



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

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Via email to: [ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto: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 decisions which now require to be actioned by the HSE and Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC):

- The NPHE endorses the paper on "Serial Testing in Nursing Homes (participation rate & scope for including residents)" and recommends its implementation;
- The NPHE supports, in principle, the proposal to provide for increased visiting to LTRC's through the broadening of compassionate grounds for visits and recommends that the HSE's "COVID-19 Guidance on visitations to Long Term Residential Care Facilities" be updated in consultation with relevant stakeholders to reflect this. Visiting considerations should include those who are transferred to acute hospitals from the LTRCs;
- The NPHE endorses the paper entitled "*SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance in Ireland*" and recommends that the NVRL & HPSC work collaboratively to implement a national wastewater surveillance network for SARS-CoV-2;

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