



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

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10th June 2022

Deputy Paul Murphy

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 26949/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the recent call by an organisation (the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation) for ventilation in hospitals to be examined to ensure the safety of nurses and midwives in their workplaces; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 am advised by HSE Capital and Estates that from a building infrastructure perspective, most facilities are designed and maintained to the ventilation standards and/or guidance that apply depending on the building function e.g. Part F of building regulations, Health Technical Memoranda 03-01, Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineer's guidance as well as guidance issued by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

I am advised that it is important to note that ventilation is one of many IPC (Infection Prevention & Control) measures that is required. No one measure on its own can mitigate IPC risks.

The HSE National Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team have published a number of guidance documents which cover recommended IPC measures in the acute, community and residential setting. These documents have been recently updated to reflect experience with SARS-CoV-2 and advice from the European Centre for Disease Control.

- V6. Infection Control Guiding Principles for Buildings Acute Hospitals and Community Settings as at 10/05/2022
- <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/buildingsandfacilitiesguidance/>
- V2.13 Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting as at 02/06/2022 includes the following (Included in previous versions):



V1.6 Public Health & Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19, Influenza & other Respiratory Infections in Residential Care Facilities as at 02.06.2022

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ivory', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Carol Ivory

General Manager,

Acute Operations