



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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Duncan Smith T.D.

14th December, 2021

PQ 58675/21 To ask the Minister for Health the current rules for staff within the HSE who are unable to work as they are a confirmed close contact; if they are treated as needing to take Covid-19 related leave or do they have to take sick leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

HSE Circular 040/2021 re Updated DPER FAQs re Working Arrangements and Leave associated with COVID-19 - 26 Nov 2021 sets out the latest provisions which apply to public health service employers who have been identified as close contacts and are required to restrict their movements.

The HSE sets out the latest criteria for restricted movements following close contact at these links:-

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/restricted-movements/restricted-movements/>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/close-contact/>

Special leave with pay for COVID-19 (SLWP) does not apply to employees who are required to restrict their movement as they are not ill. Where an employee is required to restrict their movements and cannot attend the work premises the employer must facilitate working from home. If remote working in an employee's current role is not feasible, then the assignment of work may be outside of their usual core duties. Employees must cooperate with all such flexibilities while they are required to restrict their movement or self-isolate. In all such cases, employees remain available for work whilst at home, where they have been advised to restrict their movements as a precautionary measure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR