

Expert Group on the Role of Ventilation in Reducing Transmission of COVID-19

Meeting 1

2pm Tuesday 2nd February 2021

(By Videoconference)

Present

Prof. John Wenger (Chair)	UCC
Mr Sean Armstrong	DHLGH
Dr Emmanuel Bourdin	DHLGH
Dr Marie Coggins	NUIG
Prof. Mark Ferguson	SFI
Dr Laura Heavey	HSE
Asst. Prof. Orla Hegarty	UCD
Mr Simon Jones	IEA and Aereco Ltd.
Dr Ina Kelly	HSE
Mr Paul Kenny	DECC
Ms Edel Murray	DHLGH
Prof. Mike Prentice	UCC
Mr Brendan Redington	HSE
Dr Kim Roberts	TCD
Dr Thomas Roux	HPSC

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves. Prof Mark Ferguson outlined the role of the Group and thanked everyone for being involved.

2. Remit / Terms of Reference

The Group discussed the draft terms of reference. The Chair will edit to incorporate the comments raised which included; provide advice on ventilation in homes, cars and other modes of transport, remove line on identifying organizational structures (point 5), reviewing public health information on how the virus is spread and advise on changes to ensure compatibility with guidance on ventilation.

3. Priority Actions

A document was presented outlining possible priority areas for consideration by the Group. Following discussions it was decided to prioritise the following areas for attention: nursing homes, schools, homes and cars, hospitals/healthcare environments, residential accommodation (private and institutional), risk assessment tools. The following sub-groups were organised during the meeting: Nursing Homes, Schools, risk assessment tools (university-led). The Chair will follow up with individuals to identify members for the sub-groups.

The Group recognised that input or feedback from people working in government departments and bodies would be beneficial. As work progresses, the Group will look to involve others when required. It is noted that the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) are a key stakeholder as they have statutory responsibility for health and safety in the workplace. In relation to healthcare environments, it would be important to liaise with AMRIC and HIQA.

4. First letter/report to NPHE

Discussion: first letter/report should deliver a clear statement on the importance of airborne spread of the virus and the role of ventilation in reducing this transmission pathway. It should include the list of members (highlighting the multidisciplinary) and outline the terms of reference.

5. Discussion of the latest HPSC document on non-healthcare building ventilation during COVID-19

Deferred.

6. Any Other Business

None.

5 February 2021