



Head of Service for Older People  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**  
Health Service Executive  
Model Business Park  
Model Farm Road  
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Oifig Cúraim Shóisialta  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Páirc Gnó Model  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme  
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02  
**T: 353 (0)21 4928748**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Minister Brendan Griffin T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 9722/20:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter (details supplied) regarding Kenmare Hospital and Covid-19 patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details Supplied: Kenmare Hospital and covid patients.**

Dear Minister Griffin,

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.

As outlined in my previous response to PQ 7099/20 when patients are transferred into our residential settings every possible recommended precaution is taken. Those precautions apply whether someone is being admitted from an acute hospital or from the community. National guidelines on admissions to residential facilities have been issued by the HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre) and as a public service we work in accordance with the guidelines issued by this expert group at all times, along with the support and advice from Public Health Consultants and Infection Control Teams.

In any case where someone has been admitted to any of our residential settings including community hospitals, it has been done with the advice and guidance of these expert groups. All of our residential centres are following the most up-to-date guidelines on the use of personal protective equipment (i.e. masks, gowns, gloves and goggles).

Within Kenmare Community Nursing Unit “The Roughty” i.e. upstairs unit has been identified as a suitable step down facility for recovering Covid patients. The Unit is fully set up to nurse and care for these patients in spacious single en-suite rooms. I can confirm that all care delivered in both the ground floor and first floor in Kenmare Community Nursing Unit remains at a high standard, and is consistent with all best practice guidelines including the relevant HPSC guidelines as appropriate to residential care settings for Older People. The health and well-being of our residents is always our priority, and all appropriate measures are in place to protect both residents and our staff.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Gabrielle O'Keeffe**  
**Head of Services for Older People,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

