

**HSE COVID-19 Weekly SitRep**

**to**

**NPHET meeting No. 5**

**HSE COVID-19 REPORT TO NPHET**

**REPORT No. 2**

**WEEK 8**

**18 FEBRUARY 2020**

## HSE COVID-19 Weekly SitRep

to

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The COVID-19 Daily Situation Report is for circulation to:

- NPHORT
- NVRL
- HCID
- HSE Emergency Management
- Department of Health
- All staff HPSC
- Additional stakeholders as appropriate

Link to WHO COVID-19 situation reports [here](#)

Link to Johns Hopkins COVID-19 situation reports [here](#)

Link to WHO technical guidance [here](#)

Link to ECDC Novel Coronavirus updates [here](#)

Link to HPSC Novel Coronavirus information and guidance [here](#)

### **COVID-19 Daily Situation Report: HSE-HPSC and NPHORT Work Stream**

**Date 17 02 2020**

#### **Epidemiology**

#### **Case definition**

Case definitions for COVID-19 available [here](#)

#### **Ireland Case update**

To date, there are NO laboratory confirmed cases in Ireland meeting the above case definitions.

#### **NVRL SARS-CoV-2 testing update**

Updated line listings will be sent to HPSC twice weekly - the Situation Report will be updated accordingly on these days of the week.

As of 17/02/20:

- Specimens from 78 patients have been received at NVRL for SARS-CoV-2 testing.
  - A total of 94 specimens from 78 patients were received.
- SARS-CoV-2 was not detected in 76 patients while the result is pending for two.

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#### **International situation update – WHO**

In summary, as of 21:00 (CET), 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020:

**71, 329 confirmed cases (of which 70, 635 in China) have been reported by WHO including 1, 775 deaths. Cases have been reported from 26 countries.**

**Table 1: Countries with COVID-19 confirmed cases**

<u>China: 70635 Cases</u>	<u>Canada: 7 Cases</u>
<u>International conveyance (Japan): 355 Cases</u>	<u>India: 3 Cases</u>
<u>Singapore: 75 Cases</u>	<u>Italy: 3 Cases</u>
<u>Japan: 59 Cases</u>	<u>Philippines: 3 Cases</u>
<u>Thailand: 34 Cases</u>	<u>Russian Federation: 2 Cases</u>
<u>Republic of Korea: 30 Cases</u>	<u>Spain: 2 Cases</u>
<u>Malaysia: 22 Cases</u>	<u>Belgium: 1 Cases</u>
<u>Germany: 16 Cases</u>	<u>Cambodia: 1 Cases</u>
<u>Viet Nam: 16 Cases</u>	<u>Egypt: 1 Cases</u>
<u>Australia: 15 Cases</u>	<u>Finland: 1 Cases</u>
<u>United States of America: 15 Cases</u>	<u>Nepal: 1 Cases</u>
<u>France: 12 Cases</u>	<u>Sri Lanka: 1 Cases</u>
<u>United Arab Emirates: 9 Cases</u>	<u>Sweden: 1 Cases</u>
<u>United Kingdom: 9 Cases</u>	

#### **WHO RISK ASSESSMENT**

**China:** Very High

**Regional Level:** High

**Global Level:** High

Further information is available on the WHO [COVID-19 situation dashboard](#). The latest WHO situation report is available [here](#).

#### **International situation update – ECDC**

Since 31 December 2019 and as of 17 February 2020, **71, 333 cases** of COVID-19 infection (**according to the applied case definition in the countries**) have been reported. As of 17 February 2020, **1, 775 deaths** have been reported, of which 1 770 were in China, one in Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region), one in Taiwan, one in the Philippines, one in Japan and one in France.

#### **Cases have been reported on the following continents:**

**Africa:** Egypt (1).

**Asia:** China (PRC) (70 551), Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region) (57), Macao (Special Administrative Region) (10), Singapore (75), Japan (59), Thailand (34), Republic of Korea (30), Malaysia (22), Taiwan (20), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (9), India (3), Philippines (3), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1) and Sri Lanka (1).

