



QPS Géar Oibríochtaí
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

QPS Acute Operations
Unit 4A, The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter,
Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
☎: 087-8041786 📧: Therese.dalchan1@hse.ie

29th April 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ / 19639/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that have died after contracting Covid-19 in hospitals since the start of the pandemic.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

Hospital acquired COVID-19 has been a problem in every country since the start of the pandemic. The number of patients who have acquired COVID infection in hospital has fallen steadily every week since the middle of January. The reduction in recent weeks is likely due to multiple factors including the vaccine programme and the fall in community transmission which means that there are less infectious people coming into hospital and therefore less sources of infection.

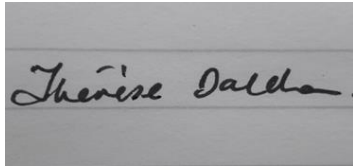
Data on mortality in hospital-acquired COVID-19 cases is not collected nationally. The surveillance system does not collect information on the patient outcomes. There are two reasons for this:

- First the information is reported weekly to ensure that the HSE has a very timely view of the situation and the outcome for most patients is therefore not known at the time the data is collected.
- Second, the determination of the cause of death of any individual person is complex. While COVID-19 is clearly the principal cause of death for some people, in other people who were already very seriously ill the contribution of the COVID-19 infection to their death can be difficult to determine.

Advice on [Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting](#) is available on the HPSC website

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan

General Manager

HCAI AMR Lead | Acute Operations | HSE

Cc

Prof Martin Cormican, Clinical Lead, AMRIC

Shirley Keane, Programme Manager, AMRIC

Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Operations

Margaret Brennan, QPS Lead, Acute Operations