



Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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Deputy Darren O'Rourke
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 40878/20 To ask the Minister for Health the contact tracing and follow-up situation for a person who is normally resident in the north of Ireland, but flies into Dublin airport and travels across the border to the north; if this person will be followed-up by contact tracing teams based either in the north or in the south; if he is satisfied the level of follow-up checks on those required to restrict their movements is sufficient; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

When a person who is resident in Northern Ireland (NI), flies into Dublin airport, travels to Northern Ireland, and is subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19, this person is notified to the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) by the NI contact tracing centre (CTC).

HPSC is Ireland's WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point for communications on infectious diseases with other countries, as well as the European Union Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) national contact point for communicating with other Member States of the European Union and the UK.

HPSC then contacts the Department of Public Health (DPH) East and requests that they contact trace the flight that landed in Dublin. Close contacts of the index case from the flight are identified by the Department of Public Health East using the flight manifest. Close contacts who are resident in Ireland are followed up by the Department of Public Health and Irish CTC. If the DPH East identifies any close contacts who are resident in Northern Ireland these close contacts are notified, via HPSC, to the NI CTC for follow up.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr John Cuddihy,
Interim Director of HPSC,
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