



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

9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Via email to Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

Dear Minister,

I write further to today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET). The NPHET acknowledged the need for solidarity in avoiding non-essential travel in the continuing battle to suppress the virus. To date, good progress has been made in suppressing the overall incidence of infection within Ireland, however the risk of imported cases continues to grow in light of the deteriorating international epidemiological situation and an increase in overseas travel. In this regard, the NPHET reiterates its prior recommendations on travel, including that all non-essential travel overseas should be avoided.

Further to a request in the context of recent Government decisions regarding travel, and while emphasising that symptomatic persons should not travel to Ireland, the NPHET today recommends that the following be actioned:

- Arrangements for highly visible communications, information-sharing and awareness-raising to assist in ensuring that all passengers arriving into Ireland from overseas are aware of the public health guidance and their relevant legal obligations. As part of this, there should be strong encouragement for all persons arriving to download the COVID-19 Tracker App once it becomes available;
- For any person who has symptoms on arrival to Ireland, the HSE and Port Authorities are to review the existing disease control measures in place and examine options to provide defined protocols and pathways for timely PCR testing, to ensure any suspect cases are identified, isolated and tested as quickly as possible in line with current policy.

To further protect our healthcare staff and vulnerable populations, the NPHET recommends that visitors and outpatients to hospitals, residential care settings, and community health services (e.g. general practice, dental practice, pharmacy services) should wear a face covering to reduce the likelihood of the spread of infection from the wearer. This does not remove the need for other combinations of protective measures (e.g. social distancing & hand hygiene) to reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The NPHET of course remains available to provide any further advice and recommendations that may be of assistance to you and Government in relation to ongoing decision-making processes in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also enclose a copy of the letter which has been forwarded to the HSE CEO arising from today's NPHET meeting.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr Ronan Glynn', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Ronan Glynn

Acting Chief Medical Officer

Chair of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team

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