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12 January 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 62386/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of reported Covid-19 cases found in meat processing plant workers between 1 January 2020 and 1 December 2021, inclusive; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cairns

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Data were extracted from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre's (HPSC) Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR) on January 12th at 08:30 am. CIDR is a dynamic system and may be updated at any time. Therefore, the data described here may differ from previously reported data and data reported for the same time period in the future.

The following response is based on laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases who were linked to workplace outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing plants only. Information on individuals who work in meat/poultry production and processing plants, but who are not linked to outbreaks in these settings, are not included as it was not possible to ascertain whether these sporadic COVID-19 cases were infected in their workplace. The data presented below pertain to COVID-19 outbreaks and associated cases reported to the HPSC from the beginning of COVID-19 epidemic in Ireland to midnight 8th January 2022.

Note: As a result of the recent surge in cases in Ireland, there have been delays in linking of cases to outbreaks, and disaggregate case-based data are not available for all outbreaks or for all cases linked to outbreaks. Outbreak size may be based either on an aggregate number of laboratory confirmed cases as defined by regional Departments of Public Health at the time of outbreak notification, or may be based on disaggregate data on cases linked to the outbreak, whichever number is largest.

Between March 1st 2020 and December 1st 2021, 3,836 laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases were associated with COVID-19 outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing plants.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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