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18th February 2021

Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 3227/21 To ask the Minister for Health when Covid-19 contact tracers are conducting a positive patient assessment with health care professionals, the breakdown of transmission sources; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward

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 on mode of transmission in healthcare worker cases of COVID-19 are published weekly in the [COVID-19 Cases in Healthcare Workers](#) report.

Mode of transmission is self-reported.

Table 1 includes data on healthcare worker (HCW) cases of COVID-19 (all case classifications – confirmed, probable, possible) notified to the national infectious disease surveillance system (CIDR) from week 48, 2020 (22/11/2020 – 28/11/2020) to week 5, 2021 (31/01/2021-06/02/2021).

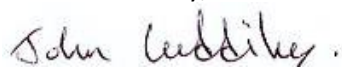
Table 1: Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC, by mode of transmission, week 48, 2020 - week 5, 2021, Ireland, (n=13,672)

Mode of transmission	Number of HCW cases	Proportion of all HCW cases (%)	Number of new cases week 5, 2021	Proportion of all HCW cases (%) week 5, 2021
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	4,597	33.6	344	47.2
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3,070	22.5	160	21.9
Community transmission	1,859	13.6	90	12.3
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	728	5.3	83	11.4
Travel related	57	0.4	1	0.1
Under investigation	3,361	24.6	52	7.1

Note: During a period between late-December 2020 and early-February 2021, due to the surge of COVID-19 cases notified, data quality may have been impacted and this may have resulted in a higher proportion of cases where the transmission mode is listed as under investigation.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Dr John Cuddihy,
Interim Director of HPSC,
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MRN: 016227