



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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18th February 2021
Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 5711/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute mental health units in Dublin that are closed due to outbreaks of Covid-19; and the number of units that are full due to the increased pressure on the remaining units.

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 the following outlines the position.

Acute inpatient units adhere to the HPSC guidance with regards to the management Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting. Hospitals have preparedness plans for the management of outbreaks of infectious disease, to ensure that they address early detection and rapid response to outbreaks of COVID-19. An outbreak control team is convened and supported by public health, who advises regarding ward closures, cohorting, etc. The outbreak data is monitored daily by the Head of Mental Health in each CHO and National Mental Health Operations team. As this data can change daily, the following is the status of units closed the week of 25th to 31st January 2021:

CHO1, 2, 4, 5, 8: no acute inpatient approved centres were closed.

CHO3: APU Ennis was closed. This opened to admissions on the week of the 1st February. All new admissions isolated for 14 days so far as is reasonably practical. The service had access to seven beds in Unit 5 B UHL, Limerick.

CHO6: In respect of Newcastle, there has been no infectious case on site since 22nd January so the hospital could reopen to admissions from last Saturday 6th February.

CHO7: Tallaght Hospital , Rowan Unit was closed to admissions, on this week however there was access to admissions in the other two wards in the acute unit. Lakeview and St. James's were both open.

CHO9: St Vincents Fairview and St Alysious ward were both closed to admissions on this week, there was access to acute beds in DOP Connolly and the Ashlin Centre.

Occupancy rates vary according to a number of different factors including the acuity of the clinical presentations, the availability of appropriate staffing including nurse specials as required.



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It is recommended that approved centres operate at 85%, however there are times when they operate above this. Capacity increases or decreases based on the needs of the population and it is important that units maintain capacity to respond to urgent cases.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services