



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géarobríochtaí

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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
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Deputy Holly Cairns

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

**PQ 30484/23 – To ask the Minister for Health his views on maternity hospitals permitting visits by siblings to see new-born children; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Cairns

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.

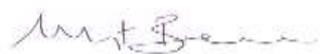
The HSE appreciate the need for patients to have contact with family and friends whilst in hospital and the impact that having visitors can have to patients' health and wellbeing.

Therefore in line with public health advice and information, HSE guidance pertaining to visiting in Acute Hospitals is regularly updated and supports appropriate access for visitors, particularly when it is associated with situations involving maternity care or support. The most recent version can be found within "Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting" V2.18 30.03.2023 via the link below, pages 14 and 15 refer.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalguidance/>

Hospitals make every effort to facilitate visiting by relatives and support partners as appropriate and especially to those needing the support of family, friends and support partners during maternity care. This is managed within the context of local assessment of risk of transmission of infection at hospital and unit level on a continuous basis. Detailed information on current circumstances in each hospital is available from the individual hospitals.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.



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Margaret Brennan,

Assistant National Director,

Quality and Patient Safety Lead, Acute Operations