



Mr. Paul Reid,
Chief Executive Officer & Chair HSE National Crisis Management Team (NCMT),
Health Services Executive,
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

4th February 2021

Via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

Dear Paul,

Following today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, the following decision of the NPHE which is now required to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

The NPHE recommends that:

- For the general population, there should be recommencement of twice-testing of all close contacts, at Day 0 and Day 10 post their last exposure to the case, as soon as swabbing, testing, and contact tracing capacity can facilitate this development.
- For the general population, close contacts may end the period of restricted movements on receipt of a 'not detected' test result from a test conducted on Day 10 since last exposure, so long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Healthcare workers who are designated as close contacts should also move to testing at Day 0 and Day 10 (currently day 5 and day 10) post their last exposure to the case.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the wider team across the HSE for your ongoing support and work across the health and social care services as we move through the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency. Officials from this Department have been and continue to be available to work with relevant HSE staff.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer

cc. Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE
Mr Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Hospital Operations, HSE