



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

Tel: 087 345 5593

Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People

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24TH November 2021

**Deputy Colm Burke, T.D.
Dáil Eireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 53119/21

‘To ask the Minister for Health the plans at community level and the dedicated funding for the winter period that will be provided to support and protect nursing homes and their residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke’

Residents in Nursing Homes and other congregated settings, have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the high level of virus circulating in the community continues to present risks to Nursing Homes and the residents in their care.

In line with direction given by the National Public Health Emergency Team and current Public Health guidance, the HSE continue to provide a range of enhanced Public Health and mitigation measures across all facilities, regardless of whether operated by public, private and voluntary providers. The HSEs COVID-19 Response Teams actively support prevention, preparedness and management of outbreaks, including through ensuring facilities have access to Public Health and Infection and Prevention Control guidance and support, provision of Personal Protective Equipment, temporary staff accommodation, and access to training, educational resources and other relevant supports. These enhanced measures will remain in place throughout the winter period, in order to support Nursing Homes and their residents.

The COVID-19 vaccine and booster programme provides important protection against the virus and improved outcomes for residents in our Nursing Homes who contract the virus. The level of protection will be further enhanced with the administration of booster vaccines to Health Care Workers and residents aged over 60 years, in line with NIAC advice. In advance of the Influenza season, HSE continue to provide Influenza vaccine free of charge, including to anyone aged 65 and over, and to all Health Care Workers.

Throughout the pandemic, Nursing Home outbreaks and associated risks have been subject to close surveillance and monitoring by the HSE, in order to ensure, in collaboration with the Regulator, that Nursing Homes are appropriately supported and the welfare of residents protected.



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Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.