



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

9th July 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 now require actioning by the HSE:

- To further protect our healthcare staff and vulnerable populations, the NPHE 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 form of 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.
- As part of a wider recommendation on travel the NPHE recommends that 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.

For information, you may wish to note that 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 NPHE today recommends that the following also be actioned:

- Arrangements for highly visible communications, information-sharing and awareness-raising to help ensure that all passengers arriving 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 arrivals to download the COVID-19 Tracker App once it becomes available.

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 be 'Roman Glynn', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Roman Glynn

Acting Chief Medical Officer

Chair of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team

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