



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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July 1st 2020,
Deputy James Browne,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ: 10977/20

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the need for mental health practitioners to check temperatures before entering the therapy room; if it is necessary that clients have their temperature checked; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 NPHE requires that all staff have their temperature measured twice a day, once being at the start of each shift:

Residential Care: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/residentialcarefacilities/>

Acute Hospitals: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/>

Recording of temperatures of staff presenting for work may also be of value in identifying staff with infection. There is no requirement to check patients' temperatures daily.

Currently there is no guidance for mental health practitioners to check temperatures before entering a therapy room. They may decide to complete this as an additional control measure, however they are not required to.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services