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Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil, Oibríochtaí Pobail
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June 5th 2020

Deputy Gannon,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number 7006/20: "To ask the Minister for Health if the measures for PPE for clinical speech and language therapists will be confirmed in view of the fact the lack of full recognition of elements of their work, for example, dysphagia and swallowing disorders are not recognised as an aerosol generating procedure placing them at an increased risk in their work."

Gary Gannon

Dear Deputy Gannon,

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.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) works in line with the State obligation to ensure that HCWs are appropriately protected from risk when discharging their duty of care. Health Care Workers are provided with the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to facilitate the safe completion of their tasks, as well as being provided with training in its use.

Due to the global shortage of PPE Health Care Workers engage in effective stewardship of PPE as such working in line with HSE guidance on the occasions when use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is necessary, and avoiding use when it is not required in order to preserve stocks.

Health Care Workers (HCWs) are provided with guidance with regard to personal protective equipment (PPE) to advise you on how to reduce their risk of exposure, including aerosol generating procedure, as much as possible to assist with continuing to fulfil their critical roles.

Further information is available at;

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/healthandsocialcareworkers/Guidance-HealthSocialCareWorkersWhoVisitHomes.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Siobhán McArdle', written on a light-colored background.

Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations