

## Appendix

### NPHEA Agenda item 4(a) - Review of Existing Policy Personal Behaviours & Social Distancing

#### Quantitative Tracker

The latest public opinion tracker data, dated Monday 15 Jun, is available online [here](#)

This week's data shows that there is an increase in the proportion of people who self-report to be wearing face coverings, up from 28% last week to 34% today.

The nationally representative sample of 1,800 conducted by the Department of Health reveals:

- a slight fall in the percentage of adults feel that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, from 62% to 57%
- An increase in the number of people who think that Ireland will experience a second wave, up to 61% from 54%

#### Qualitative Tracker

Key insights from the latest focus group feedback, dated 12 Jun, reveals that:

- Many report feeling positive, optimistic and hopeful. However, there is an underlying fear that engaging economically and socially too quickly, coupled with complacency due to over confidence, will lead to spread of the virus. Key issues causing people stress, concern and mistrust now include;
  - Images in the media of queues of people outside of popular retail
  - Groups, particularly young people, gathering without social distancing
  - Lack of clarity in relation to masks particularly amongst those with underlying conditions who have heightened risk perceptions
- The majority are satisfied with the easing of restrictions and the acceleration of the roadmap. Most feel confident that the numbers support this decision. However, there is a feeling that the acceleration was a political rather than a public health decision.
  - the general public will need on-going reassurance that public health experts and politicians are collaborating on Ireland's approach.
  - The guidelines now contain more nuance and complexity. People are looking to understand 'the rules'
- The biggest concern over the next few months is that people 'lose the run of themselves' and we see a second wave of cases and deaths.
- While a second wave is expected around the flu season, people are keen to reduce it through acting responsibly. They do not wish to see a return to heavier restrictions or even lockdown, especially having tasted freedom for the first time in months