



QPS Géar Oibríochtaí  
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Deputy Roísín Shortall TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ / 311122**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will give consideration to the provision of additional staffing resources in order to ensure that sufficient staff are in place in hospital wards in order that inpatients with Covid-19 can be facilitated with a family video call in the cases in which family members are not allowed visit due to Covid-19 being on the ward given that ward staff are unable to facilitate video calls as a result of their existing workload; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Guidance on visiting in Acute Hospitals is reviewed and updated as new information is received.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalsguidance/Guidance%20on%20Access%20to%20Acute%20Hospitals%20for%20Nominated%20Support%20Partners.pdf>

COVID-19 Guidance on Access to Acute Hospitals for Nominated Support Partners, Accompanying Persons, Visitors and External Service Providers was developed in December 2021.

While there is considerable scope to use technology to facilitate social contacts between patients and those who are important to them, each hospital has to manage its workforce capacity within its staffing complement. Service delivery and staff absences due to the transmissibility of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 are reviewed on a daily basis in all acute hospitals.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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Margaret Brennan  
Assistant National Director  
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