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Deputy Sean Sherlock
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PQ 32837/20: To ask the Minister for Health if break and yard time is included for students to be considered a close contact (details supplied).

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

As per the current HPSC close contacts guidelines, a clinical public health risk assessment (PHRA) will be undertaken for all educational facilities where a confirmed case has attended whilst infectious. It is assumed because of the length of the school day, they will have been within a closed space for at least two hours. This includes all elements of the school day where the case has been.

Close contacts definition applied:

- Any person who has had face to face contact for <1m with a confirmed case of Covid-19 for >15 minutes in a school day.
- Any person who has been between 1 and 2 metres from a confirmed case of Covid-19 for >15 minutes in a school day with consideration of other mitigation measures e.g. face-covering, pods, ventilation, IPC measures or uncertain compliance with mitigation measures in place (assessed through clinical PHRA)

Contacts are assessed from contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 during their infectious period - 48 hours before the confirmed test.

Apologies for the delay in answering your PQ.

I trust this answer your query.

Yours sincerely,


PP

Dr Abigail Collins

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