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Roisin Shorthall TD
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Ref: PQ 57843

7th December 2021

Dear Deputy Shorthall,

To ask the Minister for Health if the position regarding frontline healthcare workers who are household close contacts will be clarified; if they need to restrict movements, that is, stay at home until they have three negative antigen test results within five days; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Thank you for your correspondence (22/11/21). I have consulted with Dr Lynda Sisson National Clinical Lead in Occupational Medicine Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit, HSE for this response.

The latest guidance re derogation for the return to work of healthcare workers (attached) addresses this issue. This guidance is developed by Occupational Medicine Workplace Health and Wellbeing Unit in consultation with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Occupational Health Clinical Advisory Group and the HSE's National Health Protection Pandemic Infection Control Team (PICT) and is available here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/workplace-health-and-wellbeing-unit/covid-19-guidance/derogation-for-the-return-to-work-of-healthcare-workers.pdf>

HPSC.ie public health guidance regarding restricted movement for five days and use of Rapid Antigen Detection Tests for fully vaccinated asymptomatic household contacts of confirmed cases also notes: Asymptomatic fully vaccinated healthcare workers identified as a close contact in a household setting will also be required to follow the above advice unless otherwise directed by their line manager. Please see here for further [Occupational Health guidance](#). I hope this answers your query.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Gallagher,
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