

Expert Group on the Role of Ventilation in Reducing Transmission of COVID-19

Meeting 4

12pm Friday 12th February 2021

(By Videoconference)

Present

Prof John Wenger (Chair)	UCC
Dr Marie Coggins	NUIG
Dr Laura Heavey	HSE
Asst Prof Orla Hegarty	UCD
Mr Simon Jones	IEA and Aereco Ltd.
Ms Edel Murray	DHLGH
Prof Mike Prentice	UCC
Mr Brendan Redington	HSE Estates
Dr Kim Roberts	TCD
Dr Thomas Roux	HPSC

Apologies

Dr Ina Kelly	HSE
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MINUTES

1. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

Minutes were edited during the meeting and approved. Minor edits were made to the Terms of Reference which were also approved. Potential conflicts of interest were discussed and declared.

2. Communications and correspondence

The Chair provided the Group with feedback from the NPHET meeting held on 11 February 2021. The Chair summarised details of recent correspondence received from the NPHET Secretariat and government departments.

3. Update on sub-groups

The Schools sub-group will try to meet in the week beginning 15 February.

It was agreed that the nursing homes and healthcare settings sub-groups should merge and engage with representatives from HIQA and AMRIC. The Chair is to issue email correspondence around the videoconference call with HIQA on Thursday 18 February.

4. Discussion on terminology and language used in documents and guidance

The terminology and language used in our reports needs to be consistent and easy to understand. The Group will start compiling a glossary of terms used to describe/explain transmission of the virus, ventilation and buildings.

5. Discussion on HPSC document: Guidance on non-healthcare building ventilation during COVID-19

Group members were encouraged to add comments and suggested edits to the Word version of this document. Additional sections on the use of CO2 monitors and air filtration/cleaning would be useful. In addition to guidance issued by other countries, documents published by professional bodies (e.g. ASHRAE, REHVA) are worth consulting. The Chair will start preparing a response document that group members can all add to.

6. Any Other Business

It was proposed that the next meeting will be held on Friday 19 February. Time to be confirmed.

17 February 2021