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27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

PQ36495/20

**To ask the Minister for Health if members of staff at Letterkenny University Hospital were recently tested for Covid-19 and then requested to return to their posts immediately without any reference to self-isolating until the results were known - Pádraig Mac Lochlainn**

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

COVID-19 testing and contact tracing of both staff and patients has been carried out to ensure the protection of public health. The hospital follows the HSE occupational health guidance in relation to testing staff and any staff identified as close contacts of COVID-19 cases or who display symptoms are asked to isolate and not come to work.

In addition, the hospital is carrying out COVID-19 testing on staff who are not close contacts of confirmed cases. This testing is for surveillance purposes. As per national guidance, these staff can remain at work as they have no symptoms. All staff follow national guidance in relation to infection prevention and control and wearing appropriate PPE to reduce the risk of transmission of the Coronavirus.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



**Seán Murphy  
General Manager  
Letterkenny General Hospital**