Protocol for the identification and review of public policy responses to COVID-19

21 April 2020

Revision record		
Revision date	**Revision author**	**Description of change**

1. Purpose and aim

The purpose of this protocol is to outline the process by which the health technology assessment team will conduct a review of public policy measures aimed at limiting or preventing the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The output from this exercise will be provided two times a week to the relevant individuals. The aim is to inform public policy decision makers in Ireland of the international governmental response to COVID-19.

2. Process outline

It is important that a standardised approach to the process is developed and documented, to allow for transparency and to mitigate risks, which may arise due to changes in staff delivering and/or receiving the information.

Three distinct steps in the process have been identified that will be completed daily. These are listed below and described in more detail in sections 2.1-2.3.

1. search relevant governmental resources
2. review identified relevant information related to the public policy responses to COVID-19 and their relevance to the Irish situation
3. summarise the information and circulate to the HPSC/NPHET.

2.1 Search of relevant international resources

We will examine policy responses to COVID-19 in the top 50 most affected countries by the virus, as defined by the number of confirmed cases. Only government resources will be searched. These include government websites, policy briefs, and press releases. The government websites of the top 50 most affected countries (as of 25th March) that will be searched in the first instance is provided in Appendix 1. Where information on policy responses cannot be extracted, due to language barriers, or a lack of information, or lack of public policy response to the virus, this will be documented. We will adapt the scope of our search should the top 50 most affected countries change due to the growing prevalence of COVID-19.

2.2 Review identified relevant public health guidance for COVID-19

All identified public policy measures aimed at limiting or preventing the spread of COVID-19 will be reviewed. Information specific to the research question on public policy measures, in particular, restrictive public policy measures, will be extracted. This includes information on travel restrictions, mass gatherings, school and business closures, among other topics. Information on when and how restrictions are relaxed, will also be extracted. The exact government source of information will be recorded and detailed in the summary report.

As additional research questions may arise during the course of the review, the information that will need to be extracted may change. However, the protocol for searching government websites and extracting information from government resources will remain the same, as detailed in this protocol.

2.3 Summarise the information

A summary of the public policy responses to COVID-19 will be documented and sent to the relevant parties. The summary report will be provided in portable document format (PDF).

This summary, will be provided by close of business two times a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

3. Review and Update

Given the rapidly changing environment, this protocol will be regarded as a live document and amended when required to ensure it reflects any changes made to the outlined processes.

Appendix 1- List of sources

List of government websites

- China
  https://www.gov.cn/english/
- Italy
  http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-38/14376
- US
  https://www.usa.gov/
- Spain
  https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/Paginas/index.aspx
- Germany
  https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en
- Iran
  http://www.president.ir/en
- France
  https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/news
- Switzerland
  https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start.html
- South Korea
  http://www.korea.net/
- UK
  https://www.gov.uk/
- Netherlands
  https://www.government.nl/
- Austria
  https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/en.html
- Belgium
  https://www.belgium.be/en
- Norway
  https://www.regjeringen.no/en/id4/
- Canada
  https://www.canada.ca/en.html
- Australia
  https://www.australia.gov.au/
- Portugal
  https://www.portugal.gov.pt/en/gc21
- Sweden
  https://www.government.se/
- Brazil

http://www.brazil.gov.br/
- Israel
  https://www.gov.il/en
- Turkey
  https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/tbmm_internet.anasayfa
- Denmark
  https://denmark.dk/
- Malaysia
  https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/index
- Czechia
  https://www.vlada.cz/en/
- Ireland
  https://www.gov.ie/en/
- Japan
  https://www.japan.go.jp/
- Luxembourg
  https://gouvernement.lu/en.html
- Ecuador
  https://www.presidencia.gob.ec/
- Pakistan
  http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/
- Thailand
  http://www.mfa.go.th/main/en
- Poland
  https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy
- Chile
  https://www.gob.cl/en/
- Finland
  https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/frontpage
- Romania
  https://www.gov.ro/en
- Indonesia
  http://www.indonesia.cz/the-government-of-the-republic-of-indonesia/
- Arabia
  https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Pages/default.aspx
- Greece
  https://www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/about-greece/government-and-politics/
- South Africa
  https://www.gov.za/welcome-official-south-african-government-online-site
- Russia

http://government.ru/en/
- Iceland
  https://www.government.is/
- Philippines
  https://www.gov.ph/
- India
  https://www.india.gov.in/
- Singapore
  https://www.gov.sg/
- Qatar
  https://portal.www.gov.qa/wps/portal
- Slovenia
  https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/government/
- Panama
  https://www.presidencia.gob.pa/en
- Croatia
  https://vlada.gov.hr/en
- Peru
  https://www.gob.pe/
- Mexico
  https://www.gob.mx/sre/en
- Argentina
  https://www.argentina.gob.ar/

List of other websites

- World Health Organization (WHO)
  https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC
  https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/search?s=&sort_by=field_ct_publication_date&sort_order=DESC&f%5B0%5D=diseases%3A2942
- International Monetary fund
  https://www.imf.org/en/News