# MN-CMS EHR Disaster Recovery (DR) Testing (2022)

The MN-CMS EHR Disaster Recovery (DR) Solution is a documented, structured plan which describes how the HSE, together with Cerner, can recover access to MN-CMS after an unplanned incident in the Primary Data Centre as quickly as possible. The aim of the MN-CMS DR plan is to minimise the interruption to critical processes and is an essential element of Business Continuity Management (BCM).

The MN-CMS DR Solution has been comprehensibly tested to identify, remediate or mitigate gaps in the MN-CMS DR environment.

**MN-CMS DR Activation Testing.**

Prior to the 2021 HSE cyber-attack, the basic functionality of activating the MN-CMS DR environment was successfully tested (Phase I).

Phase I DR Activation Testing included:

1. Communication test: ensuring that the MN-CMS programme, together with colleagues in the HSE eHealth & Disruptive Technology Office and Cerner, could work through the process of declaring and managing a disaster /critical incident
2. Technical test: ensuring that Cerner could perform a failover from the Primary Data Centre to the Secondary Data Centre in a timely fashion

Following the cyber-attack further in-depth testing was carried out through Phases II and III.

Phases II and III DR testing included:

1. Interface testing
2. Full functionality testing of the DR environment

Testing of Phases I, II and III proved crucial in order to systematically identify and address previously unknown gaps in the MN-CMS DR environment and has subsequently provided confidence in the current DR solution with its enhanced functionality and knowledge of and/or mitigations for residual gaps.

DR Activation Testing also provided clarity on what is achievable, including testing limitations and timeframes for restoration of services in the event of a real disaster[[1]](#footnote-1).

**MN-CMS DR Activation Testing Benefits**

Following DR Activation Testing Phases I, II and III the DR environment capabilities have vastly improved.

1. A full DR activation testing report of Phases I, II, III, is available. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)