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Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 12511/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have contracted Covid-19 in nursing homes, other long-term residential care facilities, palliative care settings and in hospital; the mortalities for same by patient and by worker in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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

Reporting on the number of cases of Hospital-Acquired COVID-19 by hospital group per week for 2020 was **1,972**. Please note that reporting commenced the week ending 21/06/2020 for 2020.

It is important to note that when community transmission rates are at the level they are, it is inevitable and unavoidable that there will be outbreaks in hospitals.

**Hospital acquired COVID-19 – Surveillance Process**

In general, it is not possible to be certain regarding where and when a person acquired infection with COVID-19. For the purpose of this surveillance activity the HSE uses a standard definition of hospital acquired COVID-19 that takes account of the ECDC case definition. This definition excludes most cases of community acquired COVID-19 and includes most cases relating to inpatients with hospital acquired COVID-19. There is extensive testing of people on admission to hospital and while in hospital to help find people with infection as quickly as possible so that measures can be taken to reduce the risk of spread of infection to others.

This particular surveillance process does not collect information on the patient outcomes. There are two reasons for this:

- Firstly, the information is reported weekly to ensure that the HSE has a very timely view of the situation and the outcome for most patients is therefore not known at the time the data are collected.
- Secondly, the determination of the cause of death of any individual person is complex. While COVID-19 is clearly the principal cause of death for some people, in other people who were already very seriously ill the contribution of the COVID-19 infection to their death can be difficult to determine.

## Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system

Separately, please note that data for the following section of this response were extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) on 01/03/2021 and relate to data up to midnight on 28/02/2021. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. Results presented in this response may vary from previously published data.

*Inclusion criteria i.e. the following cases were included in the response:*

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 linked to outbreaks in Nursing Homes; Community Hospital/Long-stay unit; Residential Institutions for the elderly in residents or healthcare workers where the source of transmission was not specified as community acquired.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes; Community Hospital/Long-stay unit; Residential Institutions for the elderly in residents or healthcare workers not linked to any outbreak and where the source of transmission was not specified as community acquired.

There was a total of 16,584 confirmed COVID-19 cases (staff and residents) associated with Nursing Homes, Community Hospital/Long-stay units or Residential Institutions for the elderly. Of these confirmed cases there were 1,942 deaths. Of the confirmed cases, 6,747 were in healthcare workers (HCW). Table 1 provides a breakdown of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths in residents and staff of Nursing Homes; Community Hospital/Long-stay unit; Residential Institutions for the elderly in Ireland.

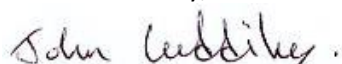
**Table 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in Nursing Homes; Community Hospital/Long-stay unit; Residential Institutions for the elderly from March 2020 to midnight 28/02/2021: Ireland**

Description	Number of confirmed cases of COVID-19			Number of confirmed deaths in cases of COVID-19		
	Resident	Healthcare worker	Total confirmed cases	Resident	Healthcare worker	Total confirmed died
Linked to Nursing Home outbreak	4339	5273	14127	1523	2	1766
Linked to Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit outbreak	246	544	1124	90	0	111
Linked to Residential Institution outbreak	90	219	523	26	0	34
Not linked to an outbreak, transmission reported as healthcare acquired	99	711	810	31	0	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>4774</b>	<b>6747</b>	<b>16584</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1942</b>

**Note:** HCW and resident status not complete for all outbreak linked confirmed cases

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

Yours sincerely,



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