



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
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Ms. Violet-Anne Wynne TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**Re: PQ 35343/20. To ask the Minister for Health the procedure within the National Ambulance Service if a paramedic tests positive for Covid-19 while on shift; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) 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 a response.

All NAS staff fall under the care of HSE Occupational Health Departments for the management of any work related COVID-19 issues, be that exposure to a COVID-19 positive patient, or being determined as a close or casual contact of a COVID-19 positive work colleague.

HSE Occupational Health guidance is revised regularly, and NAS follow the most up to date Occupational Health advice (the latest version is available at the following link <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/workplace-health-and-wellbeing-unit/covid-19-guidance/occupational-health-interim-guidance.pdf>). This includes if and when a particular staff member needs to be tested, and their clinical management thereafter. This is the same for all HSE staff.

Of note, the incidence of NAS staff contracting COVID-19 is low – much of it is community transmission, i.e. outside of work. NAS has had fifty-three (53) confirmed cases by early November 2020, across all disciplines of staff, since the beginning of the pandemic, and this is due to the NAS having a very stringent approach to use of PPE by staff. In addition, the NAS has a constant stream of PPE availability with no interruptions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.

