



**Stiúrtóir Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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Niamh Smyth, T.D.
30 January 2025

PQ 2584/25 (Health):

To ask the Minister for Health to confirm the covid guidelines for staff of hospitals during the period of January to July 2022, in particular returning to work course of action if showing covid symptoms etc, and if these guidelines applied to private hospitals operational in the State. -Niamh Smyth

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

A suite of working guidance documents formulated and distributed via HR Circulars and FAQs for Public Service Employers during COVID-19 in relation to working arrangements and temporary assignments.

See below links to HSE HR Circulars and FAQs issued during this period.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-005-2022-updated-faqs-re-working-arrangements-and-leave-associated-with-covid-19.html>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-010-2022-updated-faqs-re-working-arrangements-and-leave-associated-with-covid-19.html>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-18-2022-guidance-and-faqs-for-public-service-employers-during-covid-19.html>

Such guidelines included returning to work and course of action protocols to follow for staff showing covid symptoms etc. These were made available to all public service employees and managed locally by operational management teams along with Occupational Health support. The following is a table of guidance documents and their release dates issued by National HSE Health & Safety Function

	Version	Date of release	Comment
Derogation for the Return to Work of Healthcare Workers (HCW) who are Essential for Critical Services	19	23-Dec-21	
	19.1	07-Jan-22	
	20	14-Jan-22	
	20.1	27-Jan-22	
	Obsolete 01 Mar 22		
Quick Guide for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Management	9	23-Dec-21	
	10	06-Jan-22	
	11	13-Jan-22	
	11.1	27-Jan-22	
	12	28-Feb-22	
	13	28-Mar-22	



Interim Guidance for Healthcare Worker (HCW) Close Contact Management	2	14-Jan-22	
	Obsolete	24-Mar-22	PH guidance to be used instead of 'Public Health Advice for the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts'
Algorithm for Testing and Return to Work of Symptomatic Healthcare Workers	10	23-Dec-21	
	11	05-Jan-22	
	12	14-Jan-22	
	13	28-Feb-22	
Guidance on Fitness for Work of Healthcare Workers in the Higher Risk Categories, including Pregnant Healthcare Workers	4.2	12-Jul-21	
	5	01-Mar-22	
	5.1	23-Jun-22	

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Mairéad Ryan
National HR