

**An Roinn Sláinte**  
Department of Health  
Office of the Chief Medical Officer



Mr. Simon Harris TD,  
Minister for Health,  
Department of Health,  
Miesian Plaza,  
50-58 Lower Baggot Street,  
Dublin 2.

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Via email to Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

Dear Minister,

Arising from the meeting earlier today of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention the following recommendation agreed by the NPHE:

- The NPHE recommends that Department of Health officials engage with officials from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) regarding amendment of the Civil Registration Act, 2004 so that deaths should be reported within one week in order to improve the timeliness of the registration process.

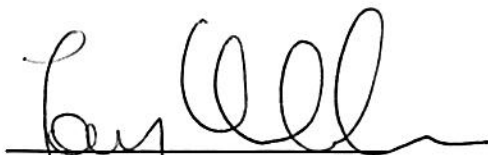
Over the last few meetings, the NPHE has kept under close review the current epidemiological data, in particular the number of outbreaks and clusters associated with care settings, such as long-term residential care settings and acute hospitals. The HSE supported by the Department and other health agencies, continue to deploy a range of supports and measures for the purposes of outbreak control and to protect 'at risk' people in these settings.

The NPHE has previously, and continues, to acknowledge the widespread change which has taken place in our ordinary lives and the support of the public, as a whole, for the significant public health measures required to date as part of Ireland's response to COVID-19. Consequently, the NPHE noted today the importance of continued compliance by the public and society with these measures in the context of the approaching public holiday weekend. The NPHE considered that the powers contained in the draft Regulations under the Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Act 2020 should be available for use by the Gardaí in the coming weeks.

Officials from this Department have been and will continue to be available to work with relevant HSE staff, other health agency staff and staff across Government on the implementation of these actions.

I would be happy to discuss further, should you wish.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Holohan', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Tony Holohan

Chief Medical Officer

Chair of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team

c.c. Ms Elizabeth Canavan, Department of the Taoiseach and Chair of the Senior Officials Group for COVID-19