**America:** United States (15) and Canada (8).

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**Europe:** Germany (16), France (12), United Kingdom (9), Italy (3), Spain (2), Russia (2), Belgium (1), Finland (1), and Sweden (1).

**Oceania:** Australia (15).

**Other:** Cases on an international conveyance (Japan) (355)

Further information is available on the [ECDC website](#).

### ECDC Risk assessments

**On 17 February, ECDC published an updated report on the situation; [Current risk assessment on the novel coronavirus situation, 17 February 2020](#)**

On the basis of the information currently available, ECDC considers that:

The risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection for the EU/EEA and UK population in Europe is currently **low**.

This assessment is based on the following factors:

- Since all cases reported in the EU/EEA have clearly established epidemiological links, the probability of transmission in the EU/EEA and the UK is considered to be **very low**.
- However, the impact of one or more infections resulting in sustained transmission in the EU/EEA would be **moderate to high**, given that the reported case severity is **high** among these groups.

The risk for the EU/EEA and UK population travelling/resident in areas with presumed on-going community transmission is currently **high**.

This assessment is based on the following factors:

- The probability of infection for those travelling/resident in areas where on-going sustained community transmission is considered **moderate to high**. The overall number of reported cases in areas with community transmission is **high** or increasing sharply. However, there are significant uncertainties regarding transmissibility and under-detection, particularly among mild or asymptomatic cases.
- For travellers/residents, the impact of one or more infections is considered **high**, especially for elderly populations with comorbidities, given that the reported case severity is **high** among these groups. The impact will also depend on the capacity and availability of healthcare during the epidemic.

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### **NPHORT Topic area update**

#### **FAQs and general information**

No new updates. FAQs and general information on HPSC and HSE webpages are regularly updated.

Discussion to take place between HPSC and HSE Comms regarding streamlining access.

Current guidance/resources available via the HPSC website include:

- Algorithms for Irish healthcare settings
- Clinical management for novel coronavirus (link to WHO guidance)
- Educational settings guidance
- Employers guidance
- Infection Prevention and Control guidance for hospitals and primary care
- Laboratory testing guidance
- Primary care guidance
- FAQs
- Travel advice

#### **Port Health**

- Guidance for situations involving the coast guard are being discussed.
- Guidance Document for Responding to a Communicable Disease Incident on a Ship has been updated and circulated to the DPHs.
- Update from Multidisciplinary Port Health Groups
  - a. Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) have issued a Marine Declaration which mandates a Medical Declaration of Health be issued at least 24 hours in advance by all ships who
    - i. Called to China in the last 30 days
    - ii. Have crew/passengers who were in China in last 14 days
    - iii. Have suspected contact of COVID-19 on board, or
    - iv. Have suspected case of COVID-19 on board.Also mandates submission of updated crew and passenger lists.
  - b. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are liaising with ferry companies to try to ensure posters are hung on board ferries as many passengers currently disembark without passing through the passenger terminals where posters are currently displayed.
  - c. HSE Response for Management of a Port Health Alert at Points of Entry currently being updated and will be circulated soon.
- Outstanding work
  - a. Planned meeting with reps from NAS, EP and DAA regarding evaluation of how a passenger becoming unwell in an airport is managed
  - b. Preparatory work regarding how the outbreak may affect the Cruise Liner season which begins in early March.

#### **Education**

- No new updates

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#### **Contact tracing**

- Contact tracing guidance for upload to HPSC website 17/02/2020.

#### **Home management**

- Due for further discussion at HCID meeting.
- It is the stated policy of the HSE that if testing of suspected cases is required then they should be admitted to hospital and isolated until at least such time as the test result is known.
- Draft home management guidance reviewed by EAG (Expert Advisory Group) – may be used in the event that home management becomes an option in the future and can be used if patients self-discharge/refuse hospitalisation.

