox, NiSRP Programme/NCMT Secretary.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Owner
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>			
	Paul Reid opened NCMT #92.		
<b>2. PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>			
	Minutes of NCMT #91 approved.		Mary Heaney
<b>3. NPHET ACTION LOG</b>			
	No issues to report.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>4. NCMT ACTION LOG</b>			
	Review of actions deferred.		Dr Trish Markham
<b>5. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE</b>			
	<p><b>KK: Epidemiological update.</b></p> <p>Number of newly confirmed cases remain relatively stable. Approx. 330 newly confirmed cases per day. 83% / 84% of cases aged &lt;45 yrs. National incidence rate approximately 95/100K.</p> <p>Counties with the highest 14-day incidence rate are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limerick</li> <li>• Donegal</li> <li>• Waterford.</li> </ul> <p>Hospitalisations / cases admitted to ICU have risen slightly by very small numbers since the weekend.</p>		Dr Lorraine Doherty & Dr Kevin Kelleher

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	<p><b>Outbreaks - Week 24*</b>            *Provisional data, may change, subject to validation            Outbreaks are dominated around workplaces and homes with increased links to the Delta variant. Significant work ongoing to actively retrospectively contact trace Delta cases, therefore discovering increased Delta as a result of enhanced investigations.</p> <p>Delta variant likely to account for approximately 40%-50% of all Irish cases. Growth has been seen in the weekly graph, numbers stable but no longer decreasing. Increased numbers of confirmed cases in the younger cohort of the population.</p> <p>UK have witnessed its highest numbers of newly confirmed cases per day since early 2021, as a result of the Delta variant. Similar changes in other parts of Europe and globally.</p> <p>PR: HSE Team to continue to complete modelling carefully both in terms of percentages of cases and trends in hospitalisations.</p> <p>PR: Discussion on the NPHET recommendation regarding activity and</p>		

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	<p>implementation. Clarity to be sought on the detail.</p> <p>LW: Recalled that the number and size of outdoor events can proceed as announced (6 actions previously indicated). Remaining measures for July should not proceed on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for the general population, however activities could be permitted for those who are fully protected by vaccination or have had COVID-19 within the previous 9 months given the associated low risk if both are verifiable and an enforceable system is in place. To be translated into a letter.</p> <p>MC: Initial wording presented for agreement - framing and final wording to be confirmed. Vaccine bonus for AstraZeneca is now 15 rather than 28 days.</p>	<p>PR to link with LW. LW to verify recommendation detail and revert to PR.</p>	
<b>6. TESTING &amp; TRACING</b>			
	<p><b>Testing:</b> Over last 7 days, the volume of referrals has increased by approximately 26% . More people using the on-line referral system (more 15-24yrs using system) and increasing numbers presenting at the COVID walk-in tests centres.</p>		Niamh O’Beirne

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	<p>As at Monday 28/06/21 @ 17:00, over 10,000 referrals received, higher compared to the previous Monday. Positivity rates high (over 6%) in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longford</li> <li>• South Tipperary</li> <li>• Donegal</li> <li>• Finglas</li> <li>• Sligo</li> </ul> <p>COVID-19 walk-in testing centres provided in dedicated pop-up locations in Athlone, Dungarvan and Dundalk.</p> <p>COVID-19 testing centres have moved locations in Finglas and Galway City.</p> <p>Review of the NPHET recommendation to be undertaken regarding shortening the period (4 weeks) between doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine and implications for the definition of a close contact, contract tracing and testing.</p>		
<b>7. AOB</b>			
	Nil.		
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>			
	<b>NCMT #93 Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 @ 09:00.</b>		