

**NPHEP paper on advising Government in relation to the
public health restrictive measures currently in place in certain counties**

20 August 2020

DRAFT UNDER DELIBERATION

Action required

- For noting
- For discussion
- For decision

1. Introduction

In light of the epidemiological situation emerging since the last week in July, the NPHEP advised on the 7th August that the Government give consideration to the application of a series of enhanced public health restrictive measures to apply to the counties of Kildare, Laois and Offaly for a period of two weeks, at which point the situation will be reviewed. The Government accepted these recommendations and the measures came into effect from midnight on the 7th August and are due to end on Sunday, 23rd August, subject to review.

Since that decision, the number of cases in that region has remained high and the number of cases in other parts of the country has also increased. This led to NPHEP recommending, at its meeting on the 17th August, a number of enhanced public health restrictive measures to apply to the remainder of the country. Government considered this advice on the 18th August and accepted this advice with one exception – it allows weddings to proceed up to a maximum of 50 people. The measures are in place until the 13th September.

The measures recommended in both cases were drawn from the suite of possible public health measures set out in the Orange Phase response of the Framework, agreed by NPHEP on the 23 July 2020. For ease of reference, please see attached Table in Appendix 1 which sets out the measures detailed in the Framework that apply to the different phases of the Framework, along with those currently applying in Kildare, Laois and Offaly and across the rest of the country as a result of the Government decision on the 18th August. Appendix 2 sets out the Disease Indicators for the different phases.

2. Current Epidemiological Update

Recent updates provided at meetings of 4th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 17th August refer.

A further update will be provided at the meeting.

3. Measures for Consideration by NPHEP

On the basis of the epidemiological situation presented at the meeting, the NPHEP will be required to review and consider the situation in Kildare, Laois and Offaly, and make recommendations to Government in relation to the measures that are due to end on the 23rd August.

It is proposed that NPHEP considers each county separately and discusses and considers whether to advise Government as follows:

- Not to extend the restrictions. It should be noted that the county will then be subject to the nationwide measures in place until the 13th September.
- Extend the restrictions for a further period.
- Impose further restrictions drawing on the Framework as appropriate.

For ease of reference, the following are the remaining Orange Phase measures from the Framework:

- Measures targeted at restricting movement to “essential purposes”
 - Everyone to work from home except for essential workers and other specified workers
 - Public transport reserved for essential workers and passengers travelling for essential purposes
- Majority of businesses/services to close:
 - All retail to close bar essential outlets – food, beverages, pharmacies, fuel providers, financial institutions – full list SI 121
 - All personal services

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Appendix 1: Public Health Restrictive Measures from the “Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response”

	Yellow Phase	Orange Phase in Framework	Kildare/Laois/Offaly Measures	18 th August Measures	Red Phase in Framework
Internal Movement	No restrictions	Stay local/within designated area, apart from essential work/purpose	Residents can move within county but no travel in to/out of county other than for work or essential purpose	No restrictions	Stay at home, except for essential purposes Exercise within 5km
Visitors to homes	Max 10 people from ≤4 households	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	Limited to own household
Outdoor mass gatherings	Max 200 people	Max 10 people	Max 15 people	Max 15 people	Max 6 people
Indoor mass gatherings	Max 50 people	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	Max 6 people from ≤3 households	0
Work	WFH where possible	WFH apart from essential workers and other specified workers	WFH where possible	WFH unless absolutely necessary	WFH apart from essential workers and other specified workers
Public/Private Transport	No restrictions, protective measures in place	Reserved for essential workers and passengers travelling for essential purposes	Avoid unless absolutely necessary	Avoid where possible	Reserved for essential workers and passengers travelling for essential purposes
Retail	Open, with protective measures in place	Essential (food, pharmacies, fuel, financial institutions) and outdoor outlets open. Everything else closed	Open with protective measures in place	Open with protective measures in place	Essential (food, pharmacies, fuel, financial institutions) and outdoor outlets open. Everything else closed
Cafes and restaurants	Open, with protective measures in place	Limit supply to take away food or delivery and/or outdoor dining (with strict physical	Limit supply to take away food or delivery and/or outdoor dining (with strict physical	Open, with protective measures in place	Limit supply to take away food or delivery only

