

Message

From: TEO HOCS (DS) [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=286B5F4D742442098CBED44F7B75FAAC-TEO HOCS (DS) TEO-]
Sent: 29/04/2020 21:24:00
To: Pengelly, Richard [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: DOH News Release - SWANN COMMITTED TO MAXIMUM TRANSPARENCY ON COVID-19 STATISTICS

Noted thanks, a helpful table.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Wednesday, 29 Apr 2020, 20:58
To: TEO HOCS (DS) <HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: DOH News Release - SWANN COMMITTED TO MAXIMUM TRANSPARENCY ON COVID-19 STATISTICS

For info.

R.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@health-ni.gov.uk)>
Date: Wednesday, 29 Apr 2020, 8:51 pm
To: TEO PS Ministers <PS.Ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, Goodfellow, Mark <Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, Griffith, Deirdre <Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, Morrow, Carol <Carol.Morrow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@finance-ni.gov.uk)>, Thompson, Rosheen <Rosheen.Thompson@communities-ni.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@education-ni.gov.uk)>
Cc: DfC Private Office <private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk>, DfE Private Office <Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk>, DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>, Private Office DE <Private.Office@education-ni.gov.uk>, Private Office DAERA <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>, DOJ Private Office <private.office@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>, DoF Private Office <Private.Office@finance-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: DOH News Release - SWANN COMMITTED TO MAXIMUM TRANSPARENCY ON COVID-19 STATISTICS

Evening all

DOH gave an undertaking at CCG to provide Executive Ministers clarification with regard to death definitions re COVID 19.

The press release issued earlier this evening (see below) provides that detail so I would be grateful if you could bring this PR to your Ministers attention. For ease of reference see tabular presentation of the various definitions.

Public Health England have subsequently issued a statement this evening that the position in England is to be aligned to that in place for Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales - see link <https://bit.ly/2xo7rvM>

Many thanks

NR

NR | Private Secretary to Robin Swann, MLA
Minister of Health
Department of Health
C5.10 | Level 5, Castle Buildings | Stormont | Belfast | BT4 3SQ
✉ NR
Telephone 0300 200 7890 I&S
Follow us on twitter @healthdpt

Definition used up until today for reporting of numbers in respect of Covid-19 deaths

	NI	Scot	Wales	Eng	ROI
Daily	All deaths with a laboratory confirmed positive Covid19 test within 28 days of death			Hospital deaths with a laboratory confirmed positive Covid19 test within 28 days of death	Up to 23 April - Laboratory confirmed Covid19 related deaths. From 24 April the figures also include "probable deaths" - where a laboratory test has not been done but where a doctor believes a death is associated with COVID-19
Weekly (by NISRA / ONS / NRS)	Deaths involving COVID-19 – i.e. where COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions.				

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

29 April 2020

Swann committed to maximum transparency on Covid-19 statistics

Health Minister Robin Swann has emphasised his commitment to transparency on statistics on Coronavirus-related deaths in Northern Ireland.

Mr Swann detailed the current approach to reporting fatalities linked to the virus.

"I want to continue seeing the maximum possible transparency on this issue," he stated.

"I want to explore with NISRA if it is possible for it to report more frequently than once a week on deaths associated with Covid-19 across hospitals and the community.

"This is not straightforward and I want to thank all those who are working hard in this area to provide up to date and reliable statistics."

The Minister spelt out the current dual system for reporting fatalities relating to Covid-19.

- the Department of Health publishes a daily total of all deaths recorded by HSC Trusts where there has been a laboratory confirmed positive Covid-19 test within 28 days of death. These will have been mainly but not solely hospital deaths. Analysis of the setting of death for this daily total indicates in the region of 25% have occurred in care homes.

The daily reporting was never intended to be a complete record of all deaths associated with Covid-19. The daily figure provides a real time indicator of progression of the spread of the virus and the seriousness of its impact. Its primary use is for surveillance and tracking; but publication also acknowledges the public interest in these figures.

- A weekly bulletin is published by NISRA (the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency), the public authority responsible for statistics on deaths.

The weekly NISRA bulletin details where Covid-19 or suspected Covid-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions.

It is clear that there will be some overlap between the community deaths included in the published daily figures and the weekly NISRA bulletin.

"I fully accept this is complicated. Statistics help us to track the virus and keep the public informed. But the well-established process for death registration was not designed for use in a pandemic of this nature," the Minister added.

"It also has to be stressed that there is a time lag associated with completion of registration of deaths in the community. It can take a number of days for the necessary documentation to be completed and fully registered. So this makes it very challenging if not impossible to provide daily reports that are fully up to date.

"I am committed to doing all I can to get as much information into the public domain as possible." **ENDS**