

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 23 – 1st September 2020 @ 1230pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance:

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List:

Attendees/Apologies and **Dr Derval Igoe**, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, HPSC

- The Chair welcomed Professor Simon More (SM), UCD School of Veterinary Medicine who accepted the invitation to sit on the committee. Prof More will provide expertise to and feedback on activities by the M&PH Cttee and from other committees he is involved with including that in Veterinary Medicine which he chairs.
- The M&PH Cttee typically meets fortnightly, but at the request of JL the cttee is meeting this week, also, to review draft guidance documents being developed.

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1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - No Matters Arising
2. Review of 'Reopening' documents
 - Several draft documents were circulated to committee members prior to the meeting and each was reviewed individually.

A) The 'Return to Campus Guide' is being prepared by UCD Estate Services, with input from PC and JL. This guide for staff provides information and guidance on preparing to return to campus, the safe operation of facilities and provision of services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to

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the M&PH Cttee, the university’s COVID-19 Consultative Group is also reviewing the ‘Return to Campus Guide’. The ‘Guide’ was considered very helpful, offering detailed and practical examples.

General Principles and Advice	General Guidance on Working in UCD	General Circulation within Buildings	Campus Services and Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing the Spread of COVID – 19 - COVID 19 - Types of Contact Between Persons - Physical Distancing – Interacting with people - How has the distance between people been measured and why? Occupancy - Personal Protective Equipment - Ventilation Hand sanitisation and hygiene - Contact Tracing International Travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Return To Work – Health Declaration and COVID-19 Induction Training - Work Pods - Office Lay Out - Front Of House / Public Facing Offices - Drop In / Appointments - School/ Unit Managed Breakout / Social Space /Common Areas - Shared Seating Areas - Face To Face Meetings - Toilet Facilities - Cafés - Kitchens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building Access and Egress - Circulation within Buildings - Teaching & Learning Facilities in UCD - Teaching Lab/Workshop Usage - Research Lab/Workshop Usage - Face to Face Group Work - Fieldwork - Examinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commuting - University Vehicles & Transport Pool - COVID Emergency Response - Space Heating Services - Water Services - Water Fountains / Coolers - Showers - Lockers - Photocopying and print stations - Contacting Estate Services
Appendix 1- Links to Guideline Documents and other Resources			

- It was agreed that wording and guidance on the wearing of face coverings will need to be included in this document and it was reported that wording on this issue is being finalised by UMT. The M&PH Cttee agreed that clarity is required on this point.
- A query about closing toilet seats before flushing was raised, with general agreement that this should be the case. **Action:** PC will bring this point to Estate Services re. signage.
- SM queried the responsibilities of the Duty Manager at Lyons Farm. He also asked what procedure should be followed should a student become ill with COVID-19 either in transit to or while present at Lyons Farm? The student would be isolated at the Lyons Farm, but how could s/he return to campus? **Action:** **a)** PC will contact Eddie Jordan at Lyons Farm and **b)** JL will discuss matter with PJ Barron and the Registrar.
- It was agreed that queuing outdoors should be avoided and discouraged.
- Overall, the M&PH Committee were happy to approve the ‘Guide’ in its current version with the observations on toilet lid closing and Lyons Farm being addressed. If changes are made to the ‘Guide’ the relevant section will be shared with the M&PH Cttee for their review.

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B) Information for vulnerable students is being developed for students and staff in the 'Arrangements for Students Unable to Attend Campus 2020/21'.

- Regarding the bullet point '*Students who live with a person or have caring responsibilities for a person at higher risk from coronavirus.*' (page 1, 3rd bullet point), it was noted that the university is taking measures to protect employees and those they live with, but this is a shared responsibility for everyone to maintain vigilance. **Action:** ST & PC to provide suggested text for bullet 3 to JL.
- The wording (page 1, 4th bullet point) '*Students who feel they are unable to attend the campus due to fears of contracting coronavirus.*' was not considered robust enough. It was agreed that by deleting the word 'feel' the sentiment of the message would be more precise.
- This is still a draft version but it was agreed the overall principle is that students who do not attend campus will need to provide adequate evidence as to why. In certain cases, deferral or LoA may be granted.

C) Email query on contingency management of cases from SM to Chair on risk and implications of occurrence of infection within VM hospital/labs and D) An email from PW at UCD CTC was discussed in response to a query received, and circulated, by PC: 'How would the HSE /CTC manage a 'complex' case if a student in a class tested positive for Covid 19?'

- These items were discussed in tandem:
- Students/employees should work in pods. Cohorting of staff also a consideration. Assign students/VM hospital staff to cohorts or pods and shifts so that should infection occur separate teams will not be infected and crucial services can continue to be carried out. Have one team member on 'stand-by' in the event infection occurs. SM notes not practicable at VH currently.
- Sequential testing of individuals in the VM Hospital has been discussed at School level. PW noted that while this is happening with the nursing home sector and in some specific industries (e.g. food processing plants) it is not a sustainable response, nor one that can be enforced if an individual chooses not to have the test.
- Approach needs to be consistent and fast in terms of risk assessment and mitigation measures. Contact tracing is addressed in the 'Return to Campus Guide': UCD community will be encouraged to download and use the government's contact tracing app. Students will be encouraged to keep a 'location diary' recording where

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they sat in a classroom, lecture hall, etc. Seating in tiered lecture theatres will be numbered and spaced at 1m, Module Coordinator will have registration list and there will be sign-ins for labs. Roll-call may be made mandatory at start of lecture if DHE/HEA requires it. In the event of a case occurring in a class, the individual will be ringfenced so their close contacts can be identified.

- Contacts outside the classroom will also need to be looked at, especially in social settings. Issue of close vs casual contact: Close contact is still measured as 15mins @ 2m, without any reference to the wearing of masks/face coverings. It was noted that students continue to complete a daily declaration and anyone with symptoms gets tested.

Action: JL and PC will liaise to ensure final booklet has a one sentence summary of these discussions in addition to current content. Whilst each case will merit an individual risk assessment, principles of UCD policy will be followed.

3. Campus Re-opening

- International Student Arrangements
 - Greater numbers of international students arriving on campus this week.
 - Students are mixing and circulating, going to shops, etc.
- Student Health Declaration
 - No update on SHD which was approved by M&PH Cttee and is available to students who are registering.
- Provision for indoor classrooms
 - Covered in the 'Return to Campus Guide'.
- Influenza Vaccine Strategy
 - It has been learned that the HPSC has not increased its order for 'flu vaccine. It was noted that there will be a high demand for this vaccine globally.
 - CK will check if Vet students can be included under the umbrella of healthcare students who are recommended to get the 'flu vaccine. **Action:** CK.

4. AOB

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- Discussions are ongoing between UCD and the HSE regarding the CTC, the university's continued involvement in it and securing a new location for it on the UCD campus.
- The university's focus and priority is the reopening of campus, return of students and staff and resumption of classes.
- Consideration will be given as to how UCD CTC can assist in initial risk assessment to assist HSE in case follow-up and maximise campus preparedness.

Date of next meeting: **8th September 2020 @12:30**. Zoom link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 24 – 8th September 2020 @ 1230pm
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In Attendance:

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List:

Attendees/Apologies

The Chair welcomed Dr. Lillian Rajan. Dr. Rajan is the Deputy Director at NVRL and will take over from Dr. Derval Igoe as the NVRL representative on the M&PH Cttee. The Chair gave a brief overview of the Committee's advisory function and other committee members introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
- Matters Arising
 - PC advised that Estate Services will install signage in toilet facilities to close toilet lid before flushing. Cleaning staff will be updated on same.
 - Eddie Jordan, Lyons Farm Duty Manager, has been invited to sit as the School of Ag representative on CHAS COVID committee. Prof Alex Evans, Dean and HoS, has outlined clear understanding actions required and the procedures and policies to be followed in the event of a COVID+ case occurring on the Farm.
Action: CK will ensure this is confirmed.

2. Review of 'Reopening' documents

- JL circulated an updated version of the 'Arrangements for Students Unable to Attend Campus 2020/21' incorporating suggested text from ST and PC (per last week's meeting). SM made further suggested to the edited text. The Cttee indicated it was happy to adopt the revised document incorporating the edits from ST, PC and SM.

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3. HSE request for UCD onsite testing

- ST circulated a document outlining a query UCD has received from Dawn Tyner at the HSE (Community Healthcare Network Manager South Wicklow) about the possibility of UCD doing swab testing onsite and managing potential clusters and outbreaks of infection. The document outlines what, if any testing, is being carried out at other third level institutions including TCD, RCSI, NUIG and UCC, and HSE support thereof.
- The HSE has indicated it would support this testing by providing training, kits and PPE [REDACTED].
- It was noted that Student Health Services at UCD has limited resources to carry out this testing and the university would have to hire/pay nurses to do this swab testing.
- It was noted that the HSE has been approaching other groups, including hospitals such as St. Vincent's. CK will discuss with Prof Paddy Mallon and see if there would be an opportunity for UCD to dovetail with Vincent's if testing was going ahead there. **Action:** CK will follow up with Paddy Mallon.
- **Action:** ST to contact Dawn Tyner to let her know UCD is reviewing the option and will request further details from the HSE.
- There was concern that should such a facility operate on UCD campus it would become a testing site for the south county Dublin region, to be clarified.

4. Campus Re-opening

- International Student Arrangements
 - Smaller uptake than expected of students availing of the 14-day self-isolation period in UCD Residences. Currently only 44 international students in self isolation.
- Student Health Declaration
 - Students registering tick a box to indicate they have read/understood the university's T&Cs which contains the Student Health Declaration. The SHD is also included in the Short Guide for Students Coming to Campus.
- Influenza Vaccine Strategy
 - A strong effort will be made to encourage relevant cohorts of the student body to get the 'flu vaccine.
 - Veterinary students will be considered as healthcare workers for this purpose.
- Provision of N95 masks to staff in high risk groups for teaching

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- PC has received queries as to whether the university will provide N95 masks to staff in high risk groups who will be carrying out teaching duties.
- It was agreed that university policy considers blue masks acceptable unless the activity being undertaken is aerosol generating.
- PW noted that there could be a supply issue for sourcing N95 masks and that a distinction was made between clinical settings where N95 masks are required vs general settings where they are not.
- In the event a staff member is recommended, by their physician, to use a N95 mask they should source it themselves.
- Covered/foot operated bins
 - Based on HSA workplace checklists and a query from C19CC member PC raised the issue of bins needing to be covered / foot operated?
 - It was generally agreed that bins present a low infection risk and existing bins are adequate.
 - Cleaners emptying bins are masked.
 - Good hand hygiene by bin users should be sufficient.

5. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- Progress is being made on the MoA between the HSE and UCD regarding the continued operation of the UCD-based CTC and the HSE recognises the essential role this CTC has played since it was set up in March.
- The current location (O'Brien Centre for Science) needs to be vacated by Sunday, 13th September.
- A new location has been identified on the Blackrock campus in the East/West accommodation block (not being used for students in the Autumn trimester).
- CPL will recruit staff for the CTC. It is anticipated that a number of the existing volunteer staff will be recruited (and pay backdated to 9th August) and others (retired and current university staff) will continue in a voluntary capacity.
- This CTC would play a significant role if testing were being carried out on site for UCD students.

6. Managing a COVID+ case in a student

- PC circulated a draft paper on the university's 'Student COVID Response Plan' for discussion.

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- CK reported that the Registrar is eager to have a guide outlining the processes to be followed in the case of a covid+ case on campus. JL, PC, PW & CK will liaise online to discuss same.
- PC noted that the university already has a lot of experience in managing suspected cases from the early stages of the pandemic.
- Content of draft 'Response':
 - Establish a central coordination function to support SIRC and Estates within the university so that the index cases with suspected covid 19 are followed up.
Action: Discussed at UMT today. David Kelly, Bursar, and Tristan Aiken, HR, will liaise with PC and PJ Barron regarding resourcing/staffing requirements.
 - CCO communicates with HSE and relevant parties within the university, e.g. Module Coordinator. HSE initiates contact tracing process. UCD can assist by providing class lists, student contact diary, names and details of student's household/social/class contacts, etc.
 - UCD CTC could provide 12/7 expert contact tracing support.
 - Index case will have been advised to self -isolate.
- COVID+ response will apply to all UCD students (e.g. in Residences, on field trip, in labs, at Lyons Farm, on clinical placement, etc.)
- **Action:** PC, PW, JL and CK will discuss further offline and circulate updated version.

7. AOB

- None

The next meeting will take place **22nd September 2020 @12:30**, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting in the interim. **Zoom link:** <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 25 – 22nd September 2020 @ 1230pm
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Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List:

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
2. HSE request for UCD onsite testing
 - ST circulated a briefing document which covered:
 - i. the aim and background of the initiative
 - ii. progress made to date
 - iii. summaries of discussions held with Prof Paddy Mallon (SVUH)
 - iv. summary of TCD swabbing centre and discussions with TCD Medical Director
 - v. summary of discussions and key points from UCD SHS and what role it would play
 - vi. communication strategy about testing and tracing to UCD student body to help reduce risk
 - vii. future steps
 - Ask HSE if possible to include box on referral form for 3rd level institutions, i.e. as has been done for nursing homes – this would assist with the identification of UCD cases which could then be managed by UCD-based CTC (team has UCD experience and understanding of campus and systems).
 - **Action:** CK, ST, JL to follow up further with Dawn Tyner to get specifics on package HSE will provide.

