



QPS Géar Oibríochtaí
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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15TH March 2022

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ / 12417/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the ongoing severe restrictions to visiting in public hospitals or attending accident and emergency departments with vulnerable adults, adults too ill to advocate for themselves and adults who need support for any reason; if the policy can be reviewed given that all other Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin,

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.

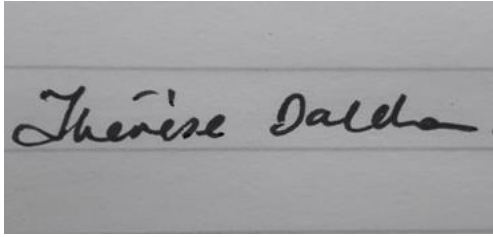
Guidance on visiting in Acute Hospitals is reviewed and updated in line with emerging evidence and in response to easing of public health restrictions nationally. The *COVID-19 Guidance on Access to Acute Hospitals for Nominated Support Partners, Accompanying Persons, Visitors and External Service Providers V 1.4* was updated on 09.02.2022 for implementation by 21.02.2022 and is available at the link below:

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

Hospitals make every effort to facilitate visiting by relatives and support partners as appropriate and especially to vulnerable persons. This is managed within the context of local risk assessment of risk of transmission of infection.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan

General Manager

AMRIC Lead | Acute Operations | HSE

CC: Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Operations
Shirley Keane, AMRIC Programme Lead