



National Public Health Emergency Team – COVID-19
Meeting Note - *ad hoc* meeting convened via teleconference

Date and Time	Monday 24 th February 2020 (Meeting 7) at 8.30pm
Location	This meeting was held via teleconference
Chair	Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, DOH
Members via teleconference	Dr Cillian de Gascun, Laboratory Director, NVRL and Expert Advisory Group Chair Dr John Cuddihy, Acting Director, HSE HPSC Dr Kevin Kelleher, Asst. National Director, Public Health, HSE Mr Paul Connors, Communications, HSE Mr David Leech, Communications, HSE Mr Tom McGuinness, Asst. National Director, Office of Emergency Planning, HSE Mr Sean Egan, Head of Healthcare Regulation, HIQA Dr Philip Crowley, National Director, Quality Improvement, HSE (on behalf of the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer) Mr David Keating, Communicable Disease Control Policy Unit, DOH Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Dr Colette Bonner, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Ms Deirdre Watters, Communications Unit, DOH
Apologies	N/A
In Attendance	Ms Aoife Gillivan, Communications Unit, DOH
Secretariat	Ms Rosarie Lynch and Ms Claudine Hughes, Patient Safety Surveillance Unit, NPSO, DOH

1. Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed the group and thanked all for joining the teleconference. As this was an ad hoc teleconference, the group agreed that the agenda would be as per items 2 to 6 inclusive below.

2. Review of the official data

The HPSC presented a summary of the current epidemiological figures, including the recent increase in cases in some regions of Italy.

It was noted that the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) are undertaking an update of their risk assessment on an ongoing basis and continue to monitor the evolving situation so as to provide scientific and case definition advice to EU Member States.

All noted that a key strategy in the current Containment Phase is the aim to identify all cases incoming from a region where there are known clusters of cases. Update on containment and mitigation considerations is due at the NPHET meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, 25th February 2020).

The ECDC are monitoring the case definition on an ongoing basis to see if it needs to be updated according to the information on geographical region and / or symptoms. There is currently no change in the ECDC threat assessment since yesterday's NPHET teleconference (23rd February 2020).



3. Planning assumptions

It was noted that planning assumptions are already an agenda item for discussion at the NPHE meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, 25th February 2020). This should include planning across short, medium and long term horizons and looking at the Irish response should there be a similar scenario to Italy. The data from Italy may help with planning. The latest ECDC paper is also likely to be helpful in this regard.

4. Public health advice / travel advice

No further update to current advice at this time. Wider travel advice, advice for returning travellers and mass gatherings to be considered further at the NPHE meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, 25th February 2020).

5. Communications

The HSE provided an update on activity to the HSE Live Helpline. The Helpline has operated for the last 7 days and the intention is to continue to provide a 7-day service while there is demand for same. (Last week was 12-hour service Monday to Friday and 7-hour service on Saturday and Sunday.)

The HSE and continue monitor the situation and an increasing number of other questions and queries are coming into the HSE Public Health services.

Public health advice remains in line with the current ECDC advice, scientific assessment and it is underpinned by the current ECDC case definition.

Media queries continue.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 25th February 2020 at 3:00pm.