



**Children's Health Ireland**  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ)**, Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire  
**Children's Health Ireland (CHI)**, Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97, Ireland

Deputy Sorcha Clarke,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 42449/20**

"To ask the Minister for Health the spatial criteria for the separation of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 in paediatric Emergency Departments and the recommendations regarding meeting the criteria".

Dear Deputy Clarke,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response.

The controls in place include security control access directing patients and parents to Emergency Department (ED) reception twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. There is a visitor admittance process in place prior to entering ED which includes COVID-19 signage and checklist for people, signage restricting parent/guardians to one per patient.

Security encourage persons to use alcohol hand gel prior to entering. At entry (ED Reception) patients presenting for assessment are segregated into "positive COVID-19" and "non-COVID-19" parallel streams. Emergency Department Reception and nurse's station are protected by perspex screen. Seating in waiting room and in observation room have been marked off to allow social distancing. There is social distancing signage on floors.

Each bed space has been divided in both Observation and Treatment rooms and dividers have been inserted in each waiting room to increase waiting room capacity. Patient placement in single rooms where possible. Patients are at least one meter from each other.

Yours sincerely,

**Joe Gannon**  
**Chief Operations Officer**  
**Children's Health Ireland**  
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Mission – To promote and provide child-centered, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235

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