



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
T 01 6207304 R: Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie
Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

26th May, 2020

**Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.**

PQ Number: 6959/20

To ask the Minister for Health if guidelines have been issued to mental health facilities advising them not to take in new patients under Covid-19 restrictions; if his attention has been drawn to an individual mental health facility no longer taking in new patients due to Covid-19; if there are alternative arrangements in place for patients that cannot access facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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.

HSE Mental Health has continued to maintain essential services during this public health emergency. Many of our inpatient settings have continued to admit patients however decisions are made on a case by case basis with reference to public health guidance and Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) considerations for the particular patient and unit in question. This includes reference to whether an outbreak has occurred, whether staffing issues arise related to Covid etc.

Service users who are known to mental health services should communicate with their treating clinicians if issues arise relating to access to inpatient services. If patients are not known to Mental Health Services and issues arise relating to access to Mental Health inpatient facilities, service users should communicate with their GP.

The HSE continue to update and circulate guidance and advice to staff including Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC), the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the use of facemasks. As clinical guidance and advice may change quite quickly due to the changing nature of the pandemic, all staff have been advised to keep updated with information on websites; www.hpsc.ie www.hse.ie and yourmentalhealth.

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