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- **Action:** LR to ask Cillian de Gascun if a swabbing centre is established on UCD could specimens be delivered directly to NVRL for processing? LR noted that currently lab allocation of specimens is managed centrally by HSE. LR advised test results are communicated to GP via Healthlink.
- **Action:** Follow up meeting CK, ST, JL and Dr Eadaoin Lysaght to discuss/identify what demands would be made on SHS resources.

3. Responding to student COVID+ case

- PC circulated a revised covid+ case algorithm for review and discussion.
 - The algorithm outlines the steps and information flow once a student notifies the Duty Manager that they have tested +.
 - The key points of contact for the index student/staff case within UCD is the Duty Manager who liaises with the Contract Tracing Coordinator.
 - The Contact Tracing Coordinator will
 - i. liaise with relevant Module Coordinators for class lists and any additional info on local/school arrangements,
 - ii. extract relevant class lists/information from Infohub,
 - iii. advise Module Coordinators and students of possible infection risk in one of their modules,
 - iv. provide HSE CTC with contacts to commence HSE contact tracing process.
 - Prepare wording for emails that will be sent to (i) Module Coordinator and (ii) Module Coordinator and students indicating +case in one of their modules.
 - Reiterate to staff the importance of completing the sign-in/out form daily, and keeping records of locations, meetings, activities, etc.
 - Reiterate to students the importance of covid tracker app, keeping a record of daily contacts, activities, seat numbers, etc.
 - Estate Services preparing 'podium pack' for pre-class announcements by lecturers, including reminders about covid app, recording seat numbers, etc.
 - Response process applies to all UCD students and staff at its various campuses and offsite locations, e.g. Lyons Farm Estate.
 - Step 3b may not apply. Ideally UCD cases will be managed by UCD CTC but not a guarantee. PW indicated it would be possible to have dedicated CTC member managing UCD cases.
 - **Action:** JL to liaise with PW on what information to include on Duty Manager form (PW will share forms used by CTC for calls 1, 2 & 3).

4. Campus Re-opening

- International Student Arrangements

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- Approx 2,400 students in Residences. University at Level 4 'lockdown' but supports available on campus to students.
- Student Health Declaration
 - Nothing to report.
- Influenza Vaccine Strategy
 - Delay with arrival of 'flu vaccine, with no definite arrival date but hoped to be mid-October.
 - Veterinary students will be considered as healthcare workers for flu vaccination. (SHS saw higher numbers of COVID+ cases in vet students)
- Physical distancing in lecture theatres/classrooms
 - All 3rd level institutions working on the nose-to-nose spacing methodology
 - UCD operating under national policy in relation to the wearing of a mask/face covering – should be worn when <2m distancing
 - Office based staff not required to wear a mask if office physical distancing set up and well ventilated
 - Lecturers will be standing 2m from students in face-to-face teaching environment
 - Rule of thumb should be that masks are worn while inside a building (especially while at Level 3/4) and can be removed when outdoors
 - Observe good mask etiquette (do not touch frequently) and hand hygiene

5. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- The CTC has relocated to new site on Blackrock campus and is busy.

6. AOB

- PC received query from the Library if students should wear a mask while in the library. New covid regulations stipulate that library users are required to wear a mask/face covering.
- The spraying of lab coats with alcohol at the end of a lab session was deemed unnecessary as there is no clear infection control rationale.

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- Reiterate good hand hygiene practice.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 26 – 6th October 2020 @ 1230pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance:

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

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Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List:

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - HSE request for UCD onsite testing
 - As lab allocation of specimens is managed centrally by HSE, and test results are communicated through Healthlink, NVRL cannot track, or have any oversight of, specimens that go to other labs (ENFER or Cherrywood).
2. HSE request for UCD onsite testing – Update
 - Meeting between CK, ST, JL and Dr Eadaoin Lysaght to be scheduled.
 - Meeting took place 5th October CK, JL, ST with Emma Hanway HSE.
 - Ms. Hanway outlined 3 model types for the swabbing centre:
 - i. Community testing hub based at UCD
 - ii. Testing hub for UCD staff and students only
 - iii. Swabbing facility if a major need occurred, such as a campus-based outbreak – e.g. in Res
 - UCD awaiting response from HSE regarding clinical indemnity and governance and what administrative supports will be provided.
 - Swabbing function not highly skilled and those employed for role can be trained up easily - HSE estimates 3-week period from inception to completion.

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- PW indicated that current graduate students and other trained CTC team could become swabbers.
- HSE will provide training, equipment, and admin support.
- ST reported that the swabbing facility at NUIG is operated fully by the HSE and conducts 1-6 tests/day but has greater capacity.
- Medical indemnity advice is to get written confirmation of responsibilities.
- CK noted that the UMT is eager to work with HSE to have swabbing facility established on campus.
- **Action:** JL to follow up with Emma Hanway regarding clinical indemnity and governance which will guide role of UCD in recruitment process.

3. Responding to student COVID+ case

- PC circulated an updated version of the university's response to a covid+ case, including a narrative around the steps within the algorithm.
 - The algorithm has been tested on a number of cases that occurred on campus within the last week.
 - The process is underway to fill the role of Contract Tracing Coordinator.
 - Suggested amendments:
 - i. CK: Include reference to HSE CTC protocol calls 1, 2, 3 : call 1 (diagnosis), call 2 (collect information on close contacts), call 3 (calls by CTC to close contacts).
 - ii. JL: Under 'Responsibilities of Heads of Schools/Units and Module Coordinator' include point that they should be contactable in 'out-of-hours' scenario / available in emergency situation.
Information that may not be available in Infohub should be available through central contact in each School, including Module Coordinator name and contact information.
 - Feedback from UMT included concerns about what would happen if 1) DM phone line became overwhelmed. PC indicated that additional lines could be put in, 2) access to necessary Mod. Coord/HoS information not available in Infohub.
 - PW noted that as a HSE public health centre, any communications, commentary, notes, etc from the UCD CTC are recorded in the main HSE cloud-based database.

4. Campus Re-opening

- Campus Activities
 - Formal curriculum delivery is in line with restrictions: online delivery of lectures for groups >50, face2face for small groups/practicals/clinical placements
 - Approx. 2000 students in Residences

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- Clinical students back on placements
- Practicals and small group labs taking place
- Study Spaces
 - 'Bookable' dedicated study spaces available in several buildings
 - Open study spaces available for student use – PH health/cleaning protocols to be observed
- Influenza Vaccine Strategy
 - HSE has advised it will not be providing vaccine to colleges and students should get vaccine through their GP. UCD SHS has secured 30 doses for its staff members
 - Health care students will need to get vaccine in clinical placement
- Physical distancing / Use of face coverings
 - UCD operating under national public health policy in relation to 2m distancing. 1m distancing is allowed in specified situations/didactic teaching environments only
 - Rule of thumb - masks are worn while inside a building (especially while at Level 3/4) and can be removed when outdoors
 - Observe good mask etiquette (do not touch frequently) and hand hygiene
- Messaging to Students
 - Coherence and balance in communications to students required
 - Student Health Services running focus groups with students around messaging and communications - will update JL and subgroup on feedback
 - Students may be more attentive to home/programme based messages

5. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- Numbers of close contacts increasing leading to delays in communication from CTC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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6. AOB

- Student Break out areas – SM, School of Vet Med
 - Clinical students remain in work pods and stagger breaks to use the Vet School Common Room but due to its size it is difficult to maintain 2m social distance.
 - Suggest using unused teaching rooms as spill-over break rooms. ORH not an option (if necessary ORH will be used spill-over teaching).
 - Option of portacabins in courtyard being looked into/pending safety regulations.
- PC sought M&PH Cttee advice on request from Conway Institute for US-based researcher to make multiple, short visits to Ireland/UCD to carry-out covid-related research over next few months. Visitor would forgo movement restrictions during short stays but would observe PH guidelines regarding mask wearing/PPE, etc.
- Members of the M&PH Cttee had a number of concerns/reservations about the proposal:
 - Proposal is in breach of national public health guidelines
 - Visitor may be travelling from high risk zone in USA
 - Negative test result ahead of travel no guarantee
 - Suggest remote engagement

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 27 – 20th October 2020 @ 1230pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance:

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

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Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List:

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
- Matters Arising
 - HSE request for UCD swabbing centre

JL reported that his last conversation with Emma Hanway, on 5th October, led to a follow-up conversation with Niamh McAlinden, manager for test swabbing centres within the region. She indicated that the HSE is in the advanced stages of negotiations with an alternative D4 venue to operate a swabbing centre at that location. JL reiterated UCD's continued interest in operating a swabbing centre on campus for its student/staff community (which could be scaled up for broader use if necessary). The HSE will keep UCD informed on developments.

The HSE has not, as yet, provided any clarity regarding clinical governance and indemnity. PC is investigating same under UCD's own medical indemnity insurance provider. All sampling would be following clinically indicated referral and processed through HSE.

PW advised that Advanced Medical Services is a private company that carries out swabbing tests and could be considered also by the University for outsourcing swabbing. AMS has full indemnity with a mobile swabbing unit that could be dispatched to campus to assist in management of any outbreaks.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 27 – 20th October 2020 @ 1230pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

UMT approved the recruitment of 2 covid-related positions – staff nurse x 1 and internal contact tracing coordinator x 1. ST identified someone who expressed an interest in the nursing role and JL will follow up.

Actions: ST to share JL contact info with nurse candidate.

PC to follow up re indemnity issue and reporting lines for the internal Contact Tracing Coordinator.

2. Responding to student COVID+ case

- UMT approved recruitment of a staff nurse and internal contact tracing coordinator both of which will be linked to the SIRC office.
- Clarity on the role and function of the DM and when they should be contacted in the event of a +case on campus was raised at UMT today. Wording to be included in the President' Weekly Bulletin was agreed to highlight what action a staff or student should take if diagnosed COVID-19+:

'Should faculty, staff or students who have been on campus subsequently receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, please contact the Duty Manager at 01-7167999 immediately. A team is available to guide you through our internal contact tracing process which takes place in parallel and in collaboration with the HSE contact tracing process.'

Action: MOC to provide wording to Mary Staunton for inclusion in President's Bulletin, 20th October.

- Existing FAQs will also be updated to include this information. It was agreed that the message to contact DM/7999 needs to be reinforced within the student community and clarified for staff.
Action: MOC to provide wording to Mary Staunton for updated FAQ.
- SM raised the issue of privacy/confidentiality in relation to the sharing of contact details of an index case or close contact (staff or student) by School administration. It was confirmed that information about a diagnosed case or someone classed as a close contact only would be shared. Schools should use the DM/7999 route for the internal data gathering and link to HSE contact tracing process.
- SM suggested a link to a consolidated information point be included at the bottom of the President's Bulletin. It was generally agreed that there is a high volume of information and guidance being issued regularly and there is a risk of recipients becoming overwhelmed. There are multiple locations providing information to staff (HR website), students – undergraduate/postgraduation/international (FAQs for Taught Students) and the COVID-19 Special Arrangements website.

Minutes

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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

3. Campus Re-opening

- University response to level 4+ or 5 restrictions (SM)
 - UCD is operating at Level 4 and some additional measures may be required in line with Level 5 restrictions.
 - Teaching will continue online, and small group/lab learning scenarios will continue.
 - Some campus facilities will need to be reviewed in line with Level 5 restrictions, e.g. pool/gym.
- Campus policy on face coverings (PC)
 - UMT requested the M&PH Subgroup to consider the university's messaging regarding the wearing of face coverings, and if a stronger message (along the lines of TCD) would be more effective.
 - The principle of wording provided by PC was accepted and adopted as the M&PH Subgroup position on the issue. PC will consult further with Aoife Ahearn (Chair C19CC) and present agreed wording to UMT. The new policy will be communicated in a future President's Bulletin. (See Appendix 1 for full wording).
Action: PC to follow up with Aoife Ahearn and forward wording to UMT.
- Influenza Vaccine Strategy
 - UCD SHS has secured 30 doses for its staff members only. ST will try to obtain additional vaccinations for vulnerable overseas students.
 - Health care students will need to get their vaccine through their clinical placement. Vet students will now not be considered eligible for the vaccination as healthcare students.
- Students attending for vaccination under the Health Screening and vaccination program (ST)
 - Student Health Services are currently administering vaccinations to healthcare students who are preparing to start their clinical placement soon, or in the future. It was agreed that these students should continue to travel to campus for these vaccinations as it is essential to their professional activity. Stopping vaccines now could cause future backlog and delay.
- Restricted movement by students under Level 5
 - ST raised the issue that students are travelling between their homeplace and campus and (part time) jobs. Based on Level 5 restrictions students should be

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advised in principle to choose 1 location and remain there, with education being prioritised over work.

4. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- MoA for the UCD based CTC is with the HSE now and awaiting sign-off
- Close contacts numbers continue to be high, leading to delays in communication from CTC
- Fast turnaround of tests by labs
- Good working relationship between UCD CTC and internal contact tracing process
- LR reported that, nationally, a Working Group is working to identify whether rapid testing can be reliably rolled out in addition to current approved diagnostics.

