

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health
Office of the Chief Medical Officer



Mr. Paul Reid,
Chief Executive Officer & Chair HSE National Crisis Management Team (NCMT),
Health Services Executive,
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8
21st 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. While recognising the importance of visiting to the general health and wellbeing of the residents of LTRCs, given the current epidemiological profile of the disease NPHE recommended that in addition to the current visitor guidance and in keeping with the general public health advice to limit contacts, that the number of nominated visitors in LTRCs is limited to 4 per resident from Monday 24th August and that PPE is provided to visitors as necessary. In addition, consideration should be given to enhanced support from Community Response Teams and local public health teams to support service providers in the provision of safe, consistent and proportionate visiting, balancing risk with benefits.
2. The NPHE agreed that cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools will be managed in line with Public Health guidance being finalised by the HSE.
3. The NPHE agreed that algorithms to guide the assessment and management of children with fever and respiratory symptoms in the primary care setting will be finalised in the coming days

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,

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