

IEMAG**Minutes of meeting – Wednesday 9 June 2021**

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

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

DOH: Sheona Gilsean, Elizabeth McCrohan

Secretariat: Denis Ryan, Fiona Tynan, Ivan Murphy

General Updates

- The Chair welcomed the group and provided an update on the priorities of the group over the next 6-8 weeks. The Chair asked that members give thought to how the IEMAG should function over the summer as well as what the next phase of pandemic management might look like. The Chair also noted that some members would be in a position to publish some of the work that had been undertaken.
- The Chair presented an updated model of the protection provided by vaccination against symptomatic infection.
- JG advised that work was being done on the question of herd immunity and on updating the herd immunity calculation.
- JD reported that there was no major update from the age cohort model as they are still waiting for data to be made available after the cyber-attack on the HSE. The Chair was conscious that the IEMAG would need to resume offering scenarios to the HSE soon and that this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- EH provided an update on the agent -based model, presenting scenarios with higher levels of school mixing, higher levels of return to work and children half as infectious as adults to consider how different levels of community mixing impact case numbers. Possible scenarios that could be modelled in future were also presented including the impact of school closures over summer and uneven vaccination rates.
- MDA provided a progress update on behalf of the data engineering group. The group are continuing work on automating some processes and making data more widely available. They are working to prepare for embedding within the HSE.
- JG provided an update on behalf of the Geospatial Group, advising of progress with HPSC on developing covid cases dashboard, vaccine dashboard and a year in covid dashboard. A report from the Geospatial group is close to publication. The contract for mobility data is due to be finalised in the next week.
- The group discussed the CIDR system and the possibility of replacing or improving it in future. The Chair advised the group that a request for funding had been made in this regard.
- The group discussed rapid antigen testing. The group agreed it would be useful to establish a statistical and public health reasoned position and that a piece of work on the utility of antigen testing should be carried out.
- JG explained issues with SEIR model-inferred reproduction number. The Chair agreed that the group would stop reporting it going forward.
- The IEMAG secretariat gave an update on the return of services following the cyber-attack.
- The Chair thanked the group for their work and encouraged members to disseminate outputs among the group.

Working Group 1: Epidemiology Modelling

Actions:

1	PN to share vaccination model, outputs and code.
2	PN and EH to discuss modelling the September 2021 re-opening of schools and colleges.

Working Group 2: Demand/Supply Modelling

Actions:

1	WG2 to work on estimating net effective of vaccination on admissions.
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Working Group 3: Geospatial Mapping/Modelling

Actions:

1	Continue work with HPSC on developing COVID-19 cases dashboard, vaccine dashboard and a year in covid dashboard.
2	Publish group report.

Working Group 4: Data Engineering

Actions:

1	Continue work on automating processes and making data more widely available.
2	Continue work on embedding within HSE.

Misc. Actions

- Members to consider the how the group should function over the summer period.
- PN and DD to discuss preparing a technical position on the use of antigen testing.

Next Meeting: 23 June 2021