



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

11th September 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, the decisions of the NPHE, which now require to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

- The NPHE requests the HSE to design a new Visiting Guidance Framework for long-term residential care facilities outlining the guidance/restrictions to apply at each corresponding level within the 5-level "Framework for Future COVID-19 Pandemic Response", as agreed by the NPHE, and to bring this Visiting Guidance Framework back to the NPHE for its consideration;
- The NPHE approved the revised HPSC guidance and testing algorithms for COVID-19, in line with EAG advice from its meeting of 2nd September. The NPHE requests that these revised testing algorithms be brought to the attention of GPs and Public Health Departments for immediate use;
- The NPHE recommended that the programme of serial testing of all staff in nursing homes continues for 2 further cycles of testing on a fortnightly basis, at which point it will be further reviewed.

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