	Yellow Phase	Orange Phase in Framework	Kildare/Laois/Offaly Measures	18 th August Measures	Red Phase in Framework
		distancing)	distancing)		
Hotels	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open but must limit occupancy to existing guests, and essential non-social and non-tourist reasons.	Open, with protective measures in place	Hotels to limit occupancy to non-essential, non-tourist reasons
Personal Services	Open, with protective measures in place	Closed	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Closed
Public places (theatres, museums, cinemas etc)	Open, with protective measures in place	Closed	Closed	Open, with protective measures in place	Closed
Sports	No restrictions, outside of 50/200 limits Protective measures in place	No sporting events or matches to take place (other than non-contact training outdoors - max 10 people) Elite athletes, professional sports & inter-county training and fixtures may continue behind closed doors Gyms/leisure centres/swimming pools should close	No sporting events or matches to take place (other than non-contact training outdoors - max 15 people) Elite athletes, professional sports & inter-county training and fixtures may continue behind closed doors Gyms/leisure centres/swimming pools closed	Matches/events (horseracing) can take place, but behind closed doors Indoor/outdoor training – max 6/15 people Elite athletes, professional sports & inter-county training and fixtures may continue behind closed doors Gyms/leisure centres/swimming pools closed	Facilities can stay open for individual activity but no team sports or training. Gyms/leisure centres/swimming pools closed

	Yellow Phase	Orange Phase in Framework	Kildare/Laois/Offaly Measures	18th August Measures	Red Phase in Framework
Funerals	No restrictions, protective measures in place	Max 25 people (max 6 at linked indoor events)	Max 25 people (6 at linked indoor events)	No new restrictions, protective measures in place	Private, limited to 10 people
Places of worship	No restrictions, protective measures in place	Remain open for private prayer. Services to move online	Remain open for private prayer. Services to move online	No new restrictions, protective measures in place	Services to move online
Visitors RCFs	No restrictions, implement visiting protocols in line with public health guidance	Implement appropriate restrictions	Suspended, aside from critical and compassionate circumstances	No new restrictions, protective measures in place	All/certain visiting may be restricted or cease
Childcare	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Subject to evolving evidence with regard to COVID-19 and children.
Education	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place HE, FE, Adult online primarily	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Subject to evolving evidence with regard to COVID-19 and children. HE, FE, Adult Ed primarily to be delivered online
Outdoor playgrounds, play areas, parks, sports amenities	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place	Open, with protective measures in place
Medically Vulnerable/Over 70s	Individual judgement, re extent they engage with others and in activities outside of home	Individual judgement, stay at home as much as possible, limit interactions to a very small network for short periods of time. Shop during designated	Individual judgement, stay at home as much as possible, limit interactions to a very small network for short periods of time	Individual judgement, stay at home as much as possible, limit interactions to a very small network for short periods of time Shop during designated	Individual judgement, stay at home as much as possible, limit interactions to a very small network for short periods of time. Shop during designated

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		times		times	times

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Appendix 2: Framework Disease Indicators

(considered collectively and in context to guide judgement and decision making)

Phase	Indicators
Yellow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single or isolated clusters or outbreaks, with origins understood in the majority of cases 2. 14-day cumulative incidence and related indicators low and stable 3. Indicators of viral transmission (including the number of cases, positivity rate and reproduction number) 4. Incidence of cases in residential healthcare settings stable or decreasing, indicating suppression of community transmission 5. Number of deaths stable or decreasing, indicating suppression of community transmission 6. Admissions to hospital and critical care stable or decreasing, indicating suppression of community transmission 7. Disease remains uncontrolled overseas, but cases related to overseas travel here remain in the minority
Orange	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple clusters, with secondary spread 2. 14-day cumulative incidence and related indicators show significant or increasing level of disease 3. Indicators of viral transmission (including the number of cases, positivity rate and reproduction number) indicate community transmission no longer effectively suppressed 4. Incidence of cases in residential healthcare settings increasing 5. Admissions to hospital and critical care increasing 6. Number of deaths increasing 7. Capacity to undertake testing and contact tracing constrained in the context of current demand
Red	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple clusters, with secondary and tertiary spread 2. 14-day cumulative incidence and related indicators show high or rapidly increasing level of disease 3. Indicators of viral transmission (including the number of cases, positivity rate and reproduction number) indicate significant community transmission 4. Incidence of cases in residential healthcare settings rapidly increasing 5. Number of deaths high and / rapidly increasing 6. Significant or rapid increase in admissions to hospital and critical care, with likelihood of hospital or critical care capacity being exceeded 7. Capacity to undertake testing and contact tracing constrained in the context of current demand