



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

31st August 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 (NPHE). The NPHE reviewed the current epidemiological situation nationwide, and specifically in Kildare. With regard to the epidemiological situation in Kildare the NPHE noted that the situation continues to improve and is now broadly similar to that across the country. The NPHE considered the latest available epidemiological data; as of the midnight 29th August data were as follows:

Case Numbers

- The rolling 5-day average in Kildare is 10.8 cases as of 29th August (national is 113). This compares to a 5-day average of 22.2 cases in Kildare on 6th August.
- In Kildare, 75 cases were notified in the week to 29th August. This is 9% of cases notified nationally. This compares to 238 cases (44% of national) notified in the week to 8th August, 170 cases (31%) in the week to 15th August, and 159 cases (22%) in the week to 22nd August.

Incidence Rates

- The rolling 14-day incidence rates in Kildare remains high compared to other counties at 105.2 cases per 100,000 population. However, this rate has been declining for the past 5 days. This compares to an incidence in the previous 14-day (2nd-15th August) period of 183.4. The national 14-day incidence currently stands at 31.8.
- The profile of the disease in Kildare has been improving over the past 7 days in particular. Kildare's 7-day incidence on August 29th of 33.7 cases per 100,000 compares to a 7-day incidence of 57.6 on August 6th. The national 7-day incidence is currently 16.8.

Modes of Transmission

- The number of cases attributable to community transmission or possibly community transmission in Kildare over the past 14 days (16th to 29th August) has been 36%. Nationally, the community transmission/possible community transmission rate also stands at 36%.



As the epidemiological situation both nationally and in Kildare are broadly similar there is no longer a rationale for a differentiated approach and the NPHET recommends that the public health measures in place in Kildare be aligned with those introduced nationally on 18th August. While the epidemiological situation in Kildare has improved, the situation nationally remains uncertain and the impact of the national measures introduced on 18th August continues to be monitored closely. It remains very important that people everywhere continue to adhere to public health advice and guidance.

NPHET recognised the very significant impact of the measures on individuals, communities and businesses in Kildare over the past three weeks and acknowledged that the improvement in the epidemiological situation there has been due to the willingness of everyone to adhere to the public health guidance and measures implemented. NPHET thanked people in Kildare – and in Laois and Offaly previously – for their forbearance and noted that their actions are a demonstration, and a further reminder, of what can be achieved through collective action as we continue to strike a balance between living our lives and behaving in a way that protects one another.

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 would be happy to discuss further, should you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ronan Glynn
A/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