

National Public Health Emergency Team - Coronavirus

Covid -19 Subgroup – Behavioural Change

Meeting 1

Note of Meeting and Actions Arising

Meeting Date: Friday 20th March 2020

Time: 11.00

Location: Video Conference

In attendance:

Department of Health:

Kate O’Flaherty (Chair), Health and Wellbeing

Robert Mooney, Communications

Robert Murphy, Research Services and Policy

Greg Straton, Health and Wellbeing (Secretariat)

ESRI: Pete Lunn

UCD: Liam Delaney

SEAI: Karl Purcell

Safefood: Aileen McGloin

NUIG: Molly Byrne

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed the new members to the Subgroup meeting. . The three new Subgroup members introduced themselves and spoke of their expertise and the resources they might be able to contribute.

2. Meeting Note – Meeting 18th of March 2020

The meeting note was accepted with the corrections submitted by Robert Murphy.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members were advised by the Chair that a Conflict of Interest form has been circulated by the secretariat for members to complete and sign.

4. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Subgroup has been drafted and circulated to all members. The members of the subgroup agreed that Terms of Reference are clear and accepted.

5. Weekly Consolidated Report

Robert Mooney gave an update on the various inputs, including social listening, focus groups and National Representative Online Studies (NRO).

There was a discussion around the possibility of having only one NRO per week, consolidating the Amárach and HSE studies and how the Subgroup could feed into this. The Group discussed importance of ensuring that given the online nature of these studies, that the inclusion of lower social economic and older persons and hard to reach groups are included in this process.

There was a discussion about the most recent Focus Groups. The group noted it was a useful way to capture the mood and perceptions of the public.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Healthy Ireland team are developing a campaign on wellbeing to support the population through the Covid response. Molly Byrne offered to investigate the literature relating to resilience and Aileen McGloin also offered to look at emerging best practice internationally and nationally.

There was a discussion around risk perception and the impact on behavioural compliance, including factors such as gender.

Members of the group mentioned several international instruments that are being developed and the need to review the current NROs against these.

Liam Delaney advised of a 'Day Reconstruction Wellbeing' study which has received ethics approval from UCD and is intended to go into the field with an Irish sample of approx. 1000 people in coming week. The results of a short pilot will be circulated to the group.

6. ESRI BRU Update – Pete Lunn

An update for new members on the research that is being undertaken by the Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) in the ESRI was provided. It was reported that the current BRU research was underway and that results may be available by next Friday's meeting. The group were requested to consider specific research questions for consideration of the BRU, these can be discussed at the meeting next week.

There was a discussion in the differences between various population cohorts and their compliance with measures and if specific testing of targeted measures could take place.

There was also a discussion on the 'halo effect' of being outside and the need to maintain social distancing. The group discussed need for simple actions that can help people can use for social distancing whilst outside, such as park signage.

There is also the need to do work on what people perceive to be "small groups", this is very much open to interpretation. There was a suggestion that this could be tested in the NROs and how to make the messaging on this clearer.

7. A.O.B

- The group discussed how best to manage communications
- There was a question if it was possible to get some data on the implementation of measures in retail spaces to measure compliance, the Chair undertook to explore this.
- Robert Mooney agreed to circulate input documents and the weekly synthesis report.

8. Dates and Times of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the Subgroup would meet at 11am each Friday via video conference.

Molly Byrne advised that she would not be available for the upcoming meeting.

Next meeting:

11am to 12.30 pm - 27th of March

Summary of Actions Arising:

20th of March 2020

Action	Description	Responsible
8.	Understanding wellbeing and risk perception, literature review and review of best practices	MB & AMG
9.	Review of NRO questions and structure, against WHO and other countries	All
10.	Communication process for the Subgroup	Secretariat
11.	Circulation of Research Input Documents and Synthesis Report	RMooney
12.	Explore Retail sector compliance data	Chair