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**PQ ref: 35574/20:** To ask the Minister for Health his plans to review the interim HSE advice in relation to return to school and at-risk groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. **Deputy Neasa Hourigan Response Due 25/11/2020**

**Dear Deputy Hourigan,**

Thank you for your query and please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

In the process of the updating the vulnerable groups definitions (now that HIQA evidence review is complete - <https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/all-publications>), complimentary reviews of guidance for at risk groups, including school attendance for at risk children, is being discussed with clinical colleagues in the HSE's Clinical Advisory Group and HPSC Guideline Advisory Subgroup.

Please note any updates will be published on HSE HPSC and shared with colleagues in Department of Education.

Once again please accept our apologies that your PQ was not answered before now.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joan Gallagher'.

**Joan Gallagher**  
Programme Manager  
Office of the National Clinical Director for Health Protection