

MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		CMO Pre-Executive Zoom Meeting – 21 Sept 2020		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormont Castle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	Zoom
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	dFM, FM, Minister Swann JM Kearney Dara O'Hagan, SPAD Stephen McGlade, SPAD John Loughran, SPAD	
OFFICIALS:	Michael McBride, CMO Ian Young, CSA Donal Moran, PPS <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">NR</div> FM's Office Karen Pearson			
OTHERS:				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED: <p>MoH outlined concerns highlighted in his paper. FM & dFM content for a NI wide approach.</p> <p>dFM asked if restrictions in Belfast/locally had any impact on R rate and highlighted the need for evidence/data to share with the public.</p>				

MoH – very detailed data out in the public on the DoH Dashboard by postcode and age group. Criticism is journalist can't be bothered looking up the information. CSA clear evidence of BT43 Ballymena starting to show a decrease. Less confident about impact of restrictions in Belfast, SAGE view is that household restrictions will be sufficient to reduce R to less than 1.0 given opening up of other sectors of society. Some form of wider restrictions will be required over the next few months. Concerned about opening of 'wet pubs' on Wednesday and the conflicting message doing it alongside household restrictions. CMO/CSA agree opening wet pubs will increase R rate, even with mitigations.

CMO there is an opportunity to review Executive decision last week, and could give consideration to more local measure, e.g. limiting of open hours. Also looking at household mixings in pubs to bring it into line household restrictions to help offset risk and messaging.

FM could we have a menu/sliding scale of restrictions that the Executive could choose from.

CMO – yes a menu could be provided and an assessment of the impact of the measure for Wednesday. CMO also accepts the position we are in regarding wet pubs and can implement further mitigations.

FM queried when the regulations will be in place? Karen indicated that regulations should be in place for Wednesday NI wide household could be made tomorrow and enforced from Wednesday.

dFM highlighted messaging challenge again. What is the key message for today?

CMO indicated that the language today should 'last chance' in terms of what we are facing into. If we do not act now we will be very quickly into a situation where we see a significant influx to ICU by mid-October. Public are tiring of the messaging

CSA will speak at the Presser and will add a slide re position in France and Spain where they are seeing a rise in deaths. Graduated balanced response.

FM mentioned stand-up of CCG. MoH and staff to think about plans. CMO not at a stage where CCG and Hub is stood-up. IT is going to be a challenging 6 months but there is progress in terms of treatments and a possible vaccine down the line.

dFM queried co-operation with the IG, Strabane/Lifford and a lot of the border areas. MoH due to have a call with Minister Donnelly to discuss this issue today.

CMOs have a weekly discussion to co-ordinate measures and action.

dFM indicated that we need progress on enforcement. Enforcement Group met twice but focus has been Holylands. Justice should be heading this Pubs, Hospitality, Sporting Events. Meeting again on Friday and focus will move from Holylands to more general enforcement.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

ISSUES AGREED:	
ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:	
NOTE WRITTEN BY: Donal Moran PPS	DATE: 21 September 2020