



14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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Dublin North City & County,  
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Re: 27302 - PQ REF 28958/20

***“To ask the Minister for Health his plans for nursing home providers in the CHO9 area to innovate and support residents and their families during periods of enhanced Covid-19 protective measures while being cognisant of mental and physical wellbeing, remaining person-centred, ensuring rights are upheld and not infringed upon in a disproportionate manner and following public health advice”***

Dear Deputy,

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.

All nursing homes in CHO Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) both public and private, are obliged to follow the most recent public health guidance (copy attached for information). The criteria for critical and compassionate visiting has been considerably widened to reflect a more individual and person centered approach, even when visiting is suspended based on the level of restriction the county is at, at any particular time.

To supplement this regime, there are also video and voice call schedules in place to assist in family communications. Staff work very closely with families to ensure they are kept up-to-date with the condition of their family members and encourage as much contact as possible while adhering to Public Health guidelines. Private Nursing Homes in CHO DNCC also have the support of our COVID Private Nursing Home Response Team.

Virtual visiting and window visits continue in all of our Community Nursing Units, Phoenix Park Community Nursing Unit and St Mary's Hospital, which are managed by the direct care and activity staff in all units. Within each CHO DNCC Community Nursing Home there is a programme of video and telephone calls. Activity staff are engaging with residents delivering person centered care on a one to one basis and group activities in line with public health guidance, continuing social events with 2 meter distance maintained.

Functional and psychological assessments continue to be carried out in the units as required and in line with both national and local policies and any actions arising from these assessments are addressed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Olive Hanley  
Interim Head of Social Care