



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Item 5: Future Policy

Public Health Restrictive Measures

NPHET

17th September 2020



- Medium Term Plan including 5 level framework published:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e5175-resilience-and-recovery-2020-2021-plan-for-living-with-covid-19/>
- Level 2 Measures extended nationally – in place until midnight 4th October
- Additional measures in place in Dublin
 - Social gatherings with one other household only
 - No exemption for larger stadia
 - Pubs not reopening

Key NPHET decision for today.....



Does the epidemiological situation in any county/region warrant a differentiated approach and a move to Level 3 measures?

Summary of Level 3 measures



- **Social/Family gatherings:** visitors from 1 household only OR own household only **[Decision point]**
- No social/family gatherings in other settings; 25 guests at weddings
- **Organised Indoor Events:** None should take place
- **Organised Outdoor Events:** Gatherings of up to 15 people
- **Exercise & Sports:**
 - Training: Outdoors (non-contact) pods of 15 (exemption elite etc) Indoors: Individ. training only, no exercise/dance classes
 - Matches/Events: None. Exemption prof/elite/inter-county/club championship/horseracing behind closed doors.
 - Gyms/leisure centres/swimming pools: open with protective measures, for individual training only
- **Religious services:** Services move online; open for private prayer only; funerals up to 25 mourners
- **Indoor museums, galleries etc:** Closed. Libraries available for e-services and call and collect
- **Bars, cafes, restaurants:** Additional restrictions for indoor dining; additional restrictions wet bars. **[Decision point]**
- **Hotels:** Open but services limited to residents
- **Retail/services:** Open with protective measures (as in Level 1&2)
- **Work:** work from home unless absolutely necessary to attend in person
- **Domestic travel:** Stay in county (or other defined geographical area) apart from work, education and other essential purposes **[Decision point]**
- **Schools & Education:** schools & creches open; further, higher & adult escalate all appropriate protective measures & limit congregation as far as possible
- **Outdoor playgrounds, play areas & parks:** Open with protective measures
- **Transport:** Capacity 50%; essential workers and essential purposes only
- **LTRC Facilities visiting:** Suspended, aside from critical and compassionate grounds

Issues NPHET may wish to discuss in relation to Level 3 Measures



- If recommending additional measures, **NPHET should recommend a move to Level 3 of the Government Framework in its entirety.**
- There are a number of options within some measures in Level 3, where NPHET may need to make specific recommendations:
 - ❑ **Visitors to Private Homes:** Either from one other household or no visitors allowed (exemptions would need to be provided for essential purposes as was previous practice – carers etc)
 - ❑ **Restaurants/Cafes:** The Government Framework provides for “additional restrictions for indoor dining”. It would need to be determined what exactly these measures would be. Please note that NPHET proposed that these premises would be closed in Level 3.
 - ❑ **Wet bars:** The Government Framework provides for “additional restrictions”. Please note that the Government agreed that these venues would remain closed in Dublin as part of enhanced measures applying to the county. It is proposed that this would remain the advice from NPHET.
 - ❑ **Travel restrictions:** No travel outside county apart for essential purposes (work, education, medical etc.) **may** apply. It is proposed that whatever advice is decided on would also apply to travel in to the county.

Reiteration of Important Messages from Last Week



1. The continuing priority of protecting the most vulnerable and health and education services.
2. Measures can only have a substantial effect on the course of the disease if there is widespread collective buy-in for and adherence to the measures.
3. Two key learnings of recent months has been the willingness of the vast majority of the population to comply with public health measures, and the profound impact that these measures can have in suppressing the disease.
4. Responsibility continues to lie with individuals and with businesses and organisations, and there is a need for a targeted and sustained communications campaign in Dublin to emphasise the necessary behaviours.
5. Basic measures remain paramount – hand hygiene, cough and sneezing etiquette, physical distancing etc.
6. In addition, we need to reduce our social contacts and have safer contacts.
7. Appreciation that continued/further measures will be disappointing, concerning and challenging. Depending again on the resilience, solidarity and resolve of the Irish people over the coming weeks.
8. While a set of measures will have the potential to arrest the trajectory of the disease, the situation could deteriorate and further measures may be needed in the coming weeks.