



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public
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6th. October 2021

Deputy Christopher O Sullivan
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ45751/21: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the public health supports available to schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Sullivan,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

HSE Public Health Departments have established dedicated regional Schools Covid 19 Response teams with full national coverage. These teams are led by Specialists in Public Health Medicine and are comprised of HSE clinical public health staffing, redeployed HSE staff and administrative support, in addition to staff redeployed from the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, Dept. of Education and Dept. Education funded agencies. Up to 110 staff education and early years staff have been redeployed to the HSE Public Health Schools response. These teams respond to Covid 19 queries raised by educational facilities (child care facilities, primary, post-primary and special educational needs schools), , complete Covid 19 risk assessments on notification of positive cases who were infectious within educational settings and support educational facilities in the event of an outbreak.

The HSE has engaged actively with the Dept. Education and the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth to continuously develop guidance to support school principals and child care facility managers in the prevention and management of Covid 19 in their settings

A dedicated HSE Principals Helpline and Child Care Facilities helpline has been made available to answer any queries arising for principals. This line remains available 7 days per week.

The direct response to primary schools and child care facilities has changed in line with NPHET advice supported by the Minister of Health on contact tracing in schools since Monday 27th September.

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
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