#### **Healthcare worker and occupational health**

- Guidance on HCWs returning from China requires finalisation.
- Teleconference with National Clinical Lead in Workplace Health and Wellbeing scheduled for further discussion.
- Infection Prevention and Control
- PPE being distributed to GPs.
- Further guidance undergoing development for additional settings, including maternity hospitals and community settings outside of general practice, e.g. dentists, pharmacists, optometrists.
- Updated guidance available on HPSC website. WHO and ECDC have different guidance in relation to PPE for HCWs - Ireland is currently following WHO guidance.

#### **Surveillance**

- No new updates
- Contact tracing database finalised and circulated.
- Case and contact forms available on HPSC website.
- CIDR – core and enhanced data on cases can be now inputted. SOPs developed.
- Communications
- National press conference 14/02/20.
- PH spokespeople at national level include Drs Kevin Kelleher (KK), John Cuddihy (JC) and Sarah Doyle (SD); spokespeople at regional level have also been identified – interviews on-going at regional and national level.
- HSE not commenting on individual suspected cases/reported suspected cases.
- On-going discussions between NPHORT communications group and stakeholders including HSE Communications:
- Most appropriate strategy for public messaging

#### **Primary care and acute hospitals**

- Workstream lead required.

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#### National helpline

- National COVID-19 helpline online since 15/02/20.
- 13 online chats and 8 calls on first day.

#### Other

- Change in case definition and new management algorithms are being uploaded to HPSC website today.
- Leaflets for industry available via HPSC website.
- PH to proceed as if COVID-19 is a notifiable disease – legislative process to be progressed by DoH.
- NVRL testing process/information available on HPSC website – testing will be undertaken on a daily basis. Samples submitted should include contact details of Public Health Physician who undertook the risk assessment.
- DoH in discussion with the Department of Social Protection regarding potential financial support for individuals who may require isolation – for discussion at NCMT meeting.
- Internal group in HPSC met 12/02/20 to consider different scenarios that may arise and what response would be appropriate, e.g. expand containment measures, consider what mitigation measures would be appropriate.

#### Meetings

HPSC meet 3 times per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) at 10 am for debrief and task allocation.

#### *Current National HSE Groups where HPSC and Public Health attend:*

1. **NPHORT** (daily).
2. **HSE-High Consequence Infectious Disease Group (HCID)** (twice weekly) Meeting 17/02/20.
3. **HSE National Crisis Management Team (CMT)**. Meeting 18/02/20.
4. **NPHET** (weekly on Tuesdays).
5. **Expert Advisory Group on COVID-19** (Chair - Prof Cillian De Gascun). Met 12/02/2020.
6. **Health Threats Coordinating Committee** (Chair - DoH).

#### *Other national meetings:*

1. **Government Interdepartmental group** (Chair – DoH).

#### *International meetings:*

1. **5 nations IMT teleconferences** (observer role). Met 14/02/2020. Discussed - new confirmed/possible UK cases; exploring home testing for next phase of outbreak response; decontamination in community setting; NHS Comms moving to 24 hour helpline to cope with demand.
2. **ECDC/WHO Euro PHE technical group teleconference.**

