

MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		CMO Pre-Executive Zoom Meeting – 19 August 2020		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormont Castle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	N/A
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS		
OFFICIALS:	dFM, MOH, JMs, SPADs Karen Pearson (TEO) Michael McBride (CMO) Ian Young (CSA)			
OTHERS:	14 people on the zoom call in total			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED: <p>The purpose of the meeting was to brief Ministers on developments in relation to the Covid-19 in advance of the Executive Meeting on Thursday 20 August.</p> <p>MOH provided an updated on the R value, which is now higher here than the rest of the UK or ROI. He highlighted concerns around the Council Areas with high incidents/100,000, Mid & East Antrim being a particular concern. Need to disaggregate the information to get a better understanding of the community transfer rate and is not proposing any local action at this stage.</p> <p>Key proposals this week include changes to the number of persons allowed to visit each other: Outdoors - from 30 people to 15 people. Indoors - from 10 people /4 households to 6 people/2 households.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised about enforcement and would like to be able to target specific problem areas in terms of enforcement and to clamp down on areas of high community transition.</p>				

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

CMO highlighted concerns about transition rates amongst young people (18-35 age range) and house parties are a concern

CSA said that in areas where there are clusters it is easy to identify and track the virus however in Belfast it is proving much more difficult. Need to re-inforce the public messaging on behaviours (face coverings, social distancing, hygiene etc.). He advised that the rolling 7 day & 14 day average has been added to the R Paper. A full lockdown would be recommended if the 7 day average hit 80/100,000. Currently sitting at circa 16/100,000 and that the opening of schools is likely to see a slight increase in the numbers.

CMO advised there is still concerns in relation to 'wet pubs' and that the decision to postpone opening was the correct one.

JM Kearney indicated that he had been lobbied by **Colin Neill** and had encouraged him to write to the Executive Office outlining his case around regulation. CMO and CSA happy to discuss further upon receipt of paper and indicated that a roundtable on enforcement would be helpful.

Karen suggested that the numbers of people at outdoor events should have an upper limit in the regulations, which would enable more responsible events to go ahead. dFM raised queries about The Irish Golf Open. CSA advised that it was probably okay to go ahead with no spectators and in a 'bubble separated from the local community, with everyone coming in being exempt from quarantine.

CMO advised of ongoing issues in Meat Processing Factories, with a cluster of cases in a plant near Ballymena. DAERA Minister is to meet key personnel to discuss next steps. Executive to be updated tomorrow.

JM Kearney asked if international travel was having a material impact on the R rate. CSA indicated that it is not showing up as a major impact on infection rates through the contact tracing procedures.

ISSUES AGREED:

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

DoH & Karen Pearson to draft a number of papers for the Executive on 20 August.

NOTE WRITTEN BY:

Donal Moran PPS

DATE:

19 August 2020