



Príomhoifigeach CHO Ceantar 8  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Páirc Ghnó Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia  
Sráid Hale  
Baile Átha Fhirdhia  
Contae Lú

Chief Officer CHO8 Area  
Area Office  
Ardee Business Park  
Hale Street  
Ardee  
Co Louth

PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

t: 041 6871500

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15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 1074/21 - To ask the Minister for Health his views on a news article (details supplied) in relation to reported Covid-19-related deaths at a hospital if a Covid-19 outbreak took place; if so, the number of residents infected; the number of transfers to hospital as a result; the number of deaths; if other relevant details will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 the position as follows.

In relation to your query, you're probably aware that we cannot comment on individual cases or outbreaks of Covid-19 in order to protect people's privacy. When outbreaks occur in Long Term Residential Facilities, arrangements are in place to ensure that the required HSE supports can be put in place quickly. When an outbreak is confirmed, the HSE Department of Public Health establishes an Outbreak Control Team and provides advice and guidance on the issues which are key to bringing the outbreak under control. Clinical assessment may require some residents to be treated in the home and some residents may require a transfer to hospital. We're very conscious that this can be a very distressing and difficult time for families, other residents and staff members. We ensure that there is regular contact with families and loved ones and the HSE also can offer a range of psycho-social supports to all concerned. And in all cases, we ask that the privacy of those who are sick is respected.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McBride  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation