



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

7th August 2020

Via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

Dear Paul,

I write further to the meeting of the National Public Health Emergency Team which took place this morning. I wish to advise you that the NPHET will be recommending to Government today that it give consideration to the application of a number of enhanced public health restrictive measures to apply to the counties of Kildare, Laois and Offaly in light of the current epidemiological status of COVID-19 in those counties.

I enclose a copy of the *Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response* which was provided to the Minister for Health on 23 July 2020 and which is currently under consideration across Government. In the context of the measures that are now being recommended for implementation in respect of Kildare, Laois and Offaly, as the Chair of the HSE's National Crisis Management Team, I would ask that the NCMT specifically consider and action the following priority actions from the *Framework*, as a matter of urgency at your meeting this afternoon:

1. Public health responses, including testing, contact tracing, and surveillance, public health outbreak responses are resourced and operating so as to enable as close to real-time reporting and follow-up of cases as possible.
2. HSE COVID-19 Response Teams are in place and ready to respond to support in particular those living in nursing homes and residential care facilities, people availing of homelessness services, members of the Roma and Traveller Communities, people availing of Direct Provision services and disability services, particularly in these counties
3. All health and social care service providers should be ready to activate public health-led, risk-based relevant response plans including for the provision of multidisciplinary supports and surge capacity in these counties and surrounding areas.
4. Appropriate visibility of health service and public health leaders at local and regional level, supported by HSE communications teams, to ensure that the public in Kildare, Laois and Offaly are kept informed of disease status in those localities.

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 'Dr Ronan Glynn', 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