



Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD,
Minister for Health,
Department of Health,
Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2.
6th August 2020

Via email to Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

Dear Minister,

I write further to today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE). The NPHE continues to have significant and growing concerns on the number and scale of outbreaks within workplaces, and the degree to which these may result in increased community transmission over the coming days and weeks. In this regard, the NPHE noted and agreed a set of interim recommendations based on a report on the experiences of managing outbreaks of COVID-19 in meat processing plants to date. The NPHE further recommended that the HSE's newly established National Standing Oversight Committee for such facilities considers, as an immediate action, the development of the most appropriate and proactive approach to surveillance and testing within the food processing industry.

The NPHE, cognisant of the importance of reopening schools in September and the need for parents and carers of children to have clear guidance on the management of COVID-19 considered recommendations and advice on the matter. Emanating from this were a number of work streams with a view to developing recommendations and clear communications regarding the testing and management of COVID-19 in children by the week of 24 August 2020.

The NPHE of course remains available to provide any further advice and recommendations that may be of assistance to you and Government in relation to ongoing decision-making processes in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would be happy to discuss further, should you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ronan Glynn

A/Chief Medical Officer

Chair of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team

cc. Ms Elizabeth Canavan, Department of the Taoiseach and Chair of the Senior Officials Group for COVID-19