

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett, Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,

Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

(: 057 9359787/774 **⊕:** <u>CHO8@hse.ie</u> Office of Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation, Health Service Executive, Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

(: 057 9359787/774 **⊕:** <u>CHO8@hse.ie</u>

2nd November, 2020

Ms Carol Nolan T.D., Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 26818/20

To ask the Minister for Health when the day care services in counties Laois and Offaly will reopen in particular the day care centre in Mountmellick; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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 outline response as follows.

The decision to close all day Care Centres is a National HSE decision based on advice from NEPHT.

The elderly are the most vulnerable group during the Covid pandemic and the risks involved are too great at present to re-open Day services.

We await guidance from Public Health on the re-opening of all our Centres and in the interim our Public Health Nursing and Home Support Teams are available to respond to any older persons with concerns.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bennett

Chief Officer CHO Area 8