

Attendees: Philip Nolan (Chair), Alan Cahill, Breda Smyth, Brendan Murphy, Chris Brunsdon, Cathal Walsh, Conor McAloon, Conor Keegan, Conor Teljeur, Darren Dahly, Elizabeth Hunter, Eoghan McCarthy, James P Gleeson, Jim Duggan, Justin Gleeson, Matt Robinson, Malachy Corcoran, Maire Connolly, Patrick Wall, Seán Lyons, Simon More, Mathieu d’Aquin

Apologies: Ajay Oza, Ann Barber, David McEvoy, Francis Butler, Guy McGrath, Jamie Madden, John Kelleher, Máirín Ryan

DOH: Libby McCrohan, Ronan O’Kelly, Sheona Gilsean

Secretariat: Darragh Turner, Denis Ryan, Fiona Tynan, Katie O’Brien

General Updates

- PN informed the group of change of date of next NPHEM meeting to Monday 29 March at 9am.
- MC presented a summary of key findings from the Benchmarking Report and the next steps for action and dissemination were discussed. The group agreed there is a need for greater capacity in data management/engineering, biostatistics and epidemiology, and mathematical modelling of infectious diseases, and a need to link these skills with academic/research work and with regional Departments of Public Health.
- JPG presented possible scenario projections for different values of reproduction number from SEIR model incorporating vaccination.
- JD provided an update on the age cohort model considering vaccination and new variants.
- SL (WG2) provided a brief update on the service-demand model and confirmed vaccination projections are routinely used in the model.
- EH provided a brief update on the agent-based model.
- JG (WG3) reported good progress in HPSC on possible new public dashboards/visualisation tools.
- MdA (WG4) provided a progress update on generating synthetic data, advising of difficulties due to incomplete data.
- PN thanked KOB for her work with the group.

Working Group 1: Epidemiology Modelling

Actions:

1	Consider how best to explain different transmission assumptions (beta) to public.
2	Consider how best to communicate risks of premature lifting of restrictions.
3	JD to vary k value to identify impact on overall R value and consider vaccination assumptions in age-cohort model.
4	EH to share outputs and consider amplification effect of schools opening and increased socialising.
5	PN to follow up with JD and EH.

Working Group 2: Demand/Supply Modelling

Actions:

1	Continue work using current scenarios.
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Working Group 3: Geospatial Mapping/Modelling

Actions:

1	Continue work on updating external facing Geohive.
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Working Group 4: Data Engineering

Actions:

1	Meeting with Minister on 30 March 2021 at 4pm.
2	PN to attend next WG4 meeting on 30 March 2021 at 10am to consider data governance.
3	Continue work on generating synthetic data.

Misc. Actions

- HPSC to provide feedback on Benchmarking Report by COB 30 March.
- IEMAG/ Science Foundation Ireland Workshop on 14 April 2021 from 12-2pm.

Next Meeting: 7 April 2021