



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

17th July 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Shortall

PQ ref 13641/20: *To ask the Minister for Health the detail of the public health guidance provided to hospitals in relation to health and safety and infection control in both emergency departments and in outpatient clinics; the arrangements in place to ensure adherence to this guidance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

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.

HSE guidance on Infection Prevention and Control in acute hospitals is underpinned by HIQA standards for same which can be found on link below:
<https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2017-05/2017-HIQA-National-Standards-Healthcare-Association-Infections.pdf>

Guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control and Outbreak Management are published (see links below) and applied within individual hospitals according to service requirements as appropriate to each hospital department including Emergency Departments and Outpatients Departments:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/general/>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/general/noid-declaration-and-closure-of-an-outbreak-acute.pdf>

Infection Prevention and Control guidance relating to COVID-19 can be found on HPSC website on link below:

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

(Please note that guidance is continually updated in response to evidence and service requirements).

Application of guidance is managed locally by Management and Infection Prevention and Control Teams in Hospitals and supported by HCAI/IPC governance structures at Hospital

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

Group and National level. Any associated risks are managed in accordance with the *Escalation procedure for outbreaks/ incidents /situations of healthcare associated infection (HCAI)* <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/general/hse-hcai-escalation-procedure.pdf>

I trust that this is of assistance but if you have any other health and safety/ Infection Prevention and Control related queries please revert.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Dalchan', written in a cursive style.

pp Thérèse Dalchan
General Manager, Acute Operations