



Mr Paul Reid  
Chief Executive Officer & Chair HSE National Crisis Management Team (NCMT)  
Health Services Executive  
Dr Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Via email to: [ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.office@hse.ie)

Dear Paul,

Arising from today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, the following decisions and actions, required of the HSE and HPSC, as agreed by NPHE:

1. HSE to consider an alternative means of approving papers, with particular respect to the HSE Situational Report. Papers should be cleared so as to be circulated on the day before NPHE meetings.
2. HSE to update and re-circulate a high level COVID-19 governance paper.
3. No change will be made to the case definition at this time. Ireland will continue to re-evaluate our case definition as situation evolves.
4. HSE to share documents regarding planning assumptions and UK modelling work.
5. HSE to bring additional information on Irish planning assumptions calculated using the UK model to NPHE for the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
6. HSE to develop a protocol for the implementation of the COVID-19 Guidance on Mass Gatherings.
7. HSE to circulate the criteria-based assessment of preparedness document by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
8. HSE to consider and draft a paper on the allocation of public health resources and revert to NPHE for the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
9. HSE Port Health Group to communicate with airports regarding their request and requirements for clinical staff resources.
10. HSE to evaluate and consider the measures in place in airports via the HSE Port Health Group with a paper to be submitted to NPHE for the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
11. HSE to write to NPHE regarding information for airlines. DOH to forward via Cross Departmental Senior Officials Group on Coronavirus Response.
12. DOH and HSE to include pharmacists in key stakeholder engagements on medicines supply and advice for patients.
13. NPHE approves the HSE proposal for community-based testing via the National Ambulance Service supplemented by community care teams. The new system will be trialled this week with a view to full implementation next week.

For information, the NCMT may also wish to note the following additional decisions and actions agreed by the NPHET today:

1. DOH will formally engage with Northern Ireland counterparts with respect to an all-island assessment of the risk presented by COVID-19.
2. DOH to publish the COVID-19 Guidance on Mass Gatherings tomorrow (after Senior Officials Group on Coronavirus Response), with emphasis on the fact that this is evolving situation. It will be updated as the situation changes.
3. DOH to consider the Infectious Disease Act 1947 and the powers therein.
4. NPHET agrees to establish the NPHET Subgroup - Vulnerable People as per the Terms of Reference outlined at the meeting.
5. NPHET agrees to establish the NPHET Subgroup – Acute Hospitals Preparedness.
6. NPHET agrees to establish the NPHET Subgroup - Medicines and Medical Devices Criticality Assessment Groups - COVID-19 as per the Terms of Reference outlined at the meeting.
7. NPHET will now recommend, on public health grounds, that the travel advice for Italy is updated to advise against all non-essential travel to the following four regions: Lombardy, Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia Romagna.

Please ensure that the actions relating to the HSE and HPSC are implemented in a timely manner. Officials in the Department are happy to liaise with your team as requested. You will note some actions have an agreed update due at the next NPHET meeting scheduled for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 2pm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Holohan', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Tony Holohan  
Chief Medical Officer