



Deputy Catherine Murphy  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

25th November 2020

**Ref. PQ 35698/20** : To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to outbreaks of Covid-19 in the University of Limerick Hospital and Naas General Hospital; and his plans to implement a standardised response and mitigation protocol to hospitals in relation to Covid-19 outbreaks

Dear Deputy Murphy

**Response:**

The Health Service Executive 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 response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

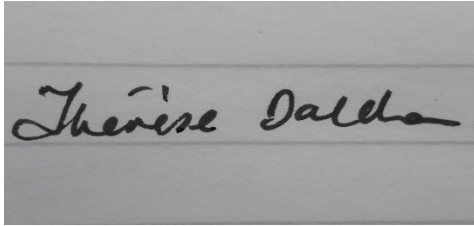
The recent COVID 19 outbreaks are reported to Acute Operations, HPSC and appropriate public health offices. These outbreaks are being managed in line with the HSE protocol *Notification of Infectious Disease Outbreaks to Departments of Public Health in acute hospital setting- Declaration of an Outbreak and Closure of an Outbreak* which is available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/hcai/resources/general/noid-declaration-and-closure-of-an-outbreak-acute>

In line with national protocol, Outbreak control teams (OCTs) are established and records of key discussions, findings, decisions and actions are retained following OCT meetings. The General Manager /CEOs in respective hospitals are accountable for the overall management of the outbreak working closely with public health advisors and infection prevention control professionals.

I can assure you that the management of all infection outbreaks is prioritised and overseen by Acute Operations team supported by the national HSE AMRIC (Antimicrobial resistance and Infection control team) in the context of the HSE performance and accountability framework and public health policies.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan" in a cursive script.

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**Therese Dalchan**  
**General Manager and AMRIC Lead**  
**Acute Operations, HSE.**