



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta  
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Access and Integration

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Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

***PQ 28684/24 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide extra resources to hospitals dealing with the significant rise in Covid-19 cases recently (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Pádraig O'Sullivan***

***Details Supplied: Covid cases up 60% on last week and over 300 hospital admissions in the last 10 days, I understand***

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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 following information has been supplied to Access and Integration from Public Health in the office of the Chief Clinical Officer.

Since week 16 of 2024 (week ending April 20th, 2024), the total number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing week on week.

Whilst hospitalised cases have increased, there hasn't been a corresponding admission rate to ICU. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) are continuing to monitor this closely. The age-group predominantly affected are the 65+ year age-group, though this group are also most likely to be tested.

COVID-19 outbreaks in health & care setting have also increased, with 48 outbreaks reported in week 26 (week ending June 19th, 2024), 13 in long-term care facilities, 20 in hospitals, 10 in residential care facilities, 2 in community hospitals and 3 in other healthcare facilities. A similar picture of increasing SARS-CoV-2 activity has been seen in some other European countries.

The reason for this COVID-19 wave is likely the increase in incidence of 'FLiRT' variants detected on whole genome sequencing (name refers to two mutations that feature in the now dominant variant of SARS COV2).

Projected COVID-19 trends suggest that weekly growth rates may have peaked and are now slowly declining but we will still likely see increasing numbers of cases before a decline, expected to occur at the end of June or early July.



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Access and Integration (Acute Services)**