Covid-19 Mobile Phone Application (App) Project
Department of Health 23.03.20

1. Mobile App development

1.1. Overview

The HSE and NPHET require a digital software solution to augment current contract tracing, and to provide real-time symptom tracking. The Department has identified that a **single national Covid-19 mobile phone App** is the most appropriate solution, and this App is at an advanced stage of development.

The Covid-19 App is being developed by a coalition of developers and analysts led by the HSE and supported by Amazon Web Service. The App development team are leading the technical development (similar to Singapore's App), testing, and the App approval process. Subject to approval, the initial version of the App may be available for download in the week commencing 30 March. Wireframes (mock-up) can be viewed by clicking this link

1.2. Functions and versions

In the immediate term the App will provide **real-time data** and insight to support HSE contact tracing through **symptom tracking.** Importantly, the App data will form the **third data feed into the newly established national Covid-19 Data Hub – GeoHIVE** and sits alongside two other data feeds: community data, and acute hospital data (section 3). The functions of the App will include support for citizens' self-management of health and wellbeing, and a team of Bluetooth engineers is being established with the objective of incorporating **proximity analysis** in support of contact tracing in the immediate weeks ahead.

2. Strategic development plan

Under NPHET and led by the R&D and Health Analytics Division a **Department of Health Covid-19 App Team**[i] is now in place to manage the finalisation and launch of the App, by:

1) acting as a single conduit between the App development team, DoH and NPHET;
2) ensuring alignment and integration of the COVID-19 App data into the national Covid-19 Data Hub and surveillance reporting plans, with the GeoHIVE Governance team and Analytics Team;
3) providing the App development team with Government of Ireland Covid-19 branding,
4) designing a communications strategy for optimising the onboarding process and providing behavioural insights from the work NPHET Behavioural Change Subgroup to support sustained use and re-engagement;
5) arranging review of any data protection and/or regulatory matters;

6) providing regular updates to the NPHET on the finalisation process and launch plans.

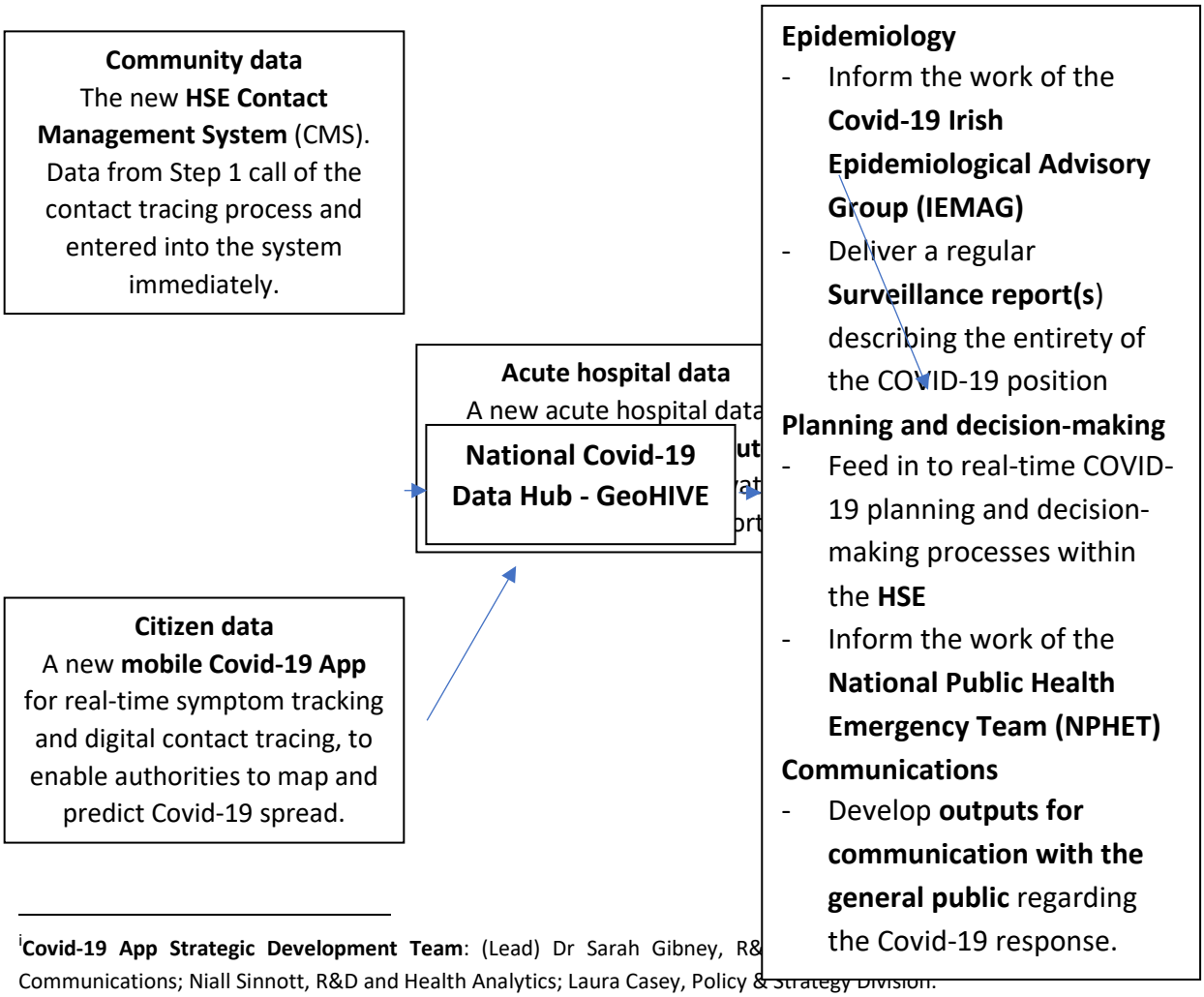
3. Covid-19 App data the national Covid-19 Data Hub

3.1. National Covid-19 data hub

A **national Covid-19 Data Hub has rapidly been developed** on GeoHive[ii] - the State's geospatial data platform. This is a **single central repository** for national Covid-19 information, analysis and visualisation. The purpose of the **national Covid-19 Data Hub** is to support:

- **real-time collection, analysis and reporting** of relevant data and information on Cov-19 cases at key stages of the patient care process, across all care settings; and,
- **real-time understanding** of the **epidemiological profile** and evolving impact of Covid-19 on the Irish population, the hospital system, and healthcare capacity and demand.

3.2. National Covid-19 Data Hub feeds and functions



[i] **Covid-19 App Strategic Development Team**: (Lead) Dr Sarah Gibney, R&
Communications; Niall Sinnott, R&D and Health Analytics; Laura Casey, Policy & Strategy Division.

[ii] Developed by Ordinance Survey Ireland (OSI) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) and the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO), along with the ESRI as technical partners.