



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

11th 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 (NPHET), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, the following decision of the NPHET which is now required to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

- The NPHET agreed the HSE HPSC "*COVID-19 RNA/PCR Testing in Acute Hospitals in Ireland - Public Health Recommendations on Strategic Approach*" and approved the recommendations contained in the Report. This should be completed as expeditiously as possible to inform the ongoing risk-based surveillance of healthcare workers (HCWs).

For information, the NCMT may also wish to note that NPHET recommends the development and implementation of a national communications campaign to increase compliance with the current recommendations and guidance with regard to the use of face-coverings by the general public in retail outlets, on public transport and in other public locations in which it is difficult to maintain social distancing or where this distance cannot be guaranteed. The Department and the HSE will continue to work together in this regard.

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,

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer

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

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