



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

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16th December 2021

Deputy Claire Kerrane TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 60358/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on the process of testing of inpatients in cases in which there is no clinical suspicion of Covid-19 upon admission to hospital with particular reference to testing processes for a vaccinated versus unvaccinated patient whilst an inpatient at hospital; the details of the precise PCR assay threshold that is used by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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.

The current guidance on testing for COVID-19 is detailed in *Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting V2.7.03.12.2021*¹ which is available at the link below. This guidance is updated regularly in line with emerging evidence and data and provides guidance for management of patients in acute hospitals which is applied in the context of local risk assessment.

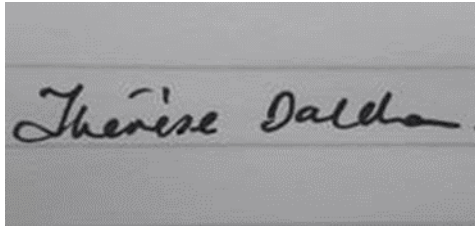
<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalguidance/InfectionPreventionandControlPrecautionsforAcuteSettings.pdf>

In regard to PCR assay threshold details of the current *Guidance on the management of weak positive (high Ct value) PCR results in the setting of testing individuals for SARS-CoV-2 V1.5 07.07.2021* is available at the link below:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/testingguidance/PCR%20weak%20results%20guidance.pdf>

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan

AMRIC Lead Acute Operations, HSE.

CC Liam Woods National Director Acute Hospitals
Prof. Martin Cormican. AMRIC Lead
Shirley Keane, AMRIC Programme Lead