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PQ 37391/22

26th July, 2022

Re' PQ37391/22: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to manage any outbreak of the flu in 2022 including the use of flu vaccines; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your PQ which DOH have part answered and referred to the HSE to answer regarding the management of flu outbreaks from a service viewpoint. Management of a flu outbreak falls primarily under the remit of the public health teams in the relevant Public Health Area. In preparing this response I consulted with the HPSC and Dr Mary O'Meara Specialist in Public Health who represents Public Health Areas on the HSE National Flu Planning Steering Group.

Outbreaks of influenza are statutorily notified to the Medical Officer of Health in relevant Public Health Area. Outbreaks in Long term Residential Care facilities which can lead to significant disease and mortality amongst the elderly are managed in accordance with Public Health Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Ireland are available at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/guidance/>. This guidance is updated annually. Further influenza guidance and information, including Influenza epidemiology from the most recent 2021/2022 season is available at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/>.

I hope this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

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