

# National Public Health Emergency Team

1 May 2020

## Changing the Case definition

Date document prepared: 30 April 2020

### Action required

- For noting
- For discussion
- For decision

## 1. Current case definition in operation – community testing

1.1. NPHEP adopted the ECDC case definition at their meeting of Friday 24 April 2020. The revised definition came into operation on Tuesday 28 April 2020.

1.2. The case definition in operation reads:

- A patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath) AND with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation;

**OR**

- A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in close contact<sup>1</sup> with a confirmed or probable<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms

**AND**

Falls into one of the following categories for priority testing

- Close contacts of a confirmed case
- HCW who are front facing/ have regular patient contact
- Groups most at risk of severe infection such as persons with ischaemic heart disease, hypertension, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, active malignancy in last 5 years, chronic lung disease, chronic renal disease, chronic liver disease and the extremely medically vulnerable as outlined in Guidance on Cocooning
- Household contacts of HCWs and of at-risk groups above.
- Staff and residents of nursing homes and other residential care settings and those in direct provision, homeless, Roma and travelling community settings where symptom management is difficult.
- Prison staff and inmates where it may be difficult to implement self-isolation advice.
- Pregnant women to ensure they can be managed safely in hospital, minimising the risk of spread in the maternity hospital.

## 2. Further information

2.1 HPSC GP Sentinel Surveillance System

WkNo	ILI / 100,000	Reporting Population	#Practices	# Practitioners	% Practices Reporting
14	41.5	286,467	56	146	93.3
15	32.5	279,921	55	146	91.7
16	24	270,553	54	142	90
16	15.7	254,091	50	135	83.3

2.2 See GPBuddy Report (enclosed in pack)

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The removal of the priority testing categories as listed above
- 3.2 The revised case definition to become operational on Wednesday 6th May 2020
- 3.3 Immediate actions to prepare
  - HPSC to update algorithm
  - HSE to communicate decision to ICGP
  - ICGP to communicate with members

### 4. Future upcoming decisions

- 4.1 Testing of close contacts
- 4.2 Best time ('day') to test the close contact
- 4.3 Single test or multiple tests