

21st October 2020

Deputy Pa Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 31073/20

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the availability of self-isolating accommodation and associated guidelines for use for emergency and medical personnel who are required to self-isolate but are unable to due to living in shared accommodation in a county (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Details supplied: County Kerry

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

At the outset of the Covid 19 pandemic the HSE established a process for the provision temporary accommodation for healthcare workers affected by COVID-19. All healthcare workers can apply for temporary accommodation. This includes staff in:

- HSE
- community healthcare
- Section 38 and 39 organisations including voluntary hospital staff
- National Ambulance Service
- private nursing homes
- long-term disability and mental health residential facilities
- Tusla
- Private hospitals
- GP practices who are providing services to the long term residential care service
- long-term disability and mental health residential facilities
- Home support and personal assistant staff (this includes staff directly employed and employed through voluntary private providers. This applies to Older Persons Services, Disability Service and Mental Health Services).

Temporary accommodation was offered to staff who:

- live with family members that are self-isolating and cannot return home
- live with vulnerable persons
- require emergency accommodation due to urgent response or mitigating factors
- require accommodation in order to facilitate rosters
- share accommodation where staff are at an increased risk of getting or spreading COVID-19
- returned from overseas and are contracted to work and require accommodation
- live in congregated domestic living arrangements, for example, a hostel, a direct provision centre

This initiative has helped to

- reduce interactions with people outside the workplace and the home
- avoid communal sleeping areas
- avoid crowded areas
- avoid spending more than 15 minutes in close contact with other people

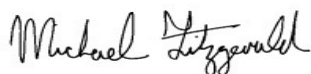
- prevent spread in long-term residential settings and the community

HSE management within the Kerry area continue to work with our colleagues in HSE Estates identifying and providing alternative accommodation for Healthcare workers in Kerry who require accommodation in the covid 19 pandemic as the need arises.

Please note that this initiative is not aimed at staff who are required to self-isolate. Any staff members required to self-isolate, and who cannot do so in their usual residence, are referred to the national Self Isolation facility in City West Dublin. If staff are unable to travel independently then Cork Kerry Community Healthcare have assisted with the provision of transport to allow transfer to and from the facility for the staff member.

I trust that the above clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Fitzgerald
Chief Officer,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare