

10th December 2020

Deputy Jackie Cahill, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 39386/20

“To ask the Minister for Health if HSE staff in Kenmare Community Hospital and other locations in County Kerry that are dealing with Covid-19 cases will only be rostered on to assist with these patients and will not be rostered to work on other wards or with other patients that have not contracted Covid-19 as per the HSE guidelines.; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

Where patients are transferred into our residential settings, every possible recommended precaution is taken. Those precautions apply whether someone is being admitted from an acute hospital or from the community.

National guidelines on admissions to residential facilities have been issued by the HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre) and are available on the HPSC website (www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/residentialcarefacilities/). We work in accordance with the guidelines at all times.

In any case where someone has been admitted to any of our residential settings including community hospitals, that has been done with the advice and guidance of Public Health consultants.

We also work on an on-going basis with experts in Infection Prevention and Control. All of our residential centres are following the most up-to-date guidelines on the use of personal protective equipment (i.e. masks, gowns, gloves and goggles).

Within the Kenmare Community Nursing Unit “The Roughty” i.e. upstairs unit has been identified as a suitable step down facility for Covid patients. The Unit is fully set up to nurse and care for these patients in spacious single en-suite rooms. The care delivered to all our residents remains at a high standard, and is consistent with all best practice guidelines,

including the relevant HPSC guidelines mentioned above. The health and wellbeing of our residents is always our priority, and all appropriate measures are in place to protect both residents and our staff.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle O'Keeffe
Head of Services for Older People
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