5. AOB

- Supports for Vulnerable Students Accessing Campus– SM
 - SM inquired when/if the guidance regarding Supports for Vulnerable Students Accessing Campus will be released. JL noted that programme appropriate, local processes can be put in place.
- Implications of quarantining for students - SM
 - SM was advised that Extenuating Circumstances would apply in the case of a student missing class/assessments due to quarantining.
 - JL noted that the in the 1st 'lockdown' Extenuating Circumstances were granted without the requirement of students providing evidence. This exception was reversed by Academic Council at the start of T1 and may need to be reviewed at this stage with the introduction of Level 5 restrictions.
- Use of face visors vs masks – PC
 - The M&PH subgroup support the wearing of face masks vs visors, or wearing both together.
 - It was agreed that no changes should be made to measures previously agreed regarding pod size (up to 12 in a research lab setting) and physical distancing within the teaching and learning and lab environments: research lab @1.5m, classroom @ 1m.

The next meeting will take place **3rd November 2020 @12:30**, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting in the interim. **Zoom link:** <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 27 – 20th October 2020 @ 1230pm
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Appendix 1

Campus policy on wearing of face masks

Face coverings are now mandatory for all teaching and learning events, in all the Libraries and internal public spaces of the campus for all members of the University community and visitors to UCD.

Face coverings do not need to be worn:

- When actively eating and drinking in designated seating or social areas where adherence to 2m physical distancing has been provided for
- When seated in one's own office, be it shared or otherwise (2m distancing or screens must be in place in shared offices so face coverings are not essential when sitting at one's desk, but are required when moving around a shared workspace)
- By staff when teaching in class if 2m distancing can be maintained from students
- When actively using a gym or the swimming pool on campus (however persons must check in with the facility operator for guidance) or actively playing sport (unless mandated by the Sports Governing Body)
- When an underlying medical condition prevents their wearing (Staff and students who due to an underlying condition cannot wear a face covering should consider if it is appropriate for them to attend campus at this time. These persons should seek advice from their doctor regarding the risks posed by their attendance on campus without wearing PPE in situations when PPE is mandated or deemed necessary)

A person may choose to wear a face covering in the above scenarios if they wish to do so.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 28 – 3rd November 2020 @ 1230pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

In the absence of the Chair (CK), who was detained at an earlier meeting, the Vice Chair (JL) conducted the meeting.

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - JL advised that he has spoken with the nurse who may be interested in the swabbing centre set-up. A further meeting is being planned for later this week.
 - The agreed wording regarding what action a staff or student should take if diagnosed COVID-19+ was provided to Mary Staunton for inclusion in the President's Bulletin.
 - Updated wording for FAQs (re. DM/calling 01-716-7999) was provided to Mary Staunton and updated on the website.
 - Wording, approved by the M&PHSG, on campus policy on the use of face coverings was shared with the Chair of the C19CC and provided to UMT. The new policy will be communicated in a future President's Bulletin. (PC) (*Confirmed by email MOC/PC, 4/11/2020.*)

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2. HSE request for UCD onsite testing

- Based on their negotiations with other sites - within the UCD vicinity - it is now not expected that the HSE will request UCD to host a community swabbing centre on campus.
- The (UMT approved) job description for the nurse practitioner (x2) posts have been forwarded to CPAC for approval.
- UCD will continue to outsource swabbing needs to an external company as necessary. Dominic O'Keefe is following up with the provider for pricing information from them (cost/benefit to retain their services vs. setting up swabbing centre on campus).

3. Campus Re-opening

- University response to level 4+ or 5 restrictions
 - No new updates to report.
 - The 'Reopening' WG have populated a document reflecting Unit activity for Levels 3-5.
 - PC reported that DCU has announced it will deliver its programme online in T2.
 - It was noted that clarity on UCD's default position for T2 would be appreciated; be it online or face-to-face delivery, or a continuation of T1 arrangements under Level 3+/5 with lectures being delivered online and campus access only when necessary.
- Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - PC advised that there were 8 covid+ cases in UCD Residences last week.
 - No cases of class-based transmission have been reported.
 - ST reported that out of 124 tests, 16 had +results (not all in UCD Residences).
 - Students appear to be misunderstanding/confusing the meaning of 'household'; where there are several apartments within one house students maybe mingling between apartments and not restricting to their apartment only. Messaging on this needs to be clearer for students.
Action: PC/Res Management preparing messaging to students on this point.
 - PC clarified configuration of UCD accommodation to HSE.

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- SM suggested providing a regular update on campus cases to the broader UCD community. Bringing this awareness could have a positive impact on behaviour and attitude and help reduce spread.
- UCD visit by US researchers (PC)
 - The M&PH Sub Group was notified at a previous meeting of the intention of the Conway Institute to bring US researchers to UCD to conduct essential, time-sensitive research with colleagues in SVUH. The visiting research group will be restricted to 4 (scientists/techs) in total, with a rigorous protocol to minimise risk of infection in place.
 - A waiver that had been sought from the DoH (to waive the 14-day restricted movements requirement) was denied as it only applies to certain diplomatic/consular staff.
 - The following conditions will be in place for the proposed visit:
 - The infection control protocol has been developed and approved by SVUH Consultant microbiologists.
 - The visitors will work in a dedicated lab in UCD only, and they will only use shared facilities at low demand times.
 - They will have no engagement with the research subjects.
 - While in Dublin they will live in a hotel that will have no other guests.
 - They will be tested for the virus on day 0, 5 and 7.
 - They will travel to/from UCD in a taxi.
 - Members of the M&PH Sub group were supportive of the essential research, as described, and supportive of the visit. They considered there to be a compelling reason for the research visit and that sufficient steps have been put in place to mitigate risk and consequences. The Subgroup is not responsible for granting waivers.
 - The Irish government defines 'essential work' as:
'..., if this expertise is not available locally. You are still asked to follow public health advice and restrict your movements when you're not working.'
 - The visiting research group will be required to complete the Passenger Locator Form (a legal requirement).
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ab900-covid-19-passenger-locator-form/>
- T2 International Students Arrangements
 - The Erasmus programme, which was paused for T1, will recommence in T2 - depending on local travel embargos.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

- It is anticipated the IUA monitoring routine which was in place for international students in T1 may be in place again.
- Specific programmes, e.g. Vet., will accommodate international students by delivering the 1st two weeks of teaching online.
- As has been its practice, the university will comply with prevailing PH guidelines.
- Students returning to UCD Residences from abroad, after the Christmas break (PC)
 - Estate Services is seeking advice from the M&PH Sub group on the issue of students returning to shared residences after spending their Christmas break abroad. Will it be considered permissible to have students occupying the same apartment, and in some cases may share a bathroom, whilst they are at different stages of their 14 days period, with some possibly not undergoing a 14 day period, having not travelled abroad?
 - It was agreed that overlapping restricted periods will occur in shared apartments, and that the messaging on students restricting their movements to within their own apartment (household) will need to be reinforced. UCD should apply the same PH restrictions on students in their apartment as would be placed on a domestic household in which one, or more, of the occupants had recently travelled abroad.

4. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- Pressure has eased as 11 contact tracing centres are now operating, nationally, and more staff have been recruited.
- UCD CTC staff now have contracts.
- Several UCD staff volunteers are still working in the CTC, and based on their expertise and experience manage complex, legacy cases.
- 3 members of the UCD HSE-CTC team have been designated to work with UCD's Duty Manager and the internal contact tracing process.

5. AOB

- ST reiterated the need to reinforce the message on household restrictions and mixing to students in Residences.
- The joint SHS/SU communication initiative has been paused temporarily.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 28 – 3rd November 2020 @ 1230pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

The next meeting will take place **17th November 2020 @12:30**, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting in the interim. **Zoom link:** <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 29 – 6th November 2020 @ 3:30pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/61456178279>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Ms. Devisri Sundaram, UCD Contact Tracing Centre (UCD team)

Apologies

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

The Chair called a special meeting of the Medicine & Public Health Sub Group to update on the HSE response to UCD case numbers. She welcomed Devisri Sundaram from the HSE Contact Tracing Centre in Blackrock and thanked members for attending at short notice.

1. HSE response to UCD case numbers

- The HSE requested a meeting with UCD representatives to discuss what they considered a spike in cases.
 - A zoom meeting with HSE officials (including their Communications Officer) and UCD (including Dominic Martella from UCD Communications Office) took place on Thursday, 5th at 3pm.
 - During the meeting UCD (PW) reiterated that effective protocols to manage cases are in place. The local process of managing a case starts when students/staff notify the Duty Manager by ringing 7999. Data is collected and communicated to the Contract Tracing Centre in Blackrock (dedicated UCD-case team members). In the event, that an outbreak occurred in UCD the HSE's Public Health team would be notified.
 - At the time of the meeting with the HSE UCD had approx. 41 cases which included a *cluster* of 10 students.
 - The HSE's characterisation of a 'cluster' is a number of unrelated cases occurring, and of an 'outbreak' as a linking together of these unrelated cases.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/61456178279>

- There appeared to be a level of misconception, (on the HSE side) on how UCD Residences are structured.
 - PC provided a map and background on how the UCD Residences are configured. Individual apartments within a house/block are considered the 'household' (not the full house/block) and the number of occupants would be between 5 and 6 students.
 - When an infection occurs within one of these apartments, students, who are not the index case, are considered close contacts and are referred for testing.
 - Students are urged to stay isolated within their UCD Residence household while awaiting test results or if feeling unwell and advised to not return to their family homes.
 - Once notified of UCD cases/close contacts the UCD-based CTC promptly arranges testing – often within an hour (tests are done same day/next day).
- It was reiterated to the HSE that UCD continues to provide clinical and welfare support to students who are diagnosed COVID+ or while isolating.

2. Reassurance to HSE

- During the zoom meeting with the HSE, UCD presented the weekly reports that are being generated by the UCD Estates Services/DM team which includes information on cases occurring within the UCD community. These reports illustrate that cases are being managed and tracked internally by UCD.
- ST noted that the numbers requesting testing have reduced and the case numbers are low.
- UCD will utilise the epidemiological expertise available to it, SM team to assist.

3. Actions

- PC to draft a new message to the HSE reiterating protocols and process that are in place to manage campus-based cases.
- The weekly UCD COVID reports will be shared with the HSE to keep them in the loop of how cases are being monitored and tracked.
- A communication for students in Residences will be composed and will emphasis:
 - Their positive behaviour is having a positive impact and helping to stem the spread of infection;
 - They shouldn't go home if exposed to COVID-19;

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee

Meeting No. 29 – 6th November 2020 @ 3:30pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/61456178279>

- Remind them to contact 7999 immediately if feeling unwell or suspect they may have COVID;
- Remind them of clinical and welfare supports available to them if self-isolating.
- SM & PW will liaise offline about how Covid data might be examined from an epidemiological point of view.
- It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the HSE to investigate/link outbreaks to index cases (not the role of UCD which is providing support for the HSE CTC on campus).
- The HSE will be requested to add a '3rd level student' tick box to their contact tracing form.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 30 – 17th November 2020 @ 1230pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

Notes: SM advised the Chair that he would only be present until 1pm as he was due to attend the AVMA accreditation meeting. JL apologised for joining the meeting late due to an earlier meeting running over.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous two meetings were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - Matters Arising will be addressed under relevant items on the Agenda.

2. HSE request for UCD onsite testing
 - It has been confirmed that the HSE will proceed with an alternative (D4) location for its swabbing centre.
 - PC to follow up with HR to have approved nurse practitioner post advertised (2 p/t roles vs 1 f/t position) - Specified Purpose Contract(s). JD will be amended to reflect additional duties that may be assigned to incumbents (e.g. administering vaccines). The contact tracing coordinator role will be advertised this week.
 - The swabbing exercise undertaken at UCD Residences last week (12/11) identified some difficulties in HSE's systems, i.e. not flexible to accommodate walk-ups without appointments, printing and labels cannot be edited once printed.

