

## Minutes: Technical Advisory Group for COVID-19

<b>Date:</b>	Friday 10 July 2020
<b>Time:</b>	10.30am – 12.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Meeting
<b>Chair:</b>	Dr Ian Town
<b>Members:</b>	Dr Sally Roberts, Prof Michael Baker, Prof Stephen Chambers, Dr Nigel Raymond, Dr Shanika Perera, Dr David Murdoch, Dr Collin Tukuitonga, Dr Patricia Priest, Dr Erasmus Smit, Dr Bryan Betty
<b>Ministry of Health Attendees:</b>	Dr Harriette Carr, Dr Tomasz Kiedrzyński, Dr Juliet Rumball-Smith, Asad Abdullahi, Margaret Broodkorn, Louise Chamberlain, Sarah Mitchell
<b>Guests</b>	Therese Egan
<b>Apologies:</b>	Dr Caroline McElnay, Dr Anja Werno, Dr Virginia Hope, Dr Matire Harwood, Dr Richard Jaine, Dr Niki Stefanogiannis, Andi Shirtcliffe

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>Dr Ian Town welcomed all Members, Attendees and Guests in his capacity as Chair of the Technical Advisory Group for COVID-19.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting (26 June 2020) were accepted.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Update on open actions</b></p> <p>Open actions updated. Action 56 closed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Health update on COVID-19 response</b></p> <p>The Chair gave an update on current issues being worked on in the Ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly appointed Minister of Health very engaged and seeking assurances on the management of MIQ risks. MBIE oversight group and Ministry are working with DHBs to develop standard national operating protocols and procedures for MIQ facilities. Ministry very aware of the high-risk situation and the pressure currently on staff to reduce risks in the MIQ area.</li> <li>• Discussions with Melbourne officials on their containment processes, observations, lessons learnt will take place over the next few days.</li> <li>• Marine border protocols are being adjusted to provide stricter controls</li> <li>• Ministry is considering wider national sentinel testing. Current Testing Strategy being updated; sector engagement currently in progress.</li> <li>• A regular update to sector will be provided on proposed changes to Testing Strategy for the week ahead and rationale for changes.</li> <li>• Epidemiology Subgroup will be consulted on updated Testing Strategy</li> </ul> <p>TAG feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPs are experiencing strong resistance to testing from the public. Any communications must give clear rationale for surveillance testing requirements. Lack of clarity over why the</li> </ul>

	<p>present surveillance strategy has been chosen as opposed to a structured ILI type approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Issue has been escalated within the AOG team and Ministry Media Team and is being worked on</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lab issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ COVID-19 testing form does not provide option for surveillance; resulting in assumption that the tests are not funded</li> <li>○ Require clarification on testing volumes – unnecessary volume of testing being carried out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noted there is no set number of tests that must be achieved each day</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Resurgence Planning</b></p> <p>The Chair discussed the current planning underway to prepare the sector for a possible resurgence of cases; including operational response planning and preparedness strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Draft Resurgence Plan due to be presented to Executive Leadership Team next week</li> <li>● Principles will be shared with TAG for feedback</li> <li>● Thresholds and trigger levels will be refined as a guideline (not widely socialised due to potential implications)</li> <li>● Use of masks to be formally investigated as part of Level 2 control measures</li> </ul> <p>TAG feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Query whether more granular alert levels are being considered eg: giving ability to shut down high risk areas if required</li> <li>● Important to be able to be flexible within alert levels and ability to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hierarchy controls currently being led by AOG – considering balance between Public Health benefit and economic impact. Multiple agencies have accountabilities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Need to ensure good relationships and communications between all agencies involved and how modelling is being used to drive their responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Modelling now required is complex eg: anonymous personal data. Privacy assurance process required</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Currently network risk modelling is being developed by Shaun Hendy and his team</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Vaccine Strategy</b></p> <p>TAG was presented with an overview of the development of the Vaccine Strategy for discussion and input.</p> <p>Additional points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MBIE coordinating research; focused on international relationships</li> <li>● Manufacturing – upgrading procedures to bring up to human GMP standards for human manufacture; will be useful even if isn't used for NZ vaccine</li> <li>● Regulation – working on expedited approvals processes through Medsafe</li> <li>● Purchasing – funding has been committed through Covax facility promoted by vaccine alliance – they are likely to have arrangements with group of 10 or so vaccine manufacturers; aiming to supply vaccine for 20% of global population</li> </ul> <p>TAG feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Query on whether measurable outcomes or targets will be set in Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Too soon yet to set targets. Immunisation Programme will be developed over the coming weeks</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Is NZ vaccine manufacture realistic, given international manufacture capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ not entirely tied to achieving vaccine manufacture in NZ</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Aerosol generating procedures</b></p>

	<p>TAG considered background, IPC advice and previous TAG recommendation, taken as read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle has been agreed and IPC advice provided. Clear communications required, to allay people's concerns of what is mostly a small risk ie: what is AGP, how is it managed; noting this is broader than PPE</li> <li>• Respiratory group has taken precautionary approach. Their concern about the rationale for the use of nebulisers is not a COVID-19 issue.</li> </ul> <p>TAG feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistency of wording eg nebuliser droplet vs air borne needs to be clarified</li> <li>• IPC advice is foundational advice. Development of national network to inform future IPC policies is to be progressed</li> <li>• Nebulisers are no longer thought to be as risky as previously thought. In light of technical advice, and international evidence, Ministry guidance should be refreshed and aligned. All guidance must include clear rationale</li> </ul> <p>TAG recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear communications to sector required; Ministry guidance to be refreshed and aligned</li> </ul>
7.0	<p><b>Review of TAG and Subgroup Structure</b></p> <p>Further discussions to be held with Subgroup Chairs next week, following agreement of new structure from DDG</p>
8.0	<p><b>Māori health perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update given</li> </ul>
9.0	<p><b>Pacific health perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update given</li> </ul>
10.0	<p><b>Subgroup verbal updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates given</li> </ul>
10.0	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other business discussed</li> </ul>
11.0	<p><b>Agenda items for next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No items discussed</li> </ul>
12.0	<p><b>New Action Items raised during meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No actions raised</li> </ul>
13.0	<p><b>Summary of TAG Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerosol generating procedures - clear communications to sector required; Ministry guidance to be refreshed and aligned</li> </ul>
14.0	<p>Meeting closed at 11.40am Next meeting <b>Friday 24 July</b> 10.30am – 11.30am</p>

Action #	Agenda item	Actions	Action Owner	Updates	Status
56	Results of TAG structure review	Provide any further feedback on outcome of TAG structure review to Louise Chamberlain via email within the next week	All Members	10/07 – Feedback received. Action closed 26/06 – Action raised	Closed

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