



Health Protection Surveillance Centre
25-27 Middle Gardiner Street
Dublin, Ireland,
D01 A4A3
Ph +353 1 8765300
Fx +353 1 8561299
info@hpsc.ie
www.hpsc.ie

16th November 2020

Deputy Joe Carey
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ number 32801 To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the rate of transmission of Covid-19 from gym use; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Carey,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

This response describes data up to 11th November 2020. Data were extracted from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre's (HPSC) Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR) on November 12th at 9:26 am. CIDR is a dynamic system and case details may be updated at any time. Therefore, the data described here may differ from previously reported data and data reported for the same time period in the future.

Gyms in Ireland were closed from late-March to the end of June 2020 and closed once again on October 21st 2020. Six outbreaks of COVID-19 linked to gyms (involving 48 cases in total) were reported to HPSC between the beginning of July and late October. Three were reported in September and three were reported in October. The number of COVID-19 cases linked to these gym outbreaks ranged from two to sixteen, with an average of eight linked cases per gym outbreak.

One additional outbreak of COVID-19 in October was reported as a private house outbreak, but both cases associated with this outbreak had attended a gym and had been identified as close contacts of a gym instructor who had COVID-19 infection.

This may be an underestimate of COVID-19 cases acquired in gyms as many cases of COVID-19 are reported as community-acquired, with the case not knowing how they were infected.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy,
Interim Director of HPSC,
25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.

MRN: 016227