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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

- JL and PC to follow up with HSE contacts (Emma Hanway/Niamh McAlindin) as to how the HSE would manage mass swabbing if it declared UCD an 'outbreak' situation/what would be the optimal response if large-scale testing were needed. Access to HSE systems could take some months to set up. What would be involved to have UCD designated as a swabbing centre as originally proposed? **Action:** JL & PC to do follow up with HSE
- Offsite swabbing referral facilities are available to the UCD community (Clonskeagh/RDS/SVUH) where the need arises.
- Swabbing could be carried out also on campus by an external private provider should a swabbing centre not be established on site.
- Benefits to using private swabbing provider:
 - Rapid and agile mechanism
 - Walk-up/no appointments accommodated
 - Manage mass swab scenarios
- Drawbacks:
 - Tests/swabs done by private provider not automatically entered into SwiftQ.
 - Not linked immediately to CTC for follow up
 - Not linked to HealthLink referral system (used by UCD Student Health)

3. Campus Re-opening

- University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - University operations continuing at Level 5.
 - The expected default position for T2 reopening will be current delivery mode or Level or 1, 3 or 4 – to be guided by prevailing PH guidance.
- Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - HSE swabbing exercise took place on campus last week (12/11/2020) by National Ambulance Service. 46 students (plus additional cleaners & Front of House res staff) were swabbed over a 3-hour period (106 students invited). Negative tests returned.
 - 2 positive tests returned today – close contacts.
 - Residence and CTC team providing granular details to HSE.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 30 – 17th November 2020 @ 1230pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

- Offer from HSE (Greg Martin member of HSE Outbreak Control Team) to produce an advisory video for UCD Res students. It was agreed this offer should be accepted and video communicated to students via ResLife platform (not suitable for Brightspace). Suggested content should be generic rather than linked to current HSE outbreak investigation.
 - M&PH SubGroup agreed to proceed. Suggest rolling same video out to all universities.
- Messaging on Covid-19 risk avoidance behaviour seems to be getting through to students.
- T2 International Students Arrangements
 - Schools will manage international students/Erasmus programme according to their own programme requirements.
- Contact point for medical students on placement (ST)
 - Students on placement at out-of-Dublin hospital were unsure of procedure to follow if identified as a close contact of a +case, or if they tested positive.
 - Students should contact Module coordinator or designated student supervisor for advice on process;
 - Students on placement should follow local occupational health protocols according to HSE guidelines;
 - If transferring from one hospital placement to another and identified as close contact they should notify programme office and not attend new placement hospital until cleared to do so.
- Communication to Students (ST)
 - ST circulated an email that is being sent to students based on feedback from focus groups (in collaboration with SU and Student Services).
 - Feedback from the focus groups had indicated that students feel they are receiving too many emails, the tone of university emails is too impersonal, unlikely to watch video messages.
 - The email will be sent via the SU targeted communication and will include a link to Curious Cat Q&A on Instagram.

The M&PH Sub-Group agreed with the SHS communication to students.

4. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- Cases continue to be notified and will do so as the opportunity for ongoing community transmission remains.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 30 – 17th November 2020 @ 1230pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

- It was noted that the mechanism for monitoring and managing cases within UCD is being handled well by the campus-based team in Estate Services/SIRC and the dedicated team in the HSE CTC.
- SM working with PW and Conor McAloon to assist MPH graduates (at UCD CTC) on how to get the most out of the data being collected from an epidemiological perspective – to get a better understanding of cases and clusters. Happy to continue providing support and oversight.
- A request was sent to NVRL to provide samples to Shay Fanning for genotyping of campus cases.

5. AOB

- None

The next meeting will take place **1st December 2020 @12:30**, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting in the interim. **Zoom link:** <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 31 – 1st December 2020 @ 12noon
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)
Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)
Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)
Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)
Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)
Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)
Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

To accommodate 1pm meetings of 2 members of the M&PHSG the meeting started at the earlier time of 12noon.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous two meetings were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - Matters Arising will be addressed under relevant items on the Agenda.
2. HSE request for UCD onsite testing
 - PC reported that he had spoken with representatives of the HSE and they agree, in principle, UCD could be a designated swabbing centre. Nothing has been confirmed and UCD is waiting a further response from the HSE.
 - JL asked to follow-up communications with HSE.
3. Campus Re-opening
 - University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - As of December 1st Level 5 restrictions lifted and Level 3 restrictions reintroduced.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 31 – 1st December 2020 @ 12noon

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

- Facilities on campus reopening in accordance with Lev3 guidelines, e.g. sports facilities, cafes.
 - No change to curriculum delivery for remainder of T1, and none anticipated.
 - The expected default position for T2 reopening will be current delivery mode (L3) or Level 1/2 or 5 – to be guided by prevailing PH guidance.
 - Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - Further HSE swabbing exercise conducted on campus by National Ambulance Service last week (26/11). Approx 200 students were swabbed, with 1 positive result returned (possibly a legacy case).
 - PC and PW have another weekly update meeting with HSE this afternoon.
 - The 2 MPH graduates working at the CTC continue to analyse data for a greater understanding of clusters and patterns of infection. They are reporting on worries of students (assumptions of sanctions by UCD if they admit close contacts/risky behaviour) and lessons learned.
 - PC clarified that sanctions are only applied where students are caught breaching restrictions, e.g., socialising or not adhering to restricted movements.
 - PW will collect relevant med student clinical data for Dr. Cathal O’Broin, SVUH.
4. Handover from SHS Medical Director to temporary replacement Director
- Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght will be invited to the next M&PHSG meeting and will replace Dr. Sandra Tighe, who is retiring at the end of December, on the committee.
5. Request from HSE Public Health to provide support to a house of students isolating off campus (to include food supplies and daily checks). (PC)
- PC reported that his office received a request from the Head of OCT looking after UCD-related cases to provide supports to an off-campus household of positive cases. PC declined the request on the grounds that the HSE/State have measures in place to support such scenarios. UCD would have no legal controls over non-residents brought onto campus for care and off-campus supports would have a high demand on current resources.
 - It was agreed that the university’s duty of care is to those (student cases) in residence and a clinical duty of care to those referred through the SHS.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 31 – 1st December 2020 @ 12noon

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

6. Requests for mixing of households in residence (PC)

- PC reported that a number of requests have been received from students to receive visitors or allow for mixing of households, per Level 2 guidelines.
 - It was agreed that it would be preferable for current (Level 5) restrictions regarding visitors (none) and mixing of households (not allowed) would remain in place until December 18th. Mixing of households and visitors would lead to an increase in the number of cases and cluster outbreaks.
 - PC will notify Estate Services/Residences Management that current guidelines on visitors and household mixing remain in place.

7. Queries from SVM (SM)

- Do national guidelines for public transport apply to private University transport (i.e., students to Lyons)?
 - As was agreed at a meeting earlier in the year, Units providing transport to students (e.g. transporting Vet students to Lyons Farm in university transport) should comply with national guidelines for public transport – e.g., 50% capacity at Level 3, 25% capacity at Level 5.
 - SM will liaise with Heads of Schools to confirm.
- Should or should not be routine practice to advise relevant staff (teaching staff with potential contact and their heads of section) in a general sense about Vet Med cases as they are notified through the 7999 system.
- School-level data is mainly captured in University records systems. However, for each case to date we have also collected some additional data (the face to face classes that the student was in, the student-specific pod on the day, the roll call in terms of absences etc), seeking to provide a more detailed picture of the situation, which is then passed through the 7999 system to contact tracing. This additional data has proved difficult to gather without raising suspicions among staff about the presence of a case (thereby linking back to our first query).
 - According to the agreed algorithm a case needs to be confirmed positive before notifying people, and the HSE will contact anyone deemed a close contact.
 - PC noted that his office is advising HoS and relevant Module Coordinators of potential cases within their community, and that further contact will be made by the HSE to confirmed close contacts. Decision to give general information to the wider school community lies with the HoS/MC.
 - SIRC office advises HoS/MC when a case is resolved so that that information may also be relayed to School community.

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- Decisions are being made swiftly with regard to close contacts in lab type situations. Important to have strict interpretation of 'close contact' because of related consequences, e.g., restricted movements for 14 days.
 - SM appreciated the feedback from the group and will liaise further with the School's SMT to develop a consistent approach for such scenarios.
- Communication to all staff and students explaining what the 7999 service is and how it works?
 - It was agreed School level communication may be produced.

8. Contact Tracing Centre Update

- PW reported that antigen/rapid testing not yet approved but seeing quick turnaround with PCR test results.
- Rapid testing would free up a lot of protocols.
- Nothing back on genotyping analysis yet.

9. AOB

- None

The next meeting will take place **15th December 2020 @12:30**, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting in the interim. **Zoom link:** <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 32 – 15th December 2020 @ 12:30pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/96178308943>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)
Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)
Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)
Dr. Sandra Tighe, Director of Student Health (ST)
Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)
Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)
Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health (EL)
Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support
Devisri Sundaram, M.Sc, MPH & **Dr. Jwenish Kumawat**, BDS, MPH - Lead Investigators, HSE-UCD Contact Tracing Centre

Apologies

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

To accommodate some members leaving the meeting early the presentation from CTC was moved to the top of the meeting.

1. Presentation by Lead Investigators, Devisri Sundaram, M.sc, MPH & Dr. Jwenish Kumawat, BDS, MPH – HSE Contact Tracing Centre, Blackrock
 - A presentation entitled 'Epidemiology of COVID-19 in University College Dublin' was made to the M&PHSG.
 - The presentation was an insightful, comprehensive study of university cases, close contacts, clusters, etc.
 - It was suggested the research be presented to the Faculty of Public Health Medicine.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - Matters Arising will be addressed under relevant items on the Agenda.

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3. Chair's Update

- Progress is being made in the development of rapid testing and the university is being contacted regularly about commercial kits (antigen and rapid tests) that are becoming available. Rapid developments in the area are expected to be seen in the New Year.
 - LR advised that work by HSEs WG on rapid antigen testing is still ongoing and she will update M&PHSG when she has further information.
 - SM commented on the importance of discussions around commercial organisations/setting up on campus.
 - SM referenced a recent paper in the BMJ 'Lateral flow tests cannot rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection'.

4. HSE request for UCD onsite testing

- No further updates from the HSE on this issue.
- PC reported that 6 applications have been received for the CT nurse post and shortlisting and interviews will take place after Christmas. Dr. Lysaght has agreed to sit on the interview panel (1 or 2 PT nurses will be recruited). A provision was added to the job description that these positions might be seconded to other units, e.g., Student Health Services, if additional resources were requested (in the event covid vaccinations were being administered).

5. Campus Re-opening

- University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - University operating at Lev3 restrictions, with same expected for T2.
 - PC noted that there has been no evidence of teaching environment or workplace transmission.

6. Updated Response to C19 Case on campus

- PC advised the M&PHSG that the university's algorithm for Responding to a COVID case on campus has been updated to reflect practice and actioning, e.g. Module Coordinators and School COVID Liaisons provide class contact lists and seating layouts to the COVID contact tracing Administrator.

7. Complex outbreak case study (PC)

- PC shared a diagram prepared by his office which illustrated the links between cases, common close contacts and how complicated contact tracing can be.

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8. What vaccine availability plans will be in place for health care workers of UCD? (PC)
 - Queries are coming into the C19C regarding vaccinations for university staff. Vaccinations for 3rd level staff (academic / technical / admin staff) will be in accordance with the government's vaccine roll-out plan. It is expected that staff in the SHS, NVRL and Vets will be considered '*frontline*' staff.
 - ST noted that GPs have not received communication about the rollout of the vaccine. Not clear what constitutes '*frontline*' worker.
 - LR confirmed that the vaccine prevents an individual from being infectious.
Clarification: this would be the aim, it would depend on an individual's vaccine response and it is yet unclear to date if there could be some nasal carriage and potential transmission even in those that have been vaccinated. (LR by email 12/01/21)
 - ST/EL noted that student covid tests/vaccinations are processed for payment through PCRS and a PPS number is required. Many international students do not have a PPS number and ideally should apply for one as soon as they arrive in Ireland.

9. Protocols for health care students on placement
 - It was noted to the meeting that PC has, again, communicated to the HSE that UCD has protocols in place (in line with what Colm Henry asked for) and adheres to all HSE guidelines for health care students on placement in relation to them being a close contact or covid+.

10. AOB
 - Students staying in UCD Residences over the Christmas break will be permitted to mix households in accordance with national guidelines from Dec 18 – Jan 6 (bubbles of up to 3 households). Approx. 400-500 students will be remaining on campus.
 - PW confirmed that the Contact Tracing Centre will remain operational over Christmas (incl. Christmas Day). Duty Managers will notify PC of any positive cases reported during the Christmas period.
 - Dr. Sandra Tighe was thanked for her contribution to the M&PHSG and congratulated on her retirement at the end of December.

11. Future Meetings
 - Meetings will continue to be held fortnightly, taking place the week before UMT meets. Dates will be circulated by MOC.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 33 – 12th January 2021, 4pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/67501450320>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health (EL)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

The Chair thanked members for meeting at the later time of 4pm due to an all-day ELG 'away day' that took place from 9:30 – 3pm.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were amended with a proviso from LR and were adopted.
- Matters Arising
 - Under Item 8, LR added a point of clarification around effectiveness of the vaccine *'...while this would be the aim, it would depend on an individual's vaccine response and it is yet unclear to date if there could be some nasal carriage and potential transmission even in those that have been vaccinated.'*

2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- PC advised there has been no further communication from the HSE regarding the establishment of a testing centre on UCD campus.
- Recruitment of 2 nurse practitioners will proceed as planned with interview on 21st January. Successful candidates will be trained to carry out swabbing and support training of others and their take up of additional functions including vaccination support will be reviewed as required.

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- Currently, there is no plan for UCD to roll-out a student or staff vaccination programme but that will be taken under consideration as Government roll-out proceeds.
- EL noted that the ICGP has communicated that vaccinations for GPs are not expected until end of February but a meeting is planned to discuss. In the event HSE rolled out a programme over weekend of 16-17 January.

