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MEMORANDUM E (20) 234 (C)

FROM: Robin Swann MLA MINISTER FOR HEALTH

DATE: 1 OCTOBER 2020

TO: EXECUTIVE COLLEAGUES

FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER: ADDITIONAL NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NORTH WEST REGION

1. Over the last week, there has been a marked increase in new cases in the context of stable testing along with a progressive rise in COVID hospital patients, which are now close to 25% of peak levels during wave 1. R is clearly above 1, both for cases and hospital admissions, and has not changed significantly since last week.
2. Whilst there is widespread community transmission in several parts of NI, the Derry City and Strabane local government district has an incidence of 266.1/100k population as of today (note incidence relates to new cases identified which are expressed per 100,000 population). The incidence for Derry City and Strabane LGD is well above all other LGD areas in NI – incidence in Belfast is currently 123.4/100k; Mid Ulster LGD's incidence is 112.6/100k and incidence in Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is 102.2/100k currently.

Recommendations for increasing restrictions in Derry City and Strabane

3. Given the clear evidence of significant and continuing community transmission, and the proximity to Donegal where additional restrictions are already in place, it is recommended the Executive agree to introduce the following additional restrictions in Derry City and Strabane LGD area as soon as practically possible (i.e. in addition to the measures currently in place across NI).

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- a. No indoor gatherings should take place where people from different households are mixed, with exemptions to this for;
 - weddings and funerals, as in the existing regulations
 - services of worship in places of worship
 - Indoor sport for individual training only (e.g. no exercise classes)
 - workplace where working from home is not possible
 - educational settings
- b. Hospitality venues can remain open for take-away, delivery and outdoor dining only, with existing outdoor restrictions as is. Hotels can only provide services to residents.
- c. All museums, galleries and cultural attractions must remain closed. Libraries can operate a call and collect service.
- d. Outdoor gatherings are permitted, up to a maximum of 15 people – there will be no allowance for gatherings above 15 with a risk assessment. There would be an exemption for sports training and sporting events although they would be required to take place without spectators.
- e. People living in Derry and Strabane LGD area should avoid all unnecessary travel. Similarly, people should only travel to the LGD area where it is absolutely necessary.
- f. People working in Derry and Strabane LGD area must work from home unless absolutely necessary.
- g. Schools, Early Learning and Childcare services in the LGD area should remain open. Adult and Higher Education Institutions should remain open, but are asked to review protective measures and take steps to limit congregation as much as possible.
- h. People are asked to walk, cycle or use private transport, shared only with members of their household where possible.

Restrictions in Donegal

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4. From Monday 28 September Donegal was moved to Level 3 of the “Plan for Living with Covid-19” – a five tiered approach to restrictions in place in Ireland.
5. The measures in place there are outlined as follows:
 - a. In your home or garden, you can have a maximum of 6 visitors from 1 other household.
 - b. No social/family gatherings should take place, with exemptions to this for weddings and funerals, where up to 25 people can attend. No travel across the county border is permitted to attend a wedding.
 - c. No organised indoor gatherings should take place, including in places of worship. Indoor sports is limited to individual training only – no exercise classes are permitted indoors. All museums, galleries and cultural attractions, as well as nightclubs, discos and casinos, must remain closed. Libraries can operate a call and collect service.
 - d. Organised outdoor gatherings are permitted, up to a maximum of 15 people. There is an exemption for professional/elite/intercountry sports/senior club championships.
 - e. Hospitality venues can remain open for take-away, delivery and outdoor dining only, up to a maximum of 15 people. Hotels can only provide services to residents.
 - f. Personal services and retail are open with protective measures in place, such as face coverings.
 - g. People living in Donegal should remain in the county (that is, they must not leave Donegal to travel either domestically or internationally), with the exception of those who must travel for work, education and other essential purposes.
 - h. People living outside of Donegal should not travel to Donegal, with the exception of those who must travel for work, education and other essential purposes.

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- i. People working in Donegal are asked to work from home unless absolutely necessary.
- j. Schools, Early Learning and Childcare services should remain open. Adult and Higher Education Institutions should remain open, but are asked to review protective measures and take steps to limit congregation as much as possible.
- k. People are asked to walk or cycle where possible so that public transport is available for use by essential workers and for essential work only. Public transport capacity has been limited by 50%.

RECOMMENDATION

- 6. The Executive is invited to agree that the following additional restrictions are introduced for Derry City and Strabane Local Government District area by regulation:
 - a. No indoor gatherings should take place where people from different households are mixed, with exemptions to this for;
 - weddings and funerals, as in the existing regulations
 - services of worship in places of worship
 - Indoor sport for individual training only (e.g. no exercise classes)
 - workplace where working from home is not possible
 - educational settings
 - b. Hospitality venues can remain open for take-away, delivery and outdoor dining only, with existing outdoor restrictions as is. Hotels can only provide services to residents.
 - c. All museums, galleries and cultural attractions must remain closed. Libraries can operate a call and collect service.
 - d. Outdoor gatherings are permitted, up to a maximum of 15 people – there will be no allowance for gatherings above 15 with a risk assessment. There would be an exemption for sports training and sporting events although they would be required to take place without spectators.

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7. In addition the Executive is asked to agree that the following would be recommended in guidance:
- a. People living in Derry and Strabane LGD area should avoid all unnecessary travel. Similarly, people should only travel to the LGD area where it is absolutely necessary.
 - b. People working in Derry and Strabane LGD area must work from home unless absolutely necessary.
 - c. Schools, Early Learning and Childcare services in the LGD area should remain open. Adult and Higher Education Institutions should remain open, but are asked to review protective measures and take steps to limit congregation as much as possible.
 - d. People are asked to walk, cycle or use private transport, shared only with members of their household where possible.

LPP/LAP

**ROBIN SWANN MLA
MINISTER OF HEALTH**

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