



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
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14th July 2020

Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question 14422/20: *“To ask the Minister for Health when paediatric physiotherapy services will resume in a Dungloe Community Hospital, County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Donegal Physiotherapy Service is currently delivering physiotherapy care to priority and emergency patients only. The HSE is working to reintroduce the health services that were reduced or suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic whilst continuing to deliver COVID-19 specific services such as Community Testing and Community Assessment Hubs. Physiotherapy staff is involved in the delivery of these services.

The reintroduction of services includes making changes in services to ensure social distancing is possible to protect service users and staff. We also need to continue to implement strict infection prevention and control measures across our services. The risk of a second COVID-19 surge and local outbreaks are real and are being taken into account in our plans. As we resume services we are working to make sure that more patients can opt for telehealth and that they receive health care advice and guidance by video call with a health care professional. It also means more patients are being contacted directly before they come in for appointments and given clear instructions about what to expect.

The Physiotherapy Service is advancing preparations for the resumption of routine clinics and when these are complete and approved by the CHO1 Covid-19 Crisis Management Team, routine physiotherapy services and appointments will resume including those delivered in Dungloe Community Hospital.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot".

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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