3. Campus Re-opening

- University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - University operating at strict Lev5 restrictions, details of which were reiterated in the President's Special Bulletin last week.
 - Heads of Schools and Module Coordinators have been requested to review their provision of blended learning for T2. Some schools have made the decision to cancel in person practicals and defer dates to later in semester.
 - Vet Med & Vet Hospital have deferred final year placements due to start in early January for review later in the month. Placements with later scheduled start dates will go ahead as planned.
 - Schools with students on placement in hospital settings are clarifying vaccination access for these students (e.g. Medicine, NMHS, PHPSS). Professor James Jones raised matter with Chair and this will be discussed at CHAS SMT on Friday 15th. Vaccination queries of this type should be referred to Programme Offices.
 - Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - No current cases of C19+ on campus.
 - A number of students restricting movements due to travel from abroad.
 - Approx. 8 members of staff reported C19+ over the Christmas period - off-campus at time of diagnosis, no risk of on campus transmission.
 - Students in Residence
 - 14-day self-isolation /restricted movements for students travelling from overseas.
 - Res providing good advice and flow chart information on steps to follow based on country of origin
 - 5-day testing recommended for those travelling from UK/SA – university not offering/setting up private testing facilities at present, but this will be kept under review. Students may get 5-day test at own cost and where

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reputable service is known to UCD such information should be given.
Students being encouraged to follow appropriate Res advice.

4. CTC Update

- HSE halted testing of close contacts in December due to volume of testing; this may soon be reviewed. Close contacts receive text advising them the restrict movements for 14 days.
- Cases of re-infection being identified.
- In response to an email query from PC about contacts of close contacts, Mary Codd and PW provided information on advice received from the HSE in December that contacts of close contacts were again not requested to self-isolate (email 05/01/21).
- PW noted that the numbers of close contacts being detected as covid+ is increasing (possibly due to new variants, which is being monitored).
- In the event of higher case numbers in students on campus there are approx. 300 apartments available for self-isolation if required. Households could be isolated as group/pod.
- UCD is currently a ‘minimal exposure’ environment. The advice remains for everyone to minimise their number of contacts.

5. AOB

- LR advised that the number of samples being processed at NVRL will ramp up as new Backweston facility has come on stream.

6. Future Meetings

- Future meetings will be held fortnightly, on Tuesdays in week before UMT meetings, at the new time of 1-2pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 26th January at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993> - unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 34 – 26th January 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
 - Matters Arising
 - Matters Arising from last Minutes will be addressed under relevant Agenda item.
2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports
 - PC advised there has been no further communication from the HSE regarding the establishment of a testing centre on UCD campus.
 - The increase in community cases has seen greater demands on HSE and hospitals.
 - The recruitment of 2 parttime nurse practitioners (18hr/wk ea.) is proceeding with 3 candidates deemed appointable each with substantial ICU/clinical trials/general nursing experience. Duties of the successful candidates may include spearheading swabbing and vaccination processes.
PC/JL to follow up with informal conversations with the preferred candidates regarding expectations of the role and potential duties. PC to draw up a task list which would include support to students in Res (e.g. welfare visits), working with/supporting colleagues in SHS, identifying what private service providers are available and the diagnostic services they offer. Compliance with Level 5 campus restrictions is essential. Of the preferred candidates, it is anticipated that one would be available for an immediate start, one would be required to work notice in their current post.
 - SHS is experienced in administering large scale vaccinations, e.g. to healthcare students, and committed to best delivery of services to students.

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee

Meeting No. 34 – 26th January 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

3. Campus Re-opening

- University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - In accordance with government and PH guidance, the University continues to operate at strict Lev5 restrictions, with Schools/Units developing individual response plans for the duration of L5 restrictions up to mid-March, including clinical/practical placement commitments being rescheduled (i.e., Vet School/hospital and other clinical schools).
 - The University's plan throughout 2020, and to date, has been one of mitigation, containment and response. A proactive approach is being encouraged, with future reopening and general return to the workplace driving this. Current protocols may be reviewed as required, including effective risk mitigation measures against new variants.
 - For Academic year 2021/22 will need to anticipate international travel protocols may include pre-travel testing and facility for 5-day post arrival testing. To date this has either been indicated based on HSE protocols or students have made individual private arrangements. In future, institutional arrangements may be necessary and nurse practitioners may have a role in this.
 - The Vet Hospital is considering introduction of sequential testing and SM to submit note for discussion on their plans ahead of next meeting. **Action:** SM to circulate email to Sub Group members.
- Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - No current cases of C19+ on campus.
 - Students arriving from overseas restricting movements; allowed to stay in allocated apartment with consent of other flatmates. Currently 2 students isolating in RCC.
 - An analysis prepared by Anne Scrivener, SIRC, outlining single vs multiple infections rates in UCD Res was reviewed.
 - The first incidence of workplace transmission occurred last week in a research lab in College of Science (2 lab partners working in close contact). PC sent reminder communication to ELG to remind staff to observe physical distancing/use of PPE.
 - It was agreed the current workplace protocols are sufficient but may need to be reviewed if new cases continue to emerge. SM noted that current tools may not be effective against new variants of the virus and new tools will become available. Advise monitoring SA/UK/Brazil variants and consider international response/protocols to new variants.

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- If case numbers drop below a critical number, testing of close contacts may be resumed by the HSE.
- SHS and SIRC/CS working together to ensure the number of university (student) cases being recorded by the two units' tallies, and will devise an appropriate data sharing process.
- UCD vaccination response
 - National vaccination programme has been rolled out.
 - EL noted SHS has installed/operated the IT system and software programmes required for the vaccine programme. Expect they will need further support from IT Services.
 - A vaccination programme subgroup has been established within CHAS, chaired by Professor Tim Lynch (VP for Health Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group) with representatives from Medicine, NMHS, PHPSS and Vet. This subgroup is addressing the issue of vaccinations for healthcare students on placements (and their supervisors); where/how it will be done, if they will be prioritised, etc in line with HSE priority protocols.
 - It was agreed that the host institution should have an obligation to treat healthcare and social sciences (social work) students on placement as staff. In this vein, UCD would have the same obligation as a host institution.
 - It was noted by JL that students migrating between different sites and arriving onto campus present a risk of transmission. For example, paramedics or final year students on placement in primary care settings and coming into UCD for classes are both at risk and present risk.
 - Following an inquiry to Prof Paddy Mallon on vaccine access for clinical facing colleagues in SHS, EL reported that she was advised by Prof Mallon that there is a process for UCD SoM staff aligned with SVUH to get vaccinated. In a follow-up email, Prof Michael Keane indicated to EL that they do not presently have a vaccine supply. Suggestion to JL that this may be considered as a possible vaccination option for certain staff members. **Action** CK to raise this issue to Prof Lynch/Vaccine Sub Group.

4. AOB

- NA

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9th February at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 35 – 9th February 2021, 1pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Medicine **Professor Patrick Wall**, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

The Chair welcomed Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick, member of SPHPSS and Chair of UCD's Healthy Ireland Campus Initiative, who was invited to join the committee and to contribute to the considerations being made to plans for AY 2021-22 campus reopening.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising
 - The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.
2. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters
 - I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - Teaching activities continue to be delivered online with no additional/new updates.
 - II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - No new cases reported at the time of meeting. 2 +cases reported at a spin-out company based in NOVA UCD, but outside of the remit of UCD reporting/case management.
 - PC noted that no cases have been reported in UCD Res since early January.
 - PW reported that 9 +cases were identified in the CTC @ Blackrock.
 - A protocol for safe data sharing between SHS and SIRC has been developed and put in place.
 - III. Report to UMT on public health preparedness for Academic year 2021/22

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- CK reported that, using input and feedback from this committee, she will be preparing oral and written reports for UMT (16th Feb and 2 weeks thereafter) on preparations and considerations for the reopening of campus for academic year 2021/22.
 - The university will need to have strict protocols in place to manage inbound and outbound travel. This will include pre-departure testing, adherence to self-isolation protocols and provision for day 5 or equivalent testing, possibly funded by UCD.
- IV. NYTimes article re. UC Davis citywide COVID testing programme (CK) [A California University Tries to Shield an Entire City From Coronavirus - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/08/us/politics/california-uc-davis-covid-testing.html)
- An article from last week's New York Times was circulated describing the engagement by University of California, Davis (UC Davis) in a citywide testing initiative. To date, UCD has followed and supported HSE guidance in response to the pandemic. In future planning a more proactive Healthy Campus strategy may be considered.
 - JL commented on the University's positive engagement in the national response, e.g., contact tracing centre, training of GPs, paramedics, etc. and noted that UC Davis was in receipt of substantial philanthropic funding for the testing programme.
 - PF noted that Davis is a much smaller city than Dublin, so they are not equally comparable.
 - It was observed that 2020 was very much a year of responding to the epidemic, the approach in 2021 is planning for the future.
- V. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements
- The current schedule is for teaching to remain online, where it can, for the remainder of T2.
 - CK proposed she and JL meet with Dr Douglas Proctor and Prof Dolores Riordan (UCD Global/Global Engagement) to discuss protocols for international students arriving here for 2021/22. *Action* CK & JL
 - SM noted that Vets will not be encouraging international students to travel to UCD for the remaining 5 weeks of current T2 (after the field work break in March).
 - It was agreed students should not be brought back unless essential, and exams will be conducted online unless they cannot be done that way.
- VI. SNMHS Placements letter from CNO 4th February 2021
- The 2000 student nurses who were pulled back from their clinical placements recently have been reinstated as of 8th February following communication from CNO Rachel Kenna. They have not been vaccinated but are following IPC and H&S protocols of their host institution.
- VII. Queries from PC re staff matter, app use and SM on PPS numbers
- PC tabled a query he received from UCD HR regarding the right of an employee to refuse the vaccine. It was noted a) that as a general principle an individual may decline the

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vaccine as of right; b) staff in hybrid healthcare/university setting roles are required to follow existing host institution H&S protocols; c) whilst receipt of the vaccine is not mandatory, the HSE may in certain circumstances or roles not recruit individuals without it.



- SM raised the issue of students registering for a PPS number. EL noted that international students are entitled to attend SHS for GP services, which would also cover their vaccination process. All students, including international, are urged to apply for their PPS number which they are eligible for under education purposes. This matter was raised at the last Reopening WG meeting and Programme Offices and Student Advisers are also providing this information to students.

3. Vaccination rollout updates

I. Report CHAS vaccination subgroup chaired by Prof Tim Lynch

- The CHAS Vaccination subgroup chaired by Prof Tim Lynch with representation from the 3 Health Sciences schools, VM and Social Work has met once, with its next meeting scheduled for next week. EL has requested to sit on the committee and Prof Lynch has been in contact with her on this matter.

II. Letter to Dr Colm Henry 5th February

- The CAOs of all the Hospital Groups have written a joint letter to Dr. Colm Henry, HSE, regarding healthcare eligibility for placement students, particularly those doing final year examinations who will join the workforce in mid 2021.

III. Estates report PJ Barron and meeting of 4th February

- In response to the national vaccination rollout plan, UCD Estate Services is preparing a report on potential campus locations that could be used as a regional vaccination centre (including associated operational/logistical requirements) should UCD be approached. The UMT has signalled its general support in principle at this stage of the discussion.

IV. Meeting JL, CK and Prof Walter Cullen re IMO protocol of 8th February and campus clinic 20th February

- UCD, through Prof Walter Cullen, has been approached through the IMO to facilitate a vaccine clinic for >70s patient cohort of GPs in the local area/South Dublin – 1st vaccination to be administered 20th February, 2nd round 4 weeks later. DCU Helix is currently the Dublin city designated centre but additional facilities may be required. The proposal will be discussed further at an IMO meeting this evening at 8pm.

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4. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- I. Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative - SM & Dr. Gerald Barry [GB], who joined for this item:
 - SM circulated a paper on the School of VM proposal to conduct rapid antigen testing within the UCD Veterinary Hospital and other designated sites.
 - Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Vet Hospital, which is a vital component for Vet students' programme, has implemented a number of strategies to manage risk in the hospital.
 - The Vet Hospital avoided any outbreaks in 2020 and introduced further risk mitigation strategies in 2021, including delayed/staggered rotations, air purification systems and stronger facemasks. In addition to these measures, it is proposing introducing rapid antigen testing for staff and students utilising the facility.
 - Based on their experience in the meat processing industry, Dr. Gerald Barry has worked closely with the Dept of Agriculture – with input from the HSE – on the possible introduction of rapid antigen testing as a pilot programme in the Vet Hospital. Dr. Barry observed the pilot programme conducted in the meat processing industry to become familiar with operational and logistical functions.
 - The antigen test being proposed is manufactured by Abbott and is a nasal swab that does not require clinical training to carry out; it can be self-administered with supervision. The Vet Hospital proposes conducting serial tests on Mondays & Thursdays, with approx. 200 people over a 3-4 hour session.
 - In the event of an individual receiving a positive antigen test result, they would be advised to return home, contact their GP for a PCR test and to restrict their movements until they receive the results of the PCR test. [Private testing for COVID-19 - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/19/covid19/private_testing_for_covid19.html) The HSE has recently advised such cases may be referred by their GP for PCR testing. Anyone in their 'work/travel pod' would be advised to restrict movements until the PCR test results were received by the positive case; they would be followed up accordingly within the HSE PH system.
 - In general, the M&PHSG were in favour of this proposal being run as a pilot programme and will make this recommendation to UMT. It recognised the potential of rapid antigen testing as an additional layer of risk management in a high-risk environment or a setting of habitual close work contact.

