

COVID-19 Strategic Intelligence Group

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The COVID-19 strategic intelligence group (SIG) will consider the scientific and technical concepts and processes that are key to understanding the evolving COVID-19 situation and potential impacts in Northern Ireland, and mitigating these. The group will apply the advice coming to the four nations from the Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (SAGE) and other appropriate sources of evidence and information, including from ROI, and inform the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Minister of Health (MoH) to aid with decision making in Northern Ireland during the pandemic.

The group will support CMO and the Department of Health to:

- interpret SAGE, SPI-M and SPI-B outputs and other emerging scientific and epidemiological evidence in the context of Northern Ireland;
- provide information to support decision making regarding stepdown of social distancing measures and/or other interventions as the evidence evolves;
- provide a two way flow of relevant information and questions between the Department of Health and SAGE/SPI-M/SPI-B/others; and
- advise the Modelling cell, and Data Analysis and Insights workstream on strategic approach to identifying, accessing and using data to support our understanding and response to COVID-19 in Northern Ireland.

Operational Structure

The group will report into the Chief Medical Officer Group.

Meetings

The SIG will meet twice weekly initially via teleconference. This frequency will be kept under review and change as the epidemic dictates.

Secretariat

SIG is supported by secretariat from the Chief Medical Officer Group.