

TEO PRIVATE OFFICE MEETING NOTE

Date 20 October 2020

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		TEO		
DATE:	20/10/20	NOTE WRITTEN BY:		Carol Morrow
VENUE:	Zoom		Officials present	Derek Baker Carol Morrow
LIST OF ATTENDEES: FM, DFM, MoH, CMO, CSA, Derek Baker, Carol Morrow (note taker)				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>FM suggested that the Dept set up central correspondence unit to deal with queries. Derek Baker to action.</p> <p>DFM commented that many of the queries have arisen from how the recent Executive decision on restrictions was made and that we should endeavour to ensure this isn't the case going forward. DFM stated that we now have four weeks to consider what is next and plan for this period. We need to take time to use the intervening period to develop an exit strategy that moves us from a circuit breaker approach to a way to live with the virus and have a better test, trace and protect scheme. FM agreed we should use time now to develop strategy on this. This may be raised by FM and DFM at Thursday's Executive meeting. Derek Baker to action.</p> <p>FM and DFM think NIDirect is too hard to navigate. Chris McNabb to address issue.</p> <p>FM enquired about red flag cancers, noting that in lockdown an independent centre was dealing with these cases. CMO confirmed that it is the intention to continue that noting that there is a difficulty with complex surgery that requires intensive care beds. The intention is to minimise impact and the best way to do that is to get community transmission down. DoH - Will update the Executive on Thursday 22 October.</p>		

	<p>MoH confirmed that in the DCSDC area the figure has now reduced from 969.7 per 100,000 to 717 per 100,000. Need to see a similar decrease across other areas. CMO and CSA have covered this news in the press release, it is included in the slide show. CMO advised that mobility information to demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions is being gathered. Monitoring of adherence is very important and the data should show the impact of people's efforts on the transmission in real time.</p> <p>DOH to bring a paper to the Executive on Thursday 29 October.</p> <p>CSA advised that next week a contact matrix survey will begin, recording interactions between people over a two week survey period. This will give an estimate of the R number at the end of the four weeks.</p> <p>DOH to provide a preliminary read out for the Executive meeting on Thursday 29 October.</p> <p>DFM asked what we have learned from the DCSDC local restrictions.</p> <p>MoH stated that numbers have come down which is the big thing. Although we are seeing the reverse in MEA, where figures have doubled in 7 days to 180, with no cluster issue.</p> <p>CMO explained that it's not as steep as it was, cases below 1,000 now.</p> <p>CSA explained that there is definitely a slowing of the increase, with a recent plateau at 1,050. Though there have been fewer tests over the last 3 days, which could be because of people being less symptomatic, but waiting to see how those figures work out. Test positivity is at 13%. WHO say anything above 5% signals that the epidemic is out of control, so want it to fall below 5%.</p> <p>DFM asked that EIS get the message out that the DCSDC restrictions are working.</p> <p>Derek Baker and Chris McNabb to action.</p>
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>Derek Baker confirmed that officials would work on proposals for an Exit Strategy for Thursday 29 October, and draft wording for this week's chairs brief to inform Executive colleagues. He noted that there is an aspiration to give more consideration to the wider implications of restriction proposals before they go up. DFM said consideration was being given to having a second weekly Executive meeting, possibly on a Tuesday morning.</p> <p>Derek Baker to consider.</p> <p>FM asked about sectoral data made available by the Irish Govt.</p> <p>CSA expressed concerns about the reliability of the data, stating that it is exceptionally difficult to say where the virus has been acquired with confidence.</p> <p>DFM raised the variance in the Govt's approaches and asserted that we need to work together and asked if there was any data on compliance.</p> <p>CMO felt that anecdotally, he had noticed on Sunday that the volume of people and traffic was much lower. His sense is that the public is getting the message. He conformed he speaks to Dr Holohan daily and isn't concerned about what are minor differences.</p> <p>DFM asked if there was any way to predict the number of cases we are aiming for at the end of the four weeks.</p> <p>CSA advised it was best to avoid this question.</p> <p>DFM referred to the Tier Framework draft paper and it was agreed that it would not be considered for this week's Executive.</p> <p>Carol Morrow to advise Executive Secretariat.</p>
ACTION POINTS:	As above.