



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Lána Steevens
Baile Átha Cliath 8 , D08 W2A8

Chief Clinical Officer
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Dr Steevens Hospital, Steevens Lane
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 635 2000
e cco@hse.ie

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27th January 2022

PQ 3414/22- Deputy Paul Murphy- To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether high-grade medical masks must be a priority for carers as well as nurses and teachers; the steps his Department has taken to distribute free high-grade masks to carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Thank you for your representation.

Guidance for masks for healthcare workers were revised before Christmas. The change in this guidance state that a respirator masks (FFP2) should be worn by healthcare workers in all settings where they are caring for patients.

Surgical masks should be worn by all healthcare workers for interactions with other healthcare workers in healthcare settings where patients are not cared for. This applies to all healthcare settings, including primary, secondary, tertiary care, the National Ambulance Service and vaccination centres. This guidance will continue to be updated as new evidence emerges.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO