



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

6th August 2020

Via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

Dear Paul,

Arising from yesterday's meeting of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, a series of decisions of the NPHE which now require to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

1. The NPHE agreed the recommendations set out in the paper "Managing Children with Fever and Respiratory Symptoms", (pending an evidence synthesis review by HIQA in relation to the appropriate periods of self-isolation referred to in proposition 3 of the paper). The NPHE further recommends that the HSE:
 - a. in collaboration with the NVRL, validate the use of oral fluid/saliva as a specimen type for testing for SARS-CoV-2 RNA in children and report back to NPHE by the 20 August;
 - b. through the HPSC and the Integrated Care Programme for Children develop algorithms based on those set out in the paper to support the identification of those requiring testing in advance of the 20th August;
 - c. in anticipation of the adoption of oral fluid/saliva as a specimen type for testing of children and in line with the paper on "Managing Children with Fever and Respiratory Symptoms", consider the most appropriate testing pathways for children;
 - d. work with the Department of Health to develop communications to support understanding among Parents, Carers and school authorities.
2. The NPHE agreed the interim recommendations of the "Investigation into a Series of Outbreaks of COVID-19 in Meat Processing Plants in Ireland" and further recommended that the HSE's newly established National Standing Oversight Committee for such facilities considers, as an immediate action, the development of the most appropriate and proactive approach to surveillance and testing within the food processing industry.

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 read 'Ronan Glynn', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Ronan Glynn

A/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