Office of the Head of Operations Primary Care, Community Operations
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8
Tel: 01-6352682 Email: community.primarycare@hse.ie

Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil,Oibríochtaí Pobail
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8
T 01 6352682 R: community.primarycare@hse.ie

29th May 2020

Deputy Dessie Ellis,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 6864/20: To ask the Minister for Health the status of testing, retesting and tracing of all staff and residents in nursing homes and residential units to allow the eventual opening of these facilities to visitors; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Dessie Ellis

Dear Deputy Ellis,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

COVID-19 Policies and procedures with regard to testing and tracing within Residential Care Facilities (RCFS) continue to be implemented, by the end of May testing within all Nursing Homes, Mental Health Services and Disability Sites will have been undertaken. The HSE's public health departments respond to outbreaks as required which may include requests for additional testing. As the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) is the mechanism for coordinating the health sector response to significant public health emergencies, the approach to testing within RCFs will alter in line with their guidance.

The HSE continue to work in line with the national roadmap for lifting Ireland's restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Work in this regard is driven by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) who continue to provide advice to Government in relation to reducing measures introduced in response to COVID-19. The opening of RCFs to visitors will be guided by advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET).

Yours sincerely,

_____
Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations