



Oifig an Leas-Stiúrthóir Ginearálta-Oibríochtaí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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30th March 2021

Deputy Carol Nolan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 16238/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health if patients admitted to hospital for non-Covid-19 related illnesses or treatment but who are later found to be Covid-19 positive while in hospital are being included in the numbers of patients admitted with Covid-19; his views on whether the failure to differentiate between both categories may lead to confusion regarding the number of persons who are said to have been hospitalised with Covid-19 especially if they are asymptomatic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Carol Nolan.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

The HSE collects information on hospitalised Covid 19 Cases for operational reasons and this is reported twice daily with the evening report published on the HSE Website at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/coronavirus-daily-operations-updates.html>

The approved definition for total number of Covid 19 Hospitalised Cases in acute hospitals is as follows:

“Total number of people who are inpatients at this time with a laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 and who are still infectious. This includes people with infection acquired in the community before admission and those who acquired infection in hospital. It includes those in critical care and lodged in ED and other surge areas following a decision to admit. It does not include people who are no longer regarded as infectious. This does not include patients who have a previous diagnosis of COVID-19 that is not related to the current admission unless they are still infectious”.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Ryan".

Joe Ryan
National Director
National Services