



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

08th October 2020

Via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

Dear Paul,

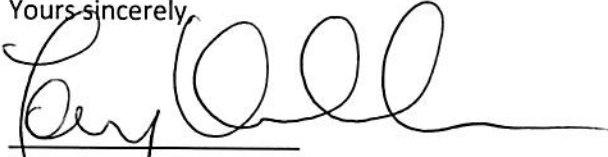
Arising from today's meeting of the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), I wish to bring to your attention, as Chair of the HSE NCMT, the following decision of the NPHE which is now required to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

- The NPHE endorses the HPSC's "Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza testing – Winter 2020/21" and seeks assurance from the HSE this guidance has been communicated and implemented across the health system;
- The NPHE recommended that healthcare students in higher and further education (including allied health disciplines) should be facilitated to attend on site, with appropriate protective measures in place, for any clinical placements, simulation exercises or training, laboratory practice or practical examinations that are necessary to meet professional or regulatory requirements.

I would also ask that, in order to provide greater clarity with regard to the proactive testing and surveillance approaches to the management of COVID-19 across the five-priority areas outlined in the NPHE's recommendation of 1st October 2020, the HPSC finalise its proposal for sustainable approaches to testing across these priority areas. The relevant officials within the Department of Health will engage constructively to facilitate the necessary work in this regard. The NPHE also recommends that the programme of fortnightly serial testing across nursing homes continue.

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 'Tony Holohan', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer

cc. Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE
Mr Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Hospital Operations, HSE