

## **COVID-19 NPHEM Subgroup – Diagnostic Testing Approaches**

Following completion of the HIQA Rapid health technology assessment of alternative diagnostic testing approaches for the detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHEM) recommended the establishment of a NPHEM subgroup on diagnostic testing approaches.

The **NPHEM Subgroup on Diagnostic Testing Approaches** will report to NPHEM with a strategic framework for implementation within the existing HSE COVID-19 Testing Programme.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To summarise and describe the scientific rationale, type of technology, potential operational utility and location of alternative testing methodologies.
2. To outline a strategic direction for how potential developments in testing will be used when available and independently validated
3. To make recommendations that are consistent with ensuring the resources committed to testing methodologies can be used as flexibly and as efficiently as possible.
4. To monitor developments in test evaluations (by ECDC and WHO) so preparation for and implementation of the strategic framework is timely
5. To provide regular updates to the NPHEM on the work of the Subgroup.

### **Out of scope**

- The evaluation of individual industry/manufacturers submissions on alternative IVDs
- The implementation of the strategy –on completion of the strategic framework that its report and recommendations will be submitted from NPHEM to HSE re. implementation

### **Membership**

- Department of Health
- National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL), Director
- HPSC, Director
- HPSC, Health Protection
- HSE, National Clinical Lead Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control Team
- HSE, National Clinical Programme Lead for Pathology
- HSE, Chief Clinical Officer
- HIQA, Health Technology Assessment
- HPRA, Medical Devices
- St. James's Hospital, Infectious Diseases

**29 April 2020**