

IEMAG

Minutes of meeting – Wednesday 23 June 2021

Attendees: Philip Nolan (Chair), Ajay Oza, Brendan Murphy, Cathal Walsh, Chris Brunson, Conor Keegan, Conor McAloon, Conor Teljeur, Darren Dahly, Elizabeth Hunter, Francis Butler, James P Gleeson, Jamie Madden, Jim Duggan, Justin Gleeson, Maire Connolly, Malachy Corcoran, Mathieu d'Aquin, Patrick Wall

Apologies: Alan Cahill, Ann Barber, Breda Smyth, David McEvoy, Eoghan McCarthy, Guy McGrath, John Kelleher, Máirín Ryan, Matt Robinson, Seán Lyons, Simon More

DOH: Elizabeth McCrohan, Pauline White, Ronan O'Kelly, Sheona Gilsehan

Secretariat: Darragh Turner, Denis Ryan, Fiona Tynan

General Updates

- The Chair welcomed the group and outlined the proposed work programme for the summer period, including preferred dates to run routine modelling scenarios, and a wider discussion on proposed modelling scenarios and assumptions in relation to progressive societal reopening in the course of the summer.
- The group discussed the proposed work programme and agreed to produce short-term modelling scenarios and estimates of reproduction number and growth rate on a fortnightly basis.
- JPG reported there were no major updates from the SEIR model. R_{naive} is now estimated between 1.5 and 1.7.
- JD presented a vaccination scenario from the age-cohort model showing the vulnerability of unvaccinated younger age cohorts.
- EH presented scenarios modelling the impact of school closures over summer and uneven vaccination rates using the agent-based model. Members discussed the possibility of incorporating varying transmission effects for the proportion of agents infected with variants in this model, as done in the SEIR and age-cohort model.
- MDA reported that the Data Engineering Group is ready for embedding within the HSE.
- JG advised that data is slowly becoming available to the Geospatial Group again following the HSE cyber-attack. The Group is meeting with the HSE Health Intelligence Unit tomorrow to discuss how geospatial statistical support can be provided to the HSE. The Geospatial Group agreed to meet within the next fortnight to discuss spatiotemporal risk mapping.
- DR advised that the mobility data contract has been issued and a meeting will be scheduled with the data provider and the Geospatial group for next week to commence the data transfer.
- The group discussed rapid antigen testing and agreed to establish a subgroup, led by DD, to produce a position paper on rapid antigen testing.
- The Chair thanked the group for their work and closed the meeting.

Working Group 1: Epidemiology Modelling

Actions:

1	WG1 to coordinate model runs and meet as necessary over the coming days.
2	WG1 to agree range of R_{naive} values to be used in short-term scenarios.
3	EH to run agent-based model with varying transmission effects for variants.

[Working Group 2: Demand/Supply Modelling](#)

Actions:

1	WG2 to work on estimating net effect of vaccination on admissions.
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[Working Group 3: Geospatial Mapping/Modelling](#)

Actions:

1	WG3 to meet with HSE Health Intelligence Unit on 25 June 2021 to discuss providing geospatial statistical support.
2	WG3 to meet within the next two weeks to discuss spatiotemporal risk mapping.
3	DR to schedule meeting in the coming weeks with WG3 and mobility data provider to commence the data transfer.

[Working Group 4: Data Engineering](#)

Actions:

1	WG4 to prepare for embedding within the HSE.
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[Working Group 5: Rapid Antigen Testing](#)

Actions:

1	Members wishing to join this subgroup are invited to contact DD.
2	WG5 to produce position paper over next few weeks.

Misc. Actions

- PN to finalise recommendations for the IEMAG Interview Paper.

Next Meeting: 7 July 2021