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### HIGH CONSEQUENCES INFECTIOUS DISEASES GROUP MEETING UPDATE

#### **Acute Hospitals:**

- Updated Algorithm and HPSC guidance has been circulated to all departments in hospitals. Acute Hospitals has circulated additional advice to hospitals to assist preparations within receiving hospitals. Clinical engagement with Hospital Clinical Directors continues with hospitals on preparedness status is on-going.
- Isolation response requirements are in place for the index case of suspect 2019-nCoV case. Some hospitals are reporting challenges in maintaining isolation facilities in the context of other demand challenges and Acute Operations is working closely with these hospitals.
- Hospitals have designated leads for preparations and reporting on-going operational issues that require attention or escalation
- Hospitals continue to ensure that appropriate PPE training and education across relevant hospital staff is up to date. The National Lead for Health Care Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance undertook a webinar on “Preparing for 2019 novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV” on the 14.02.20. The webinar was well attended with over 160 attendee / services participating.
- Hospitals continue to ensure appropriate signage about coronavirus is displayed in all hospitals
- Acute Operations in collaboration with the National Critical Care Programme has developed a pathway for the index case of critically unwell patient with novel coronavirus. Acute Operations is now updating its Critical Care Major Surge Preparedness Planning Framework (which includes major surge) to encompass viral threats such as SARS-nCoV-2.
- Acute Operations in collaboration HSE HBS have secured and reserved additional PPE stock for hospitals. A central distribution system is in place within the HSE to ensure appropriate PPE equipment can be rapidly distributed on an “as needed” basis. There is on-going communication with hospitals about PPE stock levels and a communication structure to notify supply distribution and alternative supply lines has been disseminated to all hospitals.
- The HSE is continuing to work in close collaboration with the National Isolation Unit to ensure the preparation status of the unit.
- Community Operations:
- Chief Officers continue to chair local Crisis Management Teams and work strongly with Acute and Voluntary colleagues in relation to issues arising.
- In order to facilitate initial preparedness Community Operations have worked with procurement to ensure Out of Hours Services and GPs nationally have been prioritised and furnished with PPE packs. Out of Hours Services PPE deliveries commenced 07.02.20 and these deliveries are now complete. GP deliveries commenced on 10.02.20 and have now been delivered to over 2,700 GP practices. In order to prepare PC centres, PPE pack deliveries commenced on 17.02.20.
- In order to facilitate any requirement for up scaled preparedness Community Operations are working to identify locations throughout the country, supply chain and staffing possibilities.



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- In order to ensure national oversight all Novel Coronavirus updates and algorithms issue directly from the National Director to each Chief Officer.
- Regular teleconferences between Chief Officers and National Director, Community Operations are continuing.

### **National Ambulance Service:**

- The National Ambulance Service (NAS) COVID -19 responses are closely co-ordinated on an on-going basis with HSE Emergency Management, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Public Health and Acute Hospitals.
- NAS is working closely with other pre hospital response agencies to ensure a co-ordinated response to possible cases, including Dublin Fire Brigade, the Irish Coast Guard and Dublin Airport Authority Fire Service. NAS is also co-ordinating response arrangements with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.
- The NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is playing an important central co-ordination role for the HSE by ensuring that all relevant stakeholders/agencies are involved at an early stage in all potential COVID -19 cases. NAS has also commenced use of an additional call – triage tool called the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance tool, to assist in early identification by emergency call-takers of possible COVID -19 cases.

### **HSE Communications**

- HSE and DOH communications are working together to ensure there is timely and accurate information available to the public and other stakeholders. This approach is in line with the NPHET protocol.
- The first meeting of the cross Government Department Comms group takes place on 17/02/20. HSE Communications are on this group.
- HSE winter plan weekly media briefing taking place on 20/2/2020 and will include an update on COVID-19 – live stream of press conference
- Content being reviewed on an on-going basis to maintain consistency between HSE and HPSC websites. Work on-going between HSE Communications and HPSC to ensure targeted, up-to-date messages are available for the public and other stakeholders.
- Work to further develop HSE and HPSC public messages underway
- Information being provided to HSE information line and plans are being progressed to ensure HSE can answer a greater number of calls from the public should this be needed
- Internal Comms video with Dr Sarah Doyle to update HSE non-clinical staff being recorded on 20/02/2020
- Media queries and media monitoring on-going
- Video on hand washing for non-clinical staff being progressed

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#### Communication with GPs/Practice Nurses

