

IEMAG

Minutes of meeting – Friday, 13th March 4:00-5:00pm

Attendees: Philip Nolan (Chair), Frances Butler, Simon More, Alan Barrett, Chris Brunsdon, Brendan Murphy, Derval Igoe, Breda Smyth, David McEvoy, Ann Barbar, Guy McGrath, Derval Igoe

Secretariat: Rhona Gaynor, Martha Purcell

1.0 General Update

- The group has reached out to the UK to seek their code. Awaiting outcome.
- Canadian team have shared their code

2.0 Working Group 1: Update and Discussion

- We can fit a curve to early data
- It provides an ok preliminary forecast, but it is intervention blind.
- Have modelled exponential, gompertz and logistics curves, can possibly move from this to an SIR model.
- Log curve giving us a ‘reasonable’ view at this stage.
- Analytical factors to consider:
 - Impact of change in testing procedures
 - Impact of any test backlogs
 - Comparator between total number of tests and positive tests
 - Natural lag between test and result
 - Policy interventions
 - Risk Assessment Reports from ECDC
- Discussed value of also running daily modelling using the PH England tool
- Agreed to use established international parameters to develop the curve and begin testing against Irish data
- Agreed to review curve data each day compared to preceding day and re-run model to test and develop accuracy
- Agreed to use HSPC data as Irish input (instead of pulling Irish input from ECDC data) – **HSPC will provide this early next week**
- Agreed to abstract parameters to share with the group for comment –
- Agreed to provide daily summary table and curve for CMO

3.0 Working Group 2: Update and Discussion

- Building a resource allocation model that can link to outputs from workstream 1
- Developing a baseline inventory (e.g. hospital beds, ICU beds) and incorporating other resources (e.g. manpower)
- Simple data-based model anticipated
- Drawing on several assumptions e.g. HIPE data on in-hospital demand for viral pneumonia
- Can lead to both national and regional conclusions
- Agreed the sooner outputs from working group 1 can feed in the better – aim to do this from 16/3/20 going forward
- All giving consideration to providing a 20 day or 30 day model to assist sense-proofing.

- HSPC to give consideration to sharing ‘small area’ data or enabling Eircode data to be anonymised to enable ‘small area’ analysis

4.0 Research Synthesis Update

Research Services Unit DOH currently working to provide and upload to Sharefile:

1. What is the latest evidence saying about the infectious period? (note provided on sharefile)
2. What is the latest evidence saying about asymptomatic transmission?
3. What is the latest evidence around older age groups? At what age does the risk significantly increase (eg 50, 65, 75)?
4. What is the latest evidence about co-morbidities and vulnerable groups (not age)?
5. What is the latest evidence on pregnancy should it be classified as a vulnerable group?

Members to link with Research Services Division in DOH on this.

5.0 Admin Update

- Shared Folder: All members should have access to the ShareFile folder
- Working Group Membership and Mailing List: All names and email addresses will be added to a document in the ShareFile
- The group confirmed that no additional administrative support was required at this point

6.0 Additional Support

Offered by Google and Deloitte – may pursue in future.

7.0 Possible Learnings from Animal Disease Control

Members highlighted key items in relation to household transmission and incorporating spatial information. Agreed that high value to producing a heat map to support policy decisions and the power of spatial information to change behaviour.

Next Meeting: Monday, 16th March at 4pm (virtual meeting via ZOOM)