

## MEETING NOTE

<b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b>		CMO Pre-Executive Zoom Meeting – 5 August 2020		
<b>VENUE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stormont Castle</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER:</b>	N/A
<b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minister</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Spad</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PS</b>		
<b>OFFICIALS:</b>	FM, dFM, MOH, JMs, SPADs Karen Pearson (TEO) Michael McBride (CMO) Ian Young (CSA)			
<b>OTHERS:</b>				
<b>KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:</b> <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 6 September and the focus of the discussion was 'wet pubs', schools and facemasks.</p> <p><b><u>Face Coverings</u></b></p> <p>Proposal is to review the position on 13 August. PR campaign already underway.</p> <p>JM Lyons queried evidence that can be used to educate the public of the benefits of face coverings, i.e. can we demonstrate it will lead to a reduction in the number of infections, and flagged concerns re enforcement and exemptions.</p> <p>CSA directed Ministers to the two Appendices to previous papers that summarise the benefits of face coverings but it was his view that evidence would be sufficient to achieve the compliance rate of 70% - 80%. If made mandatory it could have a positive impact on footfall as people will have confidence to return to the shops.</p>				

## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

FM reinforced concerns on enforcement and dFM raised concerns around the PR campaign. Both agreed to say something publically tomorrow about media campaign and to those no longer shielding.

CSA advised there was no specific data on the numbers of people who will be exempt from wearing face coverings.

CMO indicated that the R rate is still increasing, now 1.3 expected to be close to 2 at the weekend and we are seeing a small increase in hospital admissions. Gap between NI and GB narrowing. Therefore the risk of transmission rates are increasing if wet pubs were opened is now a high risk, and the priority for the Executive should be to ensure that schools can open safely. Ministers agreed.

dFM indicated that she had met educationalist in recent days/weeks who are supportive of direction of travel but concerned they had not received the necessary guidance. Concerns that it will not be possible to maintain social distancing in schools and on school transport.

CMO highlighted concerns around the return of Universities and Multi-Occupancy Dwellings.

FM asked about the absolute numbers of cases currently. CSA indicated that there were now on average 14 new case /day, end of June that was 4 cases/day. Percentage of positive test was 1 in 300, now its 1 in 120 – all of which is indicative of increased community transmission. Most of the increase is related to clusters.

CMO expects to see a spike in the autumn but we should try to avoid a second peak over Christmas by contact tracing, app download and testing regime.

dFM highlighted concerns parents have and asked what guidance is available. CSA indicated they are working with the EA on this.

FM indicated there were proposals regarding hosting the Irish Gold Open and will ask Minister Dodds to make contact. CMO/CSA generally comfortable and happy to discuss. Karen indicated that Elite Sports are exempt in the Travel Regulations.

### ISSUES AGREED:

### ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

DoH & Karen Pearson to draft a number of papers for the Executive on 6 August  
September.

### NOTE WRITTEN BY:

Donal Moran PPS

### DATE:

5 August 2020