



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy David Cullinane

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

16/09/2021

PQ 41716-21 - Deputy David Cullinane - To ask the Minister for Health his plans to review the ongoing attendance and visiting restrictions in hospitals; if the current HSE guidance will be reviewed to allow families and friends to visit their loved ones in hospitals; his position on the use of antigen testing to facilitate same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Updated guidance COVID-19 Guidance on Access to Acute Hospitals for Nominated Support Partners, Accompanying Persons, Visitors and External Service Providers was published on 03/09/2021. AMRIC guidance is continuously reviewed and considered in line with NPHET decisions, epidemiological data, best practice and emerging international evidence. The AMRIC team intend to review this particular guidance at the end of September 2021.

In relation to antigen testing, IPC guidance promotes that the principal focus should remain on assessing visitors/nominated support partners for symptoms and on encouraging them to follow good IPC practice. At present, it is not clear that a requirement for antigen testing will make services materially safer and it introduces significant practical complications for access. Antigen testing of visitor/nominated support partners in this setting is not currently recommended.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO