



Mr. Paul Reid,
Chief Executive Officer & Chair HSE National Crisis Management Team (NCMT),
Health Services Executive,
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

4th June 2020

Via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

Dear Paul,

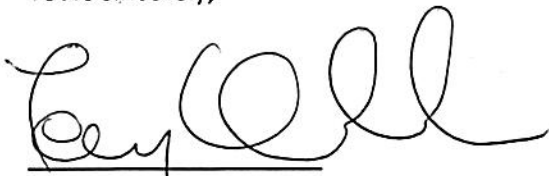
Arising from today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, the following decisions of the NPHE which are now required to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

1. The NPHE agreed the *"COVID-19 RNA/PCR Testing in Ireland-Public Health Recommendations on Strategic Approach (excluding testing on healthcare workers)"* developed by the HSE HPSC, subject to minor textual amendments and agreed that it is to be kept under regular review;
2. In relation to the protection and surveillance of healthcare workers, the NPHE agreed:
 - (a) the *"COVID-19 RNA/PCR Testing of Health Care Workers in Ireland – Public Health Recommendations on Strategic Approach"* developed by the HSE HPSC, subject to textual amendments;
 - (b) subject to completion of preparatory planning at a national level, that the HSE implements a plan that will deliver weekly PCR/RNA testing for COVID-19 of healthcare workers in nursing homes to be reviewed after a period of 4 weeks;
 - (c) that HPSC revert with a policy paper, for consideration by the NPHE at its next meeting on 11th June 2020, in relation to the testing of healthcare workers as well as patients in hospital settings, to inform the development of guidance by the HPSC.

For information, the NCMT may also wish to note that the NPHET today recommended that Government give consideration to the reduction and adjustment of the public health measures, in accordance with Phase 2 of the Government of Ireland *Roadmap for Reopening of Society and Business* as well as the commencement of other specified easing measures.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the wider team across the HSE for your ongoing support and work across the health and social care services as we move through the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency. Officials from this Department have been and continue to be available to work with relevant HSE staff.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer

cc. Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE
Mr Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Hospital Operations, HSE