



Deputy Louise O' Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

21st July 2020

Ref. PQ 14196/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated average theatre, operation and treatment time that will be lost per 12 hour period due to the need to clean theatres and suites after each procedure and treatment to ensure adherence to Covid-19 infection control measures.

Dear Deputy O' Reilly,

Response:

Patients having planned surgery are assessed and tested for COVID-19 pre-operatively as appropriate. Guidance to assist specific care settings including operating theatres, to implement the principles of standard precautions and transmission-based precautions for possible or confirmed COVID-19 cases are described in *Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting V.1.3* and can be accessed here:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/Infection%20Prevention%20and%20Control%20Precautions%20for%20Acute%20Settings%20-%20COVID-19.pdf>

Operating theatres are cleaned and equipment decontaminated or sterilised as per local guidelines. It is not possible to estimate average theatre, operation and treatment time that will be lost per 12 hour period due to additional cleaning of operating theatres related to COVID-19 infection control measures only as this will vary widely depending on types and duration of procedure and the patient characteristics.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan
| General Manager | Acute Operations AMRIC Lead |