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13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ25400 To ask the Minister for Health the number of outbreaks of Covid-19 that have been recorded in early childhood education and care facilities each month to date in 2021.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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

HPSC has commenced publishing a new weekly report on COVID-19 in Ireland aged 0-18 years. The report is available on the HPSC website at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/surveillance/epidemiologyofcovid-19inirelandcasesaged0-18years/>

The report includes weekly data on COVID-19 outbreaks in schools and childcare facilities.

#### **Outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (CCFs)**

- CCFs fully re-opened in week 9.
  - While there was no increase in the number of outbreaks in week 9 or week 10, there was a small increase outbreaks in weeks 11-13.
  - This may be because more children returned to CCFs in week 11 alongside the full reopening of primary schools.
  - Since the Easter break, the number of outbreaks peaked in week 16 with 22 outbreaks notified, and have since declined in weeks 17 and 18.
- The number of cases linked to outbreaks in CCFs peaked in week 11. Since week 11 the number of cases linked to CCF outbreaks has declined, and remained steady during weeks 15-17, declining again in week 18.
- The size of outbreaks associated with CCFs is generally small – 21% of outbreaks associated with CCFs involved only two linked cases, while 77% involved fewer than 10 linked confirmed cases

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

Yours sincerely,

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