

## **Monitoring Framework for the phased modification of the public health and social distancing measures introduced in response to COVID-19**

### **Purpose**

This Framework sets out the key indicators through which the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) will monitor the progression of COVID-19 in Ireland and upon which the NPHE will base its recommendations to Government regarding future public health and social distancing measures.

### **Objectives**

These indicators will be used to monitor the impact of the removal or addition of measures, as well as the timing and scale of change to those measures, and will assist in rapidly calibrating Ireland's public health response according to the

- trajectory of the epidemic curve in the population
- changes in the risk groups most affected in order to better target prevention and mitigation efforts
- the impact on the healthcare system to inform resource allocation and mobilisation of surge capacity
- pattern of disease spread in healthcare settings in order to protect healthcare workers and patients
- evolving situation regarding clusters in residential care facilities, to protect those most at risk of severe disease and poor outcomes.

### **Indicators**

These indicators will inform the NPHE's overall assessment of the behaviour, progression and impact of COVID-19 in Ireland. They may be added to or amended over time, subject to the evolving characteristics of the virus (SARS-COV-2), the disease (COVID-19), its epidemiological profile and impact on the health system, and advice and guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

#### **1. Epidemiological**

##### **Incidence**

- Disease incidence (new cases per day and trend)
- Doubling time of new cases

##### **Impact**

- Number of new hospitalisations per day (and trends)
- Number of new admissions to ICU per day (and trends)
- Number of deaths per day (and trends)

##### **Residential Care Facilities**

- Number of clusters in residential care facilities (and trends)
- Number of new cases in residents and staff (and trends)
- Number of deaths (and trends)

##### **Syndromic Surveillance**

- Prevalence of influenza-like illness in the community

## **Modelling**

- Reproduction Number

## **2. Health System**

- Hospital based surveillance
- Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospitals (current COVID occupancy)
- Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU (current COVID occupancy)
- Trend in new admissions of COVID-19 cases to hospital
- Trend in new admissions of COVID-19 cases to ICU

## **3. Contact Tracing**

- Median number of close contacts identified
- Performance indicators as recommended by WHO<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid-strategy-update-14april2020.pdf?sfvrsn=29da3ba0\\_19](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid-strategy-update-14april2020.pdf?sfvrsn=29da3ba0_19)