

# COVID 19

Executive strategy and plan

The COVID 19 response will cluster activities to achieve the Executive's strategic priorities for the following:

- Health and well being of our citizens
- Our economic well being
- Societal and community well being

Planning assumptions – assessment as at 28 March 2020

#### **CONTEXTUAL ASSUMPTIONS**

1. The first unmitigated peak would be in May/June 2020. There will be a later peak or peaks [UKG modelling at 19/3]. Although if people adhere to social distancing the peak could be pushed forward to end of April [UKG DCMO]
2. Up to 80% of the UK population will be infected at some stage [UKG modelling at 19/3 and NI Surge plan March 2019]. NI modelling is underway which will inform and refine our understanding and response.
3. NI will make use of the COVID-19 legislation and regulations making powers.
4. Most people will comply with relevant guidance and legislation [based on current trends]
5. There will be significant disruption to international supply chains and there will be an impact for NI.[TEO/DFI liaison with DfT]
6. There will be enough food although choice may be limited or different to what people are used to [based on YH planning]
7. The Executive will act collectively to lead the response in an agile manner and will adapt to changing circumstances as the pandemic moves into different stages.
8. HOCS will ensure NICS readiness and will put in place appropriate governance arrangements to support the Executive's strategy whilst ensuring protection of staff within NICS.

#### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS**

1. 8% of infected people in NI will require hospitalisation, 0.7% will require critical care, and 1% will die [NI DoH 19/3]
2. The virus could cause up to 14,000 deaths in NI in a reasonable worse case scenario [NI Health Minister 19/3]
3. There are shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers and wider public services staff.
4. There are shortages of ventilators for patients
5. **There will be disruption to supply of Oxygen to NI [some or all supply is currently through Dublin Port][Anthony – did we mitigate for [part of] this through arrangements you mentioned on Friday?]**
6. There will be disruption to the supply of clinical consumables [based on disruption to supply chains]
7. There will be up to 21% health and social care staff absence during the peak weeks of an unmitigated pandemic (without social distancing and other reduction measures being implemented).

### **ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

1. There will be significant job losses and uncertainty for businesses across NI [initial reports w/c 23 March suggest over 2,500 redundancies in one week, compared to a total of 3,000 in the last twelve months]. Hospitality, tourism and transport (both freight and passenger will be particularly badly affected). Many businesses will not recover in the short-medium term and some will be lost entirely. There will be a significant growth in benefits applications.
2. Uncertainty and cash flow problems will significantly reduce future investment by business at this stage.
3. The decline in manufacturing will continue. A number of manufacturers were already struggling before the crisis which may accelerate their closure. But some will refocus their business models to deliver products which are needed in the fight against C-19.
4. Some sectors such as supermarkets and food processing are seeing a short-term increase in their businesses and are hiring additional staff to cope.
5. There will be a need for specific economic interventions to support farmers of beef [closure of burger restaurants], pork [fall in exports to china] and others in the food supply chain
6. Economic output across the UK and NI will decline as most sectors will see a decline in their ability to deliver, especially in those sectors where working-from-home is not an easy option (manufacturing), and as many workers have to focus more of their time on childcare. This will be particularly felt in NI where economic output already lags behind the rest of the UK.

#### **SOCIETAL AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING**

1. The VCS will have an important role to play but may be impacted by staff and volunteer availability
2. Body storage, cremations, burials, funerals and the grieving process will be impacted.
3. There is a possibility of public order, anti-social behaviour, lack of societal responsibility, and impacts for domestic violence and vulnerable children.
4. Essential utilities such as water, electricity and fuel will be maintained in the immediate term but could be disrupted in the short and medium term by staff absence and in the longer term, disruption to supply chains may lead to a shortage of parts and chemicals and lead to "rationing"
5. Schools and nurseries will provide childcare to a limited number of children - those with vulnerabilities and those whose parents are considered critical workers. The vast majority of children will not attend school.

**Priority workstreams** need to insert key

Health and well-being of our citizens					
Ref	Description	Action	SRO RAG	Metrics	Owner
1.1	Identify, contact and provide support for the most vulnerable patients so that they can stay safely at home	Timely information, contacting those who need to stay at home, and putting support arrangements in place	5/5		DfC
1.2	Sufficient supplies of essential goods and items including ventilators, PPE, testing kits, and other medical devices and supplies	Analysis of need, rapid procurements, and by prioritising on a centralised basis	5/5		DOH/ DOF/ DFE
1.3	Testing capacity to increase capacity to test and diagnose patients and frontline testing of key workers	Invoke our surge plan and securing additional laboratory capacities	5/5		DOH/ DOF
1.4	Ensure there is sufficient hospital bed capacity	Consolidating hospital services to focus capacity and resources, and by developing a surge plan for additional beds			DOH
1.5	Sustain NHS workforce	Asking for volunteers to return to health service work, and through free public transport and no car parking charges			DOH/ DFI



Health and well-being of our citizens (cont'd)					
Ref	Description	Action	SRO RAG	Metrics	Owner
1.6	Enforce social distancing	Effective communications and by using the powers now available.			EIS/TEO
1.7	Ensure there are sufficient school places for key worker parents to continue to work	Continuing to provide school places, refining that as the situation develops			DE
1.8	Ensure children, vulnerable people and the self-isolating have access to food and medicines	Enhancing the existing statutory and voluntary services with additional volunteers			DfC
1.9	Exceptional arrangements for safety in care and custody	Having a scale of responses available			DoJ

Economic well-being					
Ref	Description	Action	SRO RAG	Metrics	Owner
2.1	Monitor the impact on the economy and take steps to mitigate	Regular monitoring and reporting of economic impacts, and short, medium and long terms responses commensurate with health and well being outcomes.	5/5		DfE
2.2	Provide financial support and make regulatory easements	Rollout the financial support packages speedily	5/5		DfE/DoF
2.3	Maintain supplies of essential items and related supply chains	Protect the health outcomes by ensuring essential goods are available	4/5		TEO/Dfi
2.4	Maintain essential transport arrangements and flows of goods	Work with Administrations and Governments to ensure the goods we need reach us.			Dfi
2.5	Ensure that individuals and families are supported	Prioritising the benefits and advice systems so that people get the help they need			DfC

Societal and community well-being					
Ref	Description	Action	SRO RAG	Metrics	Owner
3.1	Respectful arrangements to respect the dignity of the deceased	Respectful arrangements in place for a temporary resting facility	5/5		DOJ
3.2	An appropriate response to pressures and lack of social responsibility	Communication and enforcement as needed			EIS/DOJ
3.3	Ensure good environmental standards	Monitoring environmental standards			DAERA
3.5	We will protect our staff	Good internal communications and advice, social distancing and other measures			HOCS/EIS

Dashboard and metrics

#### Main developments

eg

- Testing stats
- New/total deaths
- Critical bed care
- Universal credit claims
- Info on economic impacts

Escalations from CCG

Action log

Forward look



Media/Comms/Assembly activity including forward look

Metrics