



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public
Health/ChildHealth
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer,
Health Service Executive,
Public Health Department,
Second Floor,
Mount Kennett House,
Henry Street,
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

1st. March 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ15588/21: To ask the Minister for Health the measures he has discussed with the Minister for Education on additional public health safety measures at schools.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

National experts and representatives from Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) provide advice on the necessary Public health and IPC measures required in a range of facilities to help prevent spread of Covid-19, this includes to the Department for Education for the safety of schools. There are no different measures which are required to be in place given the circulating dominance of the UK variant of concern. However, it is very important that all recommended measures are maximally adhered to, given the increased transmissibility that has been witnessed with the UK variant nationally. These recommendations have been made clearly to the Department of Education and they are supporting Principals and Schools in adhering to these measures.

We all have a role to ensure that everyone understands that no-one should present to an educational (or any other) facility if they, or any household member, has any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Community adherence to public health measures and not presenting with any symptoms are the best way to keep those within any facilities, including educational facilities, safe from Covid-19 infection.

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH
OFFICE OF CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER
Medical registration number 19719**