



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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6th July 2020,

**Deputy Stephen Donnelly,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.**

PQ: 10978/20

To ask the Minister for Health the measures taken to provide access for parents to see their children when children have been admitted to hospital, including psychiatric units, when the hospital has no visitation in place due to Covid-19.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 CAMHS inpatient services are considered Acute Units under the HPSC guidance. www.hpsc.ie.

The acute units are awaiting guidance on NPHE on allowing visitors currently. In the absence on NPHE guidance for acute Hospitals we must adhere to the "Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business", where it is noted:

In Phase 3 the 29th June, the following is advised:

- Commence a phased approach to visiting at hospital / residential healthcare centre / other residential settings etc., bearing in mind the particular features of types of settings and each individual centre, also considering personal protective equipment availability and other protections
- Phase 5 (This will now become Phase 4 20th July) Return to normal visiting for hospital / residential healthcare centre / other residential settings.

Management and staff of the CAMHS Inpatient services implemented a number of protective measures that currently remain in place and are constantly under review with our COVID-19 IPC Leads in conjunction with the wider MDT at each unit.

Measures include;

- Pre-booked visits to the unit which are restricted to parents/guardians only (the rationale for pre-booking visit is to limit the footfall on the unit at any one time)
- Pre visit COVID-19 symptom checklist completed by staff with visiting person(s)



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- On arrival to the unit visitors are requested to engage in IPC measures such as
 - COVID-19 Symptoms checklist
 - Hand sanitisation
 - Temperature checks
 - Visitors are requested to wear a face covering on entering the unit and for the duration of the visit
- Visits are accommodated in rooms that only allow for the compliance to appropriate social distancing recommendations for the number of people associated with the visit
- Rooms are cleaned by our hygiene maintenance contractor after each visit

While there is now some easing of restrictions, the clinical leads and teams are reviewing this on a constant basis moving between “visiting stages” for each unit. Virtual visits via various technology options are being provided where service users can contact their family/ carers throughout the day / week as clinically advisable. These include WhatsApp, Skype, and blue eye. In addition, visits may be facilitated dependent on a risk assessment and appropriate infection prevention and control measures put in place.

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