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Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 43038/20 To ask the Minister for Health the numbers of teachers, special needs assistants and classroom assistants who have contracted Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett

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

This response includes confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified up to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Data were extracted from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre's (HPSC) Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR) on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. CIDR is a dynamic system and case details may be updated at any time. Therefore, the data described here may differ from previously reported data and data reported for the same time period in the future.

**Please note:** Teachers reported to be on career breaks, currently unemployed, retired or on maternity leave were not included in this response. Cleaners, caretakers and kitchen staff were also not included. Other adult cases for whom occupation was not reported, but who were linked to school outbreaks or reported to work in a school, were included in this response. Occupation was not reported for all cases of COVID-19. Therefore the number of cases of COVID-19 in teachers and school staff who were not linked to school outbreaks may be underestimated. This response does not include staff in creches or playschools.

Of the 90,157 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> December:

- 260 cases (0.3% of all cases) worked in schools and were linked to a school outbreak (see table 1 for more detail)
- 292 cases (0.3% of all cases) worked in schools and were linked to an outbreak outside of the school setting at a time when schools were open (see table 1 for more detail).
- 519 cases (0.6% of all cases) worked in schools and were not linked to a school outbreak or any other outbreak but were notified at a time when schools were open (see table 1 for more detail)
- A further 49 cases worked in schools but were notified at a time when schools were closed and were not linked to a school outbreak (see table 2 for more detail).

**Table 1. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in teachers, special needs assistants and classroom assistants working in primary, secondary or special schools in Ireland, occurring while schools were open (prior to 13<sup>th</sup> March and after 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020\***

| Outbreak status                                  | Teacher or student teacher | Special needs assistant, special education/learning support or classroom assistant | Principal or deputy principal | Secretary or administrator | School staff , occupation not specified | Total       |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Cases linked to a school outbreak                | 134                        | 36   | 4                             | 3                          | 83                                      | 260         |
| Cases linked to outbreaks in non-school settings | 224                        | 48   | 7                             | 4                          | 9                                       | 292         |
| Cases not linked to an outbreak                  | 427                        | 66   | 10                            | 6                          | 10                                      | 519         |
|  | <b>785</b>                 | <b>150</b>   | <b>21</b>                     | <b>13</b>                  | <b>102</b>                              | <b>1071</b> |

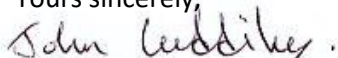
\*Cases occurring during the Christmas holiday period are included in this table as this was not an extended break and exposure could have occurred prior to school closure for Christmas.

**Table 2. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in teachers, special needs assistants, school administrators/secretaries and classroom assistants working in primary, secondary or special schools in Ireland, occurring while schools were closed (13<sup>th</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020)**

| Outbreak status                                  | Teacher or student teacher | Special needs assistant, special education/learning support or classroom assistant | Principal or deputy principal | Secretary or administrator | School staff , occupation not specified | Total     |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Cases linked to outbreaks in non-school settings | 15                         | 2  | 0                             | 0                          | 0                                       | 17        |
| Cases not linked to an outbreak                  | 31                         | 1  | 0                             | 0                          | 0                                       | 32        |
|  | <b>46</b>                  | <b>3</b>   | <b>0</b>                      | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                                | <b>49</b> |

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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**Dublin 1.**

MRN: 016227