



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

18th September 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 yesterday. I wish to advise you that that in light of the current epidemiological status of COVID-19 the NPHET have recommended to Government that it give consideration to the application of *Level 3 restrictions* in Dublin in line with "*Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19*".

In respect of the measures that are now being recommended for implementation in Dublin, I would ask that the HSE's National Crisis Management Team specifically consider and action the following priority actions, as a matter of urgency:

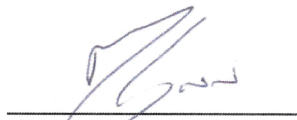
1. Public health outbreak responses including testing, contact tracing, and surveillance, are resourced and operating so as to enable as close to real-time reporting and follow-up of cases as possible.
2. HSE COVID-19 Response Teams are in place and ready to respond to support those living in Long Term Residential facilities, including private nursing homes.
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.
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 Dublin are kept informed of disease status.

While the epidemiological profile of Dublin is of greatest concern, the picture nationally has deteriorated further over the past week. In this regard the NPHET recommends that the HSE take all necessary measures and deploy any additional resources required to support Departments of Public Health and the testing and contract tracing operations in continuing to respond comprehensively to cases and clusters over the coming weeks. Furthermore, the NPHET recommends increased testing in counties of higher concern (Dublin, Louth, Waterford, Donegal and Leitrim) and that relevant communications issue to GPs in these counties.

The NPHET also noted the HPSC recommendations following an enhanced epidemiological review of a number of historical outbreaks across selected hospitals and asks that the HSE now ensure these recommendations are implemented to further protect our healthcare system and staff. Also, the NPHET recommends that the HSE and HIQA continue to engage on a regular basis through the current escalation to ensure that the necessary supports are in place to protect residents in long term residential facilities.

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, ICM: 343404

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
Mr Phelim Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, HIQA