



Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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30th June 2020

Deputy Joan Collins
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: joan.collins@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ Number: 11054/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare workers that were on sick leave from work with Covid-19; the number of deaths among these workers; and the number of clients of these workers that became sick or died from Covid-19 due to exposure to the virus

Dear Deputy Collins

HSE National HR have advised that Home Care Workers (HCWs) are employed both by the HSE (under the category of "Patient & Client Care") and also both Private and Voluntary agencies. The HSE absenteeism records are only available for March 2020 but they show an increase in the absences in the Patient & Client Care category – which included Home Care Workers – exact details for this group of workers within the Patient & Client Care category are not available at present.

Data on sick leave are not available from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).

As of 15/06/2020, 11 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported to HPSC associated with home care workers and their clients. A total of 51 COVID-19 cases are linked to these outbreaks.

Of the 51 linked cases, 20 were reported as Health Care Worker (HCWs), 28 were not HCWs¹ and three did not have HCW status reported.

¹ Non-HCW cases may include the clients, family members of either the client or the HCW, or other types of employees of the home care providers who are not HCWs.



Of the 20 HCW cases associated with the 11 outbreaks linked to home care provision, none were reported as deceased.

Of the 28 non-HCW cases* associated with the 11 outbreaks linked to home care provision, six deaths were reported. All deaths were due to COVID-19 and occurred in cases aged 73-89 years old.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cuddihy".

Dr John Cuddihy
Interim Director
HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre
MRN: 016227

* Non-HCW cases may include the clients, family members of either the client or the HCW, or other types of employees of the home care providers who are not HCWs.