



Department of Public Health,
HSE East,
Dr Steeven's Hospital
Dublin 8

26th November 2020

Deputy Paul McAuliffe
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ number 34749/20:

To ask the Minister for Health if pharmacy staff that were wearing masks and deemed a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case are classed as casual contacts and can continue to work

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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

For each circumstance, a public health risk assessment is carried out that considers the factors including mask wearing, space and duration of time spent, social distancing etc. The fact whether services are essential services is also taken into account.

This risk assessment then informs the public health advice for that particular circumstance.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Deirdre Mulholland
Director of Public Health Medicine,
Department of Public Health,
HSE East