- Email issued on 07/02/2020 to 5000 GPs via HSE HealthLink with links to latest news for health professionals on hpsc.ie, PPE video with Professor Martin Cormican, National Clinical Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection and to a letter from Dr John Cuddihy, I/Director, HPSC regarding notifying COVID-19.
- (Results 433 – number of clicks to www.hpsc.ie; 103 – number of clicks to www.hse.ie/coronavirus ; 1394 – total number of views of PPE video)
- Same correspondence posted on 10/02/2020 by HSE PCRS distribution service.
- Information issued to 2000 practice nurses about issuing of PPE and notification letter from HPSC
- Coronavirus Clinical Communications subgroups (with GP reps, HSE, IMO, ICGP) have had teleconferences 07/02/2020 and 12/02/2020. Next Tele Con scheduled for 19/02/2020. The aim of this group is to provide advice on the operational response to the virus, with a focus on the communication needs of clinicians and managers, gather questions to submit to the Expert Advisory Group and act as clinical spokespeople on the HSE response to the virus.

#### Social Media

- Social media activity on-going – Twitter – daily hand hygiene tweets being issued. Twitter user prompt live – if someone searches for coronavirus on twitter a prompt will feature recommending going to HSE coronavirus information. Queries being responded to from the public, GPs and stakeholders.  
Facebook/Instagram ads running with focus on hand hygiene. Facebook/Instagram ads running with all you need to know about Coronavirus and links to HSE website. Facebook/Instagram ads running in Mandarin targeting people who speak Mandarin, people who have selected the Chinese language, Chinese cuisine and Chinese culture as "interests". Planning for next phase underway – messages being agreed and signed off
- Planning being progressed for mitigation stage – agency on standby and there will be widespread targeting on all platforms
- Paid search ad in place – to date it has appeared in 84,948 Google searches and resulted in 7,763 clicks to the coronavirus page on HSE.ie. Further ads being developed targeted at health professionals to promote information on HPSC.

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### **Occupational Health**

The Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit is working closely with Public Health and have issued 'Interim Guidance for Coronavirus- Healthcare Worker Management By Occupational Health' to Occupational Health Services. A weekly meeting to discuss Occupational Health Services actions has been arranged.

### **Environmental Health**

The Environmental Health Service is working with Public Health at Ports ensuring that core Public Health Capacities are in place at Points of Entry and ensuring that measures to help prevent the onward spread of any potential contamination on conveyances are put in place by the operators.

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### **HSE Procurement**

#### **Current Market Landscape**

- Market remains highly volatile with unprecedented demand for PPE now in the marketplace
- Particularly challenging product groups are FFP Masks (Type 2 and Type 3) and Eye Protection (Goggles/Shields)
- WHO have reported demand for PEE to be 100 times normal demand and prices are up to 20 times higher than normal
- Suppliers are encountering difficulties in securing material to manufacture WHO standard surgical masks
- HSE considers supply risk for PPE to be VERY HIGH

#### **PPE Equipment**

- HSE has activated a dedicated Coronavirus Central Procurement Team (CCPT) who are actively securing stocks
- A tracking and monitoring system for secured product is being maintained

#### **PPE Packs – Distribution Update**

- >11,500 packs now issued
- GPOOH and PHD's completed
- PCC to be completed on Mon 17 Feb
- Occupational Health (22 locations) Close Contact Packs for issue Mon 17 Feb

#### **Other**

- HSE has confirmed interest in participation in joint EU procurement for supply of PPE with DG SANTE – needs analysis submitted - Webex call with all participating MS's and DG SANTE scheduled for 21 February 2020
- Broader SC analysis has commenced. Key products likely to be or already impacted are
- Automotive: shortage of parts may force some overseas car makers to halt production
- Technology: chips, 5G and mobile technology, phones and flat screen displays (used extensively in MedTech sector) may be impacted
- PPE: masks, goggles, gloves etc.
- MedTech: IVD, Diagnostics, all rubber and plastics extrusion related components
- Med Consumables: surgical packs, electrodes etc.
- Aids & Appliances: crutches, wheelchairs etc.
- Product packaging
- It is prudent to consider providing advice/guidance on supply chain planning to contracting authorities impacted by COVID-19