

National Public Health Emergency Team Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Terms of Reference

The NPHEM is the mechanism for overseeing the health sector response to significant health-based emergencies. It facilitates the sharing of information between the Department of Health and its agencies and provides a forum for agreement as to strategic approaches to such emergencies.

1. Oversee and provide direction, guidance, support and expert advice across the health service and the wider public service, for the overall national response to Coronavirus, including national and regional and other outbreak control arrangements.
2. Consider the most up to date national and international risk assessments and consider any implications for the national response.
3. Direct the collection and analysis of required data and information, as needed.
4. Review on an on-going basis the situational analyses and evaluation having regard to reports received, expert advice, international guidance and assurance regarding optimal use of resources.
5. Liaise with relevant organisations and stakeholders, to include other Government departments, statutory and voluntary agencies, international bodies and the relevant regulators.
6. Direct and ensure an effective communications system at local, regional and national levels.
7. Evaluate on an on-going basis the readiness of the health service to manage and sustain the containment of Coronavirus with a view to standing down the NPHEM at the appropriate time, as determined by the Chair in consultation with the group.

The NPHEM will meet initially on a weekly basis and this frequency can be reviewed as required.

Expert advisors and/or other stakeholders may be invited attend meetings from time to time.

11th February 2020