Observations / Feedback

- Staff/students would have the right to refuse to participate or be tested.
- Protocols developed for staff using the UCD Vet Hospital would also apply for students of the facility.
- There are some concerns about the sensitivity of antigen testing and accuracy of results. LR to forward latest HSE information/guidance around the use of rapid antigen test (there

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is no guidance yet in the community setting not hospital). **Action:** LR to circulate information

- GB/SM noted that, to date, the Vet School have applied strict measures around the use of PPE and adherence to PH guidelines; great effort will be put in to educating its community about the use/efficacy of antigen tests.
- It was noted the data collected (both in Vet Hospital and meat processing plants) provides potential data also for research and GM indicated they are working with Shay Fanning on RNA research.
- The VH setting is unique and hence does not have precedent for general campus strategy at present.

Actions:

- Indemnity/insurance – PC
- Experience in UK VM Schools that have introduced rapid antigen testing – SM & Prof. Michael Doherty
- Advice around privacy/consent within PH protocols (i.e., informed consent to be screened). Clarification with HSE PH that protocol in line with their current referral policy. – PF and SM

A timeframe of 2-6 weeks was given for rollout once the necessary protocol refinements and clarifications were made around issues outlined.

5. CTC Update

- PW reported that contact tracing/testing for close contacts resumed last week.
- The CTC at Blackrock has been working with the HSE to track people arriving in Ireland from Brazil and South Africa.
- CTC has sufficient capacity to manage any UCD cases should they arise.

6. AOB

- None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd February at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 36 – 23rd February 2021, 1pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Ms. Maeve O’Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate with a minor amendment from LR and were adopted.



- PC reported that the recruitment of 1 part-time nurse is progressing and is currently with HR. He noted the position is being recruited as a part-time post with the potential to increase, exact hours TBC.
 - CK, PC and JL met recently to discuss potential duties to be carried out by the incumbent – PC to liaise further with EL about this. **Action:** PC & EL
 - Possible duties list: vaccinations/swab tests, scope out protocols/processes for mass vaccination centres and private rapid antigen testing, support quarantining students, engage with Vet School pilot programme. It was noted that readiness to vaccinate would be prioritised for this role.
 - EL reminded that the incumbent will require full MDS indemnity.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- The role will straddle the offices of SIRC, SHS and Dean of Students.

2. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions): Protocol reviews and updates

- A communication will be forthcoming from the Office of the Registrar (pending government announcements about national restrictions) to staff (and notice of what will be sent to students). In the meantime, current L5 restrictions remain in place for the remainder of T2 – with decisions to be made regarding T3.
- PC – There is no plan, currently, to rewrite existing protocols, but to continue complying with existing IPC requirements. PC noted some issues that may need fresh consideration:
 - When is 1m physical distancing appropriate in a teaching setting?
 - How is physical distancing measured – currently measuring nose-to-nose.
 - Managing expectations of what vaccinations will mean for resuming on campus activity, how the university will manage non-vaccinated members of the community. All staff and students will follow H&S and IPS protocols.
- Further to a query from SM regarding physical distancing during face-to-face teaching (i.e. practicals, tutorials etc), it was noted that teaching rooms/lecture theatres have been set up at 2m apart and 1.5m guide is applied in dynamic teaching environments (i.e. labs, practicals) with the use of PPE/face coverings. Sectoral guidance is being sought on this and is being raised by the Registrar through the IUA.
- PC is recommending that Risk Assessments completed in the early stages of the pandemic (e.g. 8-10 months ago) be reviewed for compliance with current L5 restrictions.

II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update

- PC noted that 1 new case was reported in Res. Index case had 12-14 close contacts which were being followed up through HSE CTC.
- EL reported 1 positive case through the SHS – off campus.
- PC noted that a student recently arrived from UAE is quarantining. The student was vaccinated prior to arriving in Ireland but is still obliged to adhere to PH quarantine regulations here. It was agreed that current PH protocols would continue to apply – even for those arriving into Ireland having already been vaccinated.

III. Report to UMT on public health preparedness for Academic year 2021/22

- CK delivered a thorough report from this Committee to UMT at their last meeting.

IV. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements

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- CK and JL to meet with Dr Douglas Proctor and Prof Dolores Riordan (UCD Global/Global Engagement) to discuss protocols for international students arriving here for 2021/22 – consideration will be given to testing prior to arrival in Ireland, subsequent testing upon arrival in Ireland and quarantine requirements, vaccination status. *Action* CK & JL

3. Vaccination rollout updates

- I. National vaccination plan underway with vaccinations being administered by population group according to eligibility.
- II. CHAS vaccination subgroup chaired by Prof Tim Lynch
 - Relevant healthcare student cohorts receiving vaccinations in line with rollout programme.
- III. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests
 - No response from CH06 in relation to mass vaccination centre.
 - Some factors to consider:
 - Who will administer vaccines once over 70s group has been inoculated?
 - Will vaccines be administered in vaccination centres/hubs or GP hubs or both?

It was noted there is a general willingness within the medical community to be involved, including university staff with such affiliations.

4. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- I. Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative - Update (SM)
 - SM reported on the 6-week rapid testing pilot study proposed for the UCD Veterinary Hospital:
 - Medical and Legal Advice
 - Following a meeting with PF on issues relating to privacy, informed consent and compliance, the consent form has been adjusted accordingly.
 - Based on the potential for ethical issues around student recruitment/involvement in the pilot study – and following communication with the Office of Research Ethics, submissions were made by SM/GB to that office, noting: 'Testing is being considered as part of an operational response to COVID-19 risk in this setting.' - not a research activity.
 - Public Health/HSE
 - GB contacted Derval Igoe to make her aware of proposed pilot study and to seek assurances that rapid antigen test positives can be referred by their GP/Student Health for state-sponsored PCR testing. DI confirmed that a process is in place to allow a GP or Student Health to refer an antigen test positive person to state-sponsored PCR testing

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and to follow HSE CTC guidelines. **Action:** SM to forward correspondence from DI/Lorraine Doherty (HSE) to PC.

- Indemnity
 - PC reported there is no PI risk associated with the proposed pilot study, but has contacted Allianz in relation to PL risk, but does not foresee great risk in this regard.
- UK Experience
 - SM provided a synopsis to CK of the situation in UK-based Vet Schools based on information received by Prof Michael O’Doherty from UK Vet Deans.

Outstanding

- PL indemnity
- Approval from the Office of Research Ethics

CK noted UMT endorsed the proposed pilot.

Observations / Discussion

- SM confirmed the Consent Form will make reference to the possibility for rapid antigen test positives to approach SHS/GP to be referred for a state-sponsored PCR test.
- Rapid antigen test positives should be treated as someone with COVID-19 symptoms and follow appropriate HSE guidelines.
- Close contacts would not be notified until the PCR test results of the index case were returned. In the case of a + PCR test, members of the index case’ work/travel pod would be considered close contacts.
- VH info sheet and protocols must be compatible with HSE and meat processing plants protocols.

Actions

- GB to follow up with meat processing plants to see what protocols they have in place for contacts of + antigen case.

5. CTC Update

- No update

6. AOB

- CK noted there is a move towards the introduction of home antigen testing for 2nd level students in the UK to enable a return to school.
- Anne Scrivener (SIRC office) has generated an infographic illustrating the spread of the virus – intended for use in communications to students. Further work is required on the

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infographic to ensure clarity of messaging and JL will circulate to the group for their consideration when it is ready.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9th March at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 37 – 9th March 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

Due to a diary clash, Prof Kelleher was unable to attend so Prof Last chaired the meeting on her behalf.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were considered accurate and were adopted.

2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative - Update (SM)
 - The ethics application has been approved, and a follow up meeting with PC (SIRC) is scheduled for Friday. (email submission)
 - It was suggested that SM/GB liaise with hospital occupational health departments regarding protocols around close/casual contacts while wearing medical grade PPE and adopt similar protocols during the SVH pilot. The finalised algorithm is being developed.
 - PW noted that mass rapid antigen tests have been carried out, recently, within the food industry; 8 positives returned out of 400 tests which were referred for PCR tests. Antigen tests carried out by the HSE that return positive test results, are referred for PCR testing and are automatically entered into the HSE CRM system allowing for testing of close contacts. Low rate of false positives being seen in rapid antigen tests.

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Meeting No. 37 – 9th March 2021, 1pm

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- Appointment of nurse practitioner (PC)
 - The contact tracing nurse practitioner started 08/03/21 on a 3-day week basis (with the option to make full time if required).
 - Functions will include:
 - engagement with the CTC@Blackrock and the antigen test pilot at SVH,
 - visit existing vaccination centres (Helix, DCU) to get oversight of set up involved, write up protocols and equipment list so UCD will be well placed if its facilities are to be used as a vaccination centre. The NP is registered with the HSE as a vaccinator,
 - telephone check-ins with students in Res who are covid-19+/in isolation/restricting movements.

EL reminded the group that SHS staff are also available as vaccinators.

3. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - No update to report.
- II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - PC noted a small number of new cases have been reported: 1 staff (case was on campus during contagious period), 2 Res students (on site), 1 Res student who moved off site on receipt of +result. Of these 4 cases, no close contacts reported + test result.
 - The ‘staff’ case occurred in a School. Pod members were sent home during risk assessment and allowed return once clear. Process and engagement with SIRC reassured School about effectiveness and efficiency of protocols in place.
 - EL noted that the process for information exchange between SHS/SIRC is working well and case numbers are matching.
- III. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative (PF)
 - Prof Fitzpatrick is the Chair of the Healthy UCD Steering Committee, other staff members include Brian Mullins and a Research Assistant, Maria Heffernan.
 - Healthy UCD links up with a variety of units across the university, including the Students Union, Sports and Fitness, Estates, etc to promote good health on campus – healthy eating, mental health, fitness. Healthy UCD provides opportunities for credit-bearing

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practical learning for modules in MSc in Dietetics & Nutrition and the BSc in Sports Management.

- During COVID-19 running events and challenges online and promoting other groups, activities and information.
- Strong presence on Twitter and IG.
- Some of team likely would be willing to be involved in vaccination centre – logistics /operations / management / coordination.

IV. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements

- CK and JL met with the Global Engagement Team. Queries being received from international students about access to the vaccine once in Ireland, what supports UCD would provide, would international students arriving have to quarantine in hotels or possible to complete quarantine period in UCD Res?

V. Vaccination rollout updates

- National vaccination plan continuing per plan.
- EL noted still no advice received if GP will be involved in the under 70 vaccination process. (EL/JL in IMO/ICGP networks)

VI. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests

- HSE/CH06 has contact UCD, formally, regarding possible use of campus facilities as a vaccination centre. A site tour by PJB has been offered.

4. CTC Update (PW)

- Approx 900 contact tracers nationwide.
- Blackrock CT tracking Brazilian cases and Brazilian travellers into Ireland.
- Overall case numbers dropping, and a decrease in cases in healthcare workers (@ 4.6% now).
- Severity of cases decreasing.
- Supply of vaccine will determine if younger age groups (students) will be vaccinated.

5. NVRL Update (LR)

- Testing ongoing, but numbers of tests being received decreasing and numbers of positive cases reducing.

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- Mostly seeing UK variant, with some SA strain and very little of the Brazilian strain.
- Expect to see continued improvement as vaccine rollout progresses.

6. AOB

- PC has received an enquiry from UCD Res if East/West Halls in Blackrock can be reopened next year. This accommodation contains shared bathrooms (approx. 10-15 students) and kitchens; due to its pricing plan these accommodation halls are very popular with international students. It was deemed not appropriate for use during COVID-19 by the Medicine Sub Group at a meeting in 2020. PC will request UCD Res to make a formal submission and the issue will be kept on the M&PHSG agenda for consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd March at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 38 – 23rd March 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Apologies

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

The Chair thanked Prof Last for chairing the last meeting on her behalf.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and considered an accurate record of the meeting and were adopted.

2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative - Update (SM)
 - SM confirmed the rapid testing pilot will commence Wednesday, 24th March, with Dr. Gerald Barry overseeing the initiative. It is expected to start with low numbers (approx. 35) which will ramp up gradually.
 - SM clarified that individuals that receive a + antigen test result are eligible for the free, state PCR test; this is published HSE policy and has been confirmed with Dr Derval Igoe at HPSC. Individuals who receive a + antigen test result will be advised to contact SHS or their GP to be referred for a PCR test.
 - SM confirmed that work related contacts wearing full PPE will not be required to absent themselves from work pending PCR test result in index case. Household and/or external contacts should follow HSE PH guidance for close contacts of suspected cases awaiting a PCR result.

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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- The algorithm developed was approved (with an adjustment following UCD social distance protocol) by the Medicine & Public Health Sub Group.
 - **Action:** MOC to circulate agreed algorithm, consent form and information leaflet.
- The new nurse practitioner will provide support/assistance to the pilot initiative.
- Appointment of nurse practitioner (PC)
 - Marita Kilroe started in the role as contact tracing nurse practitioner on 08/03/21 (on a 3-day week).
 - PC, EL and JL to discuss what days/duties Nurse Kilroe will carry out at SHS.
 - **Action:** PC, EL, JL to follow up.

3. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - No update to report.
- II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - No cases to report this week. SHS conducted 8 assessments for which 2 tests were ordered.
 - PC reported there have been no cases in Residence since time of the last M&PHSG meeting.
 - 3 staff cases (onsite during infection period); no transmission reported.
- III. Vaccination rollout updates
 - National vaccination plan continuing following some recent disruption.
 - Vaccinations for Health Science students through institutional placements ongoing.
- IV. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests
 - Contact has been initiated between CH06 and UCD to explore possibility of using UCD facilities as mass vaccination centre, and an initial scoping meeting has been scheduled with JL, PJB and the CH06 liaison on Monday (27th March).
 - EL noted SHS do not expect to be running a GP-based vaccination clinic pending further HSE clarification after the over 70s programme is complete.
- V. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative
 - CK noted that the UCD Healthy Ireland campaign may be used as the vehicle to deliver mental health/wellbeing programmes for students when there is a return to campus.

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VI. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements

- National quarantine arrangements have now been legislated for arrivals from specific countries.
- International students may come from countries with certifications of vaccination.
- China has introduced a strict 3-tier entry process:
 - 2 weeks self-isolation in home country prior to travel,
 - 2 weeks quarantine in government facility upon arrival in China, and two further weeks at home
 - Allowing entry to travellers with Sinovac vaccination only.

VII. HSE proposal on COVID-19 surveillance among third level students

- The President has received an email from Dr Breda Smyth, which he asked CK to discuss further with the Medicine & Public Health Sub Group. Dr. Smyth is Director of Public Health in HSE West in Galway and has been requested by the Minister for HEIs and the Chief Executive of SFI to design a research study to assist with the development a COVID-19 surveillance system in third level students.

The study being suggested will be a mixed methods study incorporating qualitative and quantitative data. It will be a comparative study of testing modalities in the landscape of ascertaining covid surveillance in the student population. There will be exploration of statistical techniques to interpret the surveillance data to develop an early warning system. There will also be a Health Technology Assessment across the different testing modalities which should assist with economic evaluation and policy decisions in the future. The study, being time sensitive, will involve testing a cross-sectional sample of the student and staff population weekly for 10 weeks (April-June), with evidence(outputs) anticipated in July/Aug so that surveillance can be considered in this population for the next academic year.

UCD and other universities (TCD, UCC, NUIG) are being invited as Strategic Partners.

JL noted that participation might depend on how the study will be put in place and that typically UCD would have students on campus over the summer period.

The M&PHSG strongly endorsed UCD's engagement in the proposed study and CK will act as the liaison in the first instance.

- **Action:** CK to report back to M&PHSG with further information, Steering Committee membership, etc.

VIII. Use of East/West Accommodation in AY 2021-22 (PC)

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee

Meeting No. 38 – 23rd March 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- A map and images of the East West Halls in Blackrock were circulated ahead of the meeting following a request by Estates to PC if this accommodation block can be used next AY.
- The accommodation features shared kitchens; joint, shared, toilet and shower facilities, no *ensuite* rooms (bedrooms contain hand basins).
- The committee agreed it would not endorse reopening these halls in the current environment - in their current configuration - given the pandemic situation has not changed materially since last year. It was agreed the request could be reviewed again in 3 months.
- It was noted that there are 1,000 additional beds available in the new student village.

4. CTC Update (PW)

- No update

5. AOB

- None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6th April at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 39 – 6th April 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, considered an accurate record of the meeting and were adopted.

2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative
 - SM advised that the pilot initiative is working smoothly so far, and no positive cases have been identified.
 - Extending the rapid testing initiative to run an additional 2 weeks after the formal 6-week pilot until the end of T2 is being considered by SVM.

Observations

- CK suggested in response to SM the report by Dr Barry be prepared/presented at the end of the 6 week pilot, and the group agreed with the intention to extend until the end of term – sending a letter to the Chair of the REC to advise of this 2 week extension. There are two reasons for this, firstly the outcome of the pilot analysis would not yet be available and secondly programme is providing reassurance to staff and students.
 - CK noted that participation in the pilot is crucial based on International experience.
- Action:* Dr Barry to be invited to future M&PH meeting to present findings of pilot.
- HSE proposal on COVID-19 surveillance among third level students

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- Following her update at the last meeting of the correspondence received by the President from Dr. Breda Smyth, Director HSE (West), CK advised that this will be a formal SFI application. Campuses have had differing experiences to date with more widespread student case numbers and outbreaks in some e.g. NUIG/UL.
- UCD remains committed to engaging with the suggested project and CK will follow up on what resource commitment is entailed and how proposal might add to the measures UCD already has in place.
- A research consortium made up of public health, clinical and laboratory scientists from TCD, UCD, UCC and led by NUIG is preparing a formal application to SFI to fund the public health campus approach, which would be supplemented with in-kind institutional funding.

3. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - No update to report.
- II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - Two cases were reported this week. The unrelated cases occurred in the same School (in CoS), with casual contacts only – all of whom were in fact tested and received no COVID detected results.
- III. Vaccination rollout updates
 - GP practices have been called on by the HSE to ‘opt-in’ to a vaccine scheme for those in categories 4A & 7 (very high risk and high risk).
 - EL advised that SHS have ‘opted-in’, and it was suggested that, in the first instance, Marita Kilroe liaise with HSE representative Lisa Marie to plan next steps. A further meeting with JL and EL will be arranged thereafter.
 - A letter was sent on 26th March from Dr Colm Henry to the Presidents of HEIs indicating that any healthcare students eligible for the vaccine but refusing to have it should be withdrawn from placement. A comprehensive response was put in place and the relevant CHAS Schools are managing such cases locally.
- IV. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests
 - No update to report.
- V. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative
 - No update to report.
- VI. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements
 - Will it be possible for students who have had their first vaccine in their home country to receive their second vaccine in Ireland?

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UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
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Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- There is no national policy on this issue at this time, but the university would endeavour to ensure these students' vaccine programme would be completed, as they are likely to be Health Sciences students eligible for vaccination in the main.
- PW & CK to check through School of Medicine & RUMC what vaccine is being administered to Malaysian students who would be travelling here. Dose 1 & 2 of vaccine should be same brand. *Action:* CK/PW to follow up.
- It is expected incoming students from China will be fully vaccinated according to their own country protocol prior to travelling here.

4. CTC Update

- Dr Hannah Ryan has been appointed by HSE as the new Centre Coordinator and operations are running smoothly.

5. AOB

- None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 20th April at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 40 – 20th April 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK)

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Dr. Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Circulation List

Attendees/Apologies

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, considered an accurate record of the meeting and were adopted.
- Matters Arising:
 - Dr. Gerald Barry will attend the M&PHSG meeting on 4th May to make a report on the SVMH rapid testing initiative.
 - RUMC advised CK that a similar vaccine schedule to Ireland is being implemented in Malaysia.

2. Provision for onsite testing and other supports

- Veterinary Hospital rapid testing initiative
 - SM advised that the pilot initiative, now in its 5th week (of 6), is progressing very smoothly. Testing is done twice weekly, with approx. 75-100 participants per session. No positive cases have been identified to date.
 - It was noted that there is some variability in participation by staff and students, with a higher uptake by staff. A questionnaire/survey is being prepared to ascertain rationale behind full/partial/no participation in the initiative. The critical impact and consequences of a positive result for a final year student was acknowledged.

Observations

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 40 – 20th April 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- It was suggested that that the discussion around extending the initiative should be held off until the next meeting when Dr. Barry will be able to present results and an evidence-based decision can be considered.
- SM noted that lead in time to order additional tests would be required if the pilot were to be extended.
- HSE proposal on COVID-19 surveillance among third level students
 - CK reported that a formal SFI application is being made by the 4 partner institutions – UCD, TCD, UL and NUIG – being led by Dr. Breda Smyth, Director, HSE West. The project will have 7 Work Packages – looking systematically at permutations of rapid antigen testing, and at sequencing/novel diagnostic protocols.
 - UMT has approved the project in principle and a letter of support has been sent from President to SFI.
 - The local research team will include Prof Grace Mulcahy, Dr. Gerald Barry, Dr. Shea Fanning with Prof Paddy Mallon as PI. Prof Cecily Kelleher will be the UMT representative on the Steering Committee, with input from the M&PHSG and possibly additional representation on the SC from this group.
 - CK reiterated that the University’s experience and practices over the last year will be reflected in the project, noting the project could capitalise on experiences and lessons learned over the last year – Contact Tracing Centre, SVMH pilot, etc.
 - The application deadline is 1st May 2021 and the project will roll-out over 12months. The ‘scientific’ strand will be around diagnostics/ analysis, the ‘operational’ strand will guide a safe reopening/return to campus.

3. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - Student Declaration Form
 - The Student Declaration Form, agreed to by students at registration, was updated previously for T1&2 and was reviewed for T3 registering students.
 - The symptoms list was reviewed and considered accurate according to the HSE algorithm. **Action:** LR to confirm symptoms list to MOC/JL.
 - Some updates around terminology were recommended, e.g. replace ‘EU Traffic Lights’ with ‘designated states’. **Action:** MOC to edit language and update links.
 - Link to the government ‘Mandatory Hotel Quarantine’ has been added and it was suggested that reference also be included regarding those travelling to Ireland who are fully vaccinated prior to arrival. **Action:** MOC to update.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 40 – 20th April 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- The President's Office received an email query from an administrator raising concerns about the university's preparedness to reopen. CK to forward query to PC/SIRC for follow-up. PC/SIRC to review FAQs. *Action:* CK/PC

- II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - PC advised 3 cases on campus were reported at the end of last week, with 1 related off-campus case. Two unrelated cases occurred in the same School (in CoE&A), with a number of close contacts, all were tested – no 'covid detected' results had been returned at the time of the meeting. The 3rd case was contract staff; one close contact (off campus) returned a 'covid detected' result, other contacts who were tested did not.

- III. Vaccination rollout updates
 - The national vaccine rollout is progressing and it is anticipated that 4-5 of designated cohorts will be vaccinated by June. The 18-50 age group will be the final cohort to be vaccinated which covers the majority of the student population.
 - Further to her update at the last meeting EL advised that SHS will remain 'opted-in' to the HSE vaccine scheme for those in categories 4A & 7. An expression of interest message will be posted on the SHS website. Students self-identifying in those categories can send a text message (character limit) and will receive a triage follow-up call to determine suitability. It is expected that a small number of vaccines will be allocated to SHS.
 - CK reported that she received an update from Prof Tim Lynch CAO on IEHG discussions on vaccination rollout, with a suggestion for a follow-up meeting between TL, JL, CK and Paul Gallagher, CNO with IEHG with responsibility for the healthcare worker and NH rollout about whether/how UCD might engage with next stage of vaccination programme. *Action:* CK office to organise meeting.
 - A message will cascade to relevant schools with staff who may wish to volunteer as vaccinators.
 - EL reported chilblains being observed as COVID-19 symptom.

- IV. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests
 - No additional update to report.

- V. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative
 - The UCD Healthy campus initiative will be involved with and used as a platform for mental health and wellbeing promotions / campaigns / messages for students returning to campus, and will engage with the Dean of Students on this.

- VI. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements
 - It was suggested a conversation take place with Julian Bostridge (Legal)/Ulrike Kolch (DPO), including Douglas Proctor (Global) and either PC/CK/EL or JL to consider what system the university might put in place to determine vaccine legitimacy/document register. *Action:* PC/CK/EL/JL

4. CTC Update

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 40 – 20th April 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- PW noted that the contact tracing process is very effective now and the system is not overpowered. Sequencing work will help identify new strains. Overall numbers are low and severity of symptoms appear milder.

5. AOB

- None

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 4th May at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 41 – 4th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK), **Dr. Peter Coulahan**, Director of SIRC (PC), **Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick**, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF), **Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght**, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL), **Professor Simon More**, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM), **Dr. Lillian Rajan**, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)
Miss Dawn Slattery, CHAS College Office, secretarial support

Apologies

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, considered an accurate record of the meeting, and were adopted.
- Matters Arising:
 - LR confirmed symptom list to MOC/JL.
 - MOC edited language and updated links on the student declaration form.
 - CK and JL to discuss UCD Vaccinations and the IEHG with Prof Tim Lynch CAO and Paul Gallagher, CNO next week, a preliminary meeting with CK/ JL and Prof Tim Lynch will take place this evening.
 - A meeting to be confirmed to take place with Julian Bostridge (Legal)/Ulrike Kolch (DPO), PC/CK/EL and JL to discuss the vaccination passport.

2. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - Media Inquiry
 - CK noted a recent query from Conor Capplis, of the College Tribune regarding M&PH committee membership. This list and terms of reference were forwarded through Dominic Martella in Communications office. Queries for interview were since received; **Action:** CK, JL and Dominic Martella will follow-up.
 - HoS have reviewed campus re-opening at their meeting with the President and Registrar. The assumptions include that the campus might have sufficient protections in place (i.e. high levels of adult population vaccination) allowing for a new normal campus experience or for a blended learning environment similar to the current situation

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 41 – 4th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- It was suggested that the recent communication from the Registrar, around planning, required more explicit direction. CK to raise this with UMT. *Action:* CK
- II. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
- PC advised 6 cases on campus were reported at the end of last week. The outbreak occurred within a cohort of first years [REDACTED]. The students were in pods of 4-5 with a total of 16 pods. Transmission occurred due to lunch time congregation. One positive student went home which led to positive cases off campus. PC noted a schematic map of spread as well as an animated GIF has been put together of the outbreak for students and staff. Communications to be issued to students around the need for cautiousness as the term comes to a close and students begin to return home.
- III. Vaccination rollout updates
- The national vaccine rollout is progressing, EL noted they are due to vaccinate category 4 students and get a supply of the Pfizer vaccine to do so on May 17th.
 - CK reported that a meeting is scheduled for the 13th of May between TL, JL, CK and Paul Gallagher, CNO with IEHG about whether/how UCD might engage with next stage of vaccination programme
- IV. Estates update on HSE and IMO requests
- No additional update to report.
- V. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative
- Meetings are taking place around student mental health supports ahead of student return to campus. A meeting with Jason Last and Patricia Fitzpatrick is to take place next week to discuss how mental health can be promoted and what supports/ services can be put in place.
Action: PF/JL
- VI. T2 and 2021/22 International Students Arrangements
- A meeting to be confirmed to take place with Julian Bostridge (Legal)/Ulrike Kolch (DPO), PC/CK/EL and JL to discuss the vaccination passport.
- 3. HSE proposal on COVID-19 surveillance among third level students**
- CK reported there is no update regarding the SFI application being made by the 4 partner institutions – UCD, TCD, UL and NUIG – being led by Dr. Breda Smyth, Director, HSE West. CK has written to Dr. Smyth and is currently awaiting a response.
- 4. CTC Update**
- No additional updates.
- 5. AOB**

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 41 – 4th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th May at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 42 – 18th May 2021, 1pm
Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In Attendance

Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK), **Dr.**

Professor Jason Last, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL)

Peter Coulahan, Director of SIRC (PC)

Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF)

Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL)

Professor Simon More, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM)

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

Ms. Maeve O'Connell, College of Science/Monitoring Group Support

Invited contributor: Dr. Cathal O'Broin, SVH/UCD School of Medicine

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, considered an accurate record of the meeting and were adopted.
- Matters Arising:
 - All actions from last meeting have been followed up.

2. SFI COVID-19 Surveillance proposal, Dr. Cathal O'Broin, St. Vincent's Hospital

Dr. O'Broin was invited to provide an update and overview to the M&PHSG regarding the SFI-funded campus surveillance project. The concept of the project is 2-armed; total minimum of 2,000 participants over two 8 week periods. 1st arm is to recruit 200 participants in each 8-week period (June-July and September-October) and test participants using salivary, LAMP, rapid antigen and pharyngeal testing;

- 2nd arm is surveillance consisting of 4 2-week surveillance periods. Surveillance participants will be randomly selected, some participants might not be selected others may be selected more than once. (800 participants)
- Sewage testing and epidemiology will also be part of the 2nd, surveillance, arm.
- Participants in the project will be recruited via a specially designed app (existing UCC app being adapted for this purpose – Michael Byrne leading this).
- Swab tests will be dropped off by participants at designated centres.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 42 – 18th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- UCD SU is working with the UCD clinical team to spread the message amongst the student body, advocating engagement to help create a safer campus for the future.
- UCD Team looking for IT support to work out aspects of the back- and front-end network for the overall project (not just UCD component). Low-level workload (log-on / register interest) could be completed by student/postgrad; funding available.
- David Kearns (UCD Communications) and SU involved in messaging and development of logo to attract student engagement.
- Data protection will be key priority and participants will be required to sign consent.
- Ethics approval being submitted to UCD REC shortly once SOP signed off.

Observations/Questions

- JL – will liaise with colleagues for suitable IT support recommendation. It was noted that given the broad base of students found across UCD selecting the right advocate is crucial. Action: JL
- EL – noted there has been a high degree of engagement and involvement by Student Health in other universities, who would be carrying out these functions for UCD? CoB noted that all work would be carried out at SVH. EL advised that UCD SH happy to support if required.
- PW observed that good engagement by students will be crucial for a successful project.
- SM – SVMH recently ran a 6-week rapid antigen testing pilot. The main area of concern was around participation; approx. 90% take up by staff, 25% in final year clinical students. Reluctance within the student population was assumed to be connected to possible cost with testing +, i.e., missing placements, exams, etc.
- Dr. O’Broin noted that thorough messaging and communications around positive/negative tests has been underscored for the project and the overall project has full support of relevant national agencies and expert groups (NPHT, HIQA, HSE etc).
- PC queried if collection points be located on campus – logistics involved. Ensure clear messaging to participants around steps to take if positive result.
- PF – Suggest use of social media platforms to capture attention of student participants. Happy to share on Healthy Ireland FB page. Colleagues in HI team would be willing to assist with practical and logistics help.
- Dr. O’Broin noted funding is available through the project for a ½ time research nurse. CK noted that project research nurse should be put in touch with Marita Kilroe, internal contact tracing nurse in SIRC.

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee
Meeting No. 42 – 18th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- Dr. O’Broin confirmed for LR that UCD will be conducting salivary and LAMP testing, TCD using salivary and PCR.
- Dr. O’Broin noted that people who have had COVID-19 in the last 6 months will be excluded from the project. Vaccinated people will be eligible to participate. Participants who contract COVID-19 during the project can opt back in 10 days after last negative COVID test.

CK thanked Dr. O’Broin for attending the M&PHSG and reiterated that UCD fully supports the project and that the Medicine & Public Health Sub Group is available to support the UCD project team in any way it can.

3. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- I. IEHG/HSE proposal for onsite vaccination centre at UCD
 - CK reported that the university is in advanced negotiations with IEHG/HSE to open a vaccination centre in ORH, and if all goes to plan it should be open within the next 2 weeks. IEHG has indicated the centre will follow current referral protocols which may include category 4& 7 vaccinations and for the 18–49-year-old group as these come on stream.
 - The vaccination centre would be a designated HSE service facility, and anyone recruited to work there would have HSE contracts.
 - A centre Director will be appointed by the HSE.
 - PF advised that Prof. Chris Fitzpatrick, of Coombe University hospital was heavily involved in the set-up of one of the existing vaccination centres (developing SOPs, etc.) and would be happy to provide advice/insight on the centre’s set up.
 - It was noted that some delays might be incurred due to the recent cyber-attack on HSE systems, which have caused disruption to their communications systems.
- II. University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)
 - No recent updates to report.
- III. Vaccination rollout updates
 - EL reported that Student Health did the 1st batch of eligible category 4&7 students today. Expressions of interest continue to be received from students, via Instagram and SH will meet this demand as long as vaccine is available. The response to the programme has been very positive and EL noted the great contribution by Marita Kilroe to the exercise.
 - CK noted that CNO Paul Gallagher and colleagues in the IEHG are facilitating PH students at the AVIVA vaccination centre.
- IV. Campus COVID+ cases – Update
 - PC advised that no new cases have been reported since the outbreak [REDACTED] 2 weeks ago – even with testing of international students prior to travelling home. Expecting numbers on campus to drop off over the summer period.
- V. UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative

Minutes

UCD COVID-19 Medicine and Public Health Committee

Meeting No. 42 – 18th May 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

- PF and JL have met to discuss student supports/mental health supports for students returning to campus.
- PF noted that mental health supports and services was the dominant topic in group projects in one of her modules. The ease or lack of/lack of awareness - of accessing services, or knowledge of what services are available to students was also flagged.

4. CTC Update

- CK/PW acknowledged that the link between UCD and the Blackrock CTC facility has enabled the fast turnaround of cases.
- Prof Mary Codd has recruited 3 new managers and a general manager to oversee operations of the Blackrock CTC.

5. AOB

- A meeting to discuss Vaccine Passports is scheduled with UCD Legal and the DPO next Monday, 24th May. CK reiterated that need for reciprocity and recognition of international vaccines is being lobbied to high-level groups including HEA.
- PC noted that the request by the HSE to set up a 'pop-up' test centre on campus has not progressed further than the initial inquiry despite follow-up by UCD.
- CK announced that Maeve O'Connell will be taking up a new role in the College of Science, as Alumni Liaison, and as such will no longer be supporting the Medicine & Public Health Sub Group. The group wished her well in her new endeavour and Maeve was thanked for her excellent support to this and other university COVID-19 committees over the last 12+ months.
- Support for future M&PHSG meetings will be provided by a member of CHAS administration team.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 1st June at 1pm, zoom <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>, unless urgent business requires the Chair to call a meeting/email correspondence in the interim.



COVID 19 Medicine and Public Health Committee Sub Group

Minutes

1st June 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In attendance: **Professor Cecily Kelleher**, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK), **Professor Jason Last**, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL) **Dr. Peter Coulahan**, Director of SIRC (PC), **Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick**, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF), **Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght**, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL), **Professor Simon More**, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM),

Beth Kilkenny, CHAS College Office, secretarial support

Apologies

Dr. Lillian Rajan, Deputy Director at NVRL (LR)

Professor Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW)

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes from the previous meeting on 18th May were approved.

It was agreed to post minutes online as with the other COVID-19 committee minutes.

2. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

- (a) All HoS have been asked by Registry to produce plans regarding campus re-opening for the next academic year. Public Health guidance at the time will inform planning.
- (b) CK noted a meeting of the UMT subgroup is taking place next week to discuss back to work protocols.
- (c) SFI COVID-19 surveillance proposal:

A steering group has now been convened chaired by Prof Paddy Mallon which includes some members from this group (JL, CK, PF).

At a recent meeting there was a comprehensive run through of protocol. It was noted that anybody identified as a case through this process should also inform the Estates number as standard for tracking purposes.

PC requested SIRC see copy of final protocol following UCD REC review; he will email Cathal O’Broin directly with request copying in CK and JL. JL noted ethical approval is still to be processed.

- **IEHG/HSE proposal for onsite vaccination centre at UCD**

CK informed the group that the IEHG/HSE vaccination centre at UCD O'Reilly Hall will open 2nd June. Staff at the centre will be employed and managed through the HSE. A Clinical Director will be identified via ID consultant team at SVUH.

A query re Senior Pharmacist support has also been received. EL will discuss with pharmacist on campus and revert.

- **University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)**

No update

- **Campus COVID+ cases – Update**

No update

- **International Students Arrangements**

- No update

- **UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative**

No update.

3. CTC Update

No update.

4. Vaccine Passport

A meeting took place on Monday 24th May at which some members of this group were present, minutes have been circulated. Dr Ulrike Kolch will circulate further summary email on GDPR principles.

5. Vaccination FAQs

An FAQ drafted by PC had been pre-circulated to the group. PC noted he had been receiving feedback via the UCD Covid Consultative Committee that there were concerns around return to campus from employees, particularly regarding vaccination status. This document would be posted online early in the summer after sign-off by UMT sub-group to prepare people in advance of return to campus.

The FAQs will be revised in line with any new or changing public health evidence.

All to feedback comments to PC who will provide updated version at the next meeting.

6. AOB



COVID 19 Medicine and Public Health Committee Sub Group

Minutes

15th June 2021, 1pm

Zoom Link: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/63990929993>

In attendance: **Professor Cecily Kelleher**, College Principal, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (Chair) (CK), **Professor Jason Last**, Dean of Students (Vice Chair) (JL) **Professor Patrick Wall**, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PW) **Dr. Peter Coulahan**, Director of SIRC (PC), **Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick**, Full Professor of Epidemiology and Biomedical Statistics, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (PF), **Dr. Eadaoin Lysaght**, Acting Director of Student Health Services (EL), **Professor Simon More**, Full Professor of Vet Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, School of Veterinary Medicine (SM),

Beth Kilkenny, CHAS College Office, secretarial support

Apologies

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes from the previous meeting on 1st June were approved.

CK noted Dr Lillian Rajan will be stepping down as moving to another role. Thanks for her contribution were noted by the group.

CK had most helpful liaison with Procure Pharmacy UCD colleague regarding the request by IEHG, as discussed at last meeting.

2. Campus Re-opening and Other Matters

HSE/IEHG Vaccination centre has opened and is rolling out effectively. EL noted students have been in touch now there is a vaccination centre at UCD inquiring re vaccination. They are being advised it is an IEHG/HSE centre and therefore vaccination is based on age cohort call-up as per national roll out.

SFI COVID-19 surveillance proposal: The Steering group is proceeding to meet fortnightly. They have been asked to engage with technological universities, CK recommended to Prof Paddy Mallon Technological University Dublin might be appropriate partner.

- University response to National Framework (Level 1 - 5 restrictions)

No update

- Campus COVID+ cases – Update

Two cases have been reported, they are unconnected. The relevant HoS will issue an email, and anyone who is concerned can avail of free PCR testing at a walk-in centre. There was also one case of a staff member, with no close contacts.

- International Students Arrangements

FAQs available online.

Vaccine reciprocity issue ongoing. Currently UCD Global message advocates vaccination before travel, in line with HEA position. It was agreed a watching eye will need to be kept on this matter.

- UCD Healthy Ireland campus initiative

No update.

3. CTC Update

PW notes CTC remains busy. Tracing mostly focused on flights, particularly if a variant of concern is suspected.

4. Vaccine Passport

Document from Dr Ulrike Kolch was pre-circulated outlining data protection issues of recording vaccination status. It was noted that this question is currently being asked only in principle should a situation arise where it was necessary to enquire of someone's vaccine or at-risk status.

5. Vaccination FAQs

After previous input from this group and approval by UMT sub-group, an updated version of the FAQs was circulated for final approval.

CK noted to change text to 'selected universities and third level institutions.'

It was noted that 'increased' ventilation was decided as appropriate phrasing.

The FAQs were agreed upon and approved.

6. AOB

Next meeting is scheduled for 29th June. During summer meetings will take place on an adhoc basis as required.