



Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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Deputy Michael McNamara
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
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Re: PQ number 38381/20 To ask the Minister for Health the approach taken by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre to the classification of deaths as Covid-19 related or not, subject to a coroner's report, in circumstances in which a patient dies from the trauma injuries subsequent to having been admitted to hospital but tested positive for Covid-19 upon admission to hospital.

Dear Deputy McNamara

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

Current guidelines on classifications of COVID-19 deaths

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has prepared guidance for reporting deaths in COVID-19 cases, based on World Health Organization (WHO) guidance. Included in this guidance is a section on what deaths are not reported as COVID-19 deaths for surveillance purposes.

The guidance states that deaths in possible, probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases (case definition available at www.hpsc.ie) should be notified for surveillance purposes unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). Therefore, if a coroner's report advises the cause of death as due to trauma, this death would not be reported as a death in a COVID-19 case.

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

Yours sincerely,

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