

Update from Subgroup on Behavioural Change for NPHE meeting 21/4/2020

- The Subgroup is meeting weekly and last met on Thursday 16th of April
- The Subgroup has begun work to compile a systematic review of literature on topics that are anticipated to arise in moving to phased adjustments of measures.
- A 'nudge' communications tool around **handwashing at home** has been developed and has now been disseminated nationwide to all households. It is planned to test the efficacy of these posters in online surveys in the coming weeks.
- Communications tools to support **self-isolation** planning and compliance are being developed based on the ESRI study and will be tested in focus groups in the coming week.
- A further rapid online behavioural study by the ESRI is being planned to support planning for phased adjustments in measures, to explore factors that may affect attitudes around fairness, feasibility and acceptability, as well compliance and comprehension.
- The Subgroup is liaising with DBEI to support planning for businesses and workplaces prepare for adjustments in measures, including conducting a survey to better understand the capability of businesses to implement changes to physical environments and organisation processes that can reduce the spread of Covid-19. DBEI is also facilitating contact with the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) to enable the Subgroup to input into NSAI guidance for business to provide concise checklists and support packs (including posters, stickers and prompts) to enable the implementation of changes to the physical environment.
- The Subgroup received a presentation from Philip Hyland from Maynooth on findings from the first wave of a psychological survey conducted by Maynooth University and Trinity College, a similar survey is being run in the UK. It is expected to conduct a further wave of the survey to assess the impact of prolonged quarantine and physical distancing measures on mental health.
- In line with the MoU with Northern Ireland, a meeting with the Behavioural Change group in Northern Ireland is being explored to discuss collaboration.
- The Subgroup agreed that working papers and other outputs will be published on the relevant gov.ie page <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/3008f6-the-national-public-health-emergency-team-nphet-covid-19-subgroup-be/>