



National Public Health Emergency Team – COVID-19

Meeting Note – Standing meeting

Date and Time	Monday 31 st August 2020, (Meeting 51) at 9:00am
Location	Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, Dublin 2
Chair	Dr Ronan Glynn, Acting Chief Medical Officer, DOH
Members via videoconference	<p>Dr Kevin Kelleher, Assistant National Director, Public Health, HSE Prof Philip Nolan, President, National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Chair of the Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group (IEMAG) Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer (CCO), HSE Dr Eibhlin Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Dr Cillian de Gascun, Laboratory Director, NVRL and Expert Advisory Group (EAG) Chair Dr Lorraine Doherty, National Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE Dr Michael Power, Consultant in Anaesthetics / Intensive Care Medicine, Beaumont Hospital Dr Siobhán Ní Bhriain, Lead for Integrated Care, HSE Dr Mary Favier, President, Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) Mr David Leach, Communications, HSE Dr Breda Smyth, Specialist, Public Health Medicine, HSE Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan, Chief Bioethics Officer, DOH Dr Colette Bonner, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Dr Máirín Ryan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of HTA, HIQA Mr Paul Bolger, Director Resources Division, Workforce Subgroup Chair, DOH Mr Colm Desmond, Assistant Secretary, Corporate Legislation, Mental Health, Drugs Policy and Food Safety Division, DOH Ms Yvonne O’Neill, National Director, Community Operations, HSE Mr Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Primary Care Division, DOH Mr Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Operations, HSE Mr Phelim Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, HIQA Dr Kathleen MacLellan, Assistant Secretary, Social Care Division, DOH Ms Kate O’Flaherty, Head of Health and Wellbeing, DOH Dr Jeanette McCallion, Medical Assessor, HPRA (Alternate for Elaine Breslin) Ms Deirdre Watters, Communications Unit, DOH</p>
‘In Attendance’	<p>Ms Sarah Treleaven, CMO Division, DOH Mr. Tony Flynn, Health Systems and Structures Unit, DOH Dr Matthew Robinson, Specialist Registrar in Public Health, DOH Mr Gerry O’ Brien, Resources Division, DOH (alternate for Paul Bolger) Ms Aoife Gillivan, Communications Unit, DOH Dr Desmond Hickey, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Mr Ronan O’Kelly, R&D and Health Analytics Division, DOH Ms Sheona Gilsean, R&D and Health Analytics Division, DOH Mr Tom McGuinness, Assistant National Director for Emergency Management, HSE</p>
Secretariat	Dr Keith Lyons, Mr. Liam Robinson, Ms Sorcha Ní Dhúill, Mr Ivan Murphy, DOH
Apologies	<p>Prof Colm Bergin, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, St James’s Hospital Dr Heather Burns, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DOH Ms Marita Kinsella, Director, NPSO, DOH Dr Elaine Breslin Clinical Assessment Manager Health Products Regulatory Authority Ms Tracey Conroy, Assistant Secretary, Acute Hospitals Policy Division, DOH</p>



1. Welcome and Introductions

a) *Conflict of Interest*

Verbal pause and none declared.

b) *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising at the meeting.

2. Epidemiological Assessment

a) *Evaluation of Epidemiological data: (incorporating National Data Update, Modelling Report and International Update)*

(i) *Review of Epidemiological Situation in Kildare*

The NPHET reviewed the current epidemiological situation nationwide, and specifically in Kildare. Regarding the epidemiological situation in Kildare, the NPHET noted that the situation continues to improve and is now broadly similar to that across the country. The NPHET considered the latest available epidemiological data; as of the midnight 29th August 2020 data were as follows:

Case Numbers

- The rolling 5-day average in Kildare is 10.8 cases as of 29th August 2020 (national is 113). This compares to a 5-day average of 22.2 cases in Kildare on 6th August 2020.
- In Kildare, 75 cases were notified in the week to 29th August 2020. This is 9% of cases notified nationally. This compares to 238 cases (44% of national) notified in the week to 8th August 2020, 170 cases (31%) in the week to 15th August 2020, and 159 cases (22%) in the week to 22nd August 2020.

Incidence Rates

- The rolling 14-day incidence rates in Kildare remains high compared to other counties at 105.2 cases per 100,000 population. However, this rate has been declining for the past 5 days. This compares to an incidence in the previous 14-day (2nd-15th August 2020) period of 183.4. The national 14-day incidence currently stands at 31.8.
- The profile of the disease in Kildare has been improving over the past 7 days in particular. Kildare's 7-day incidence on August 29th 2020 of 33.7 cases per 100,000 compares to a 7-day incidence of 57.6 on August 6th 2020. The national 7-day incidence is currently 16.8.

Modes of Transmission

- The number of cases attributable to community transmission or possible community transmission in Kildare over the past 14 days (16th to 29th August 2020) has been 36%. Nationally, the community transmission/possible community transmission rate also stands at 36%.

As the epidemiological situation both nationally and in Kildare are broadly similar there is no longer a rationale for a differentiated approach, noting that since the implementation of public health measures in Kildare on August 7th 2020, additional measures have been put in place nationally on 18th August 2020. While the epidemiological situation in Kildare has improved, the situation nationally remains uncertain and the impact of the national measures introduced on 18th August 2020 continues to be monitored closely.

The NPHET recognised the very significant impact of the measures on individuals, communities, and businesses in Kildare over the past 3 weeks and acknowledged that the improvement in the epidemiological situation there has been due to the willingness of everyone to adhere to the public health guidance and measures implemented.



The NPHEP recommended that the public health measures in place in Kildare be aligned with those introduced nationally on 18th August 2020.

3. Meeting Close

a) Agreed actions

The key actions arising from the meeting were examined by the NPHEP, clarified, and agreed.

b) AOB

There was no other business raised at the meeting.

c) Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the NPHEP will take place Thursday 3rd September 2020, at 10:00am via video conferencing.