



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
- Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Ascaill na gCrann Teil  
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara  
W91KDC2

t: 045 880419

Health Service Executive  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow  
- Community Healthcare  
Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue  
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
W91KDC2

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Deputy Emer Higgins**  
**Dail Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ 9094/20**

To ask the Minister for Health: the protocol in place in a nursing home (Cherry Orchard Hospital, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10) for the isolation of patients that test positive for Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Emer Higgins

**Dear Deputy**

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.

Cherry Orchard Hospital has an Outbreak Committee that is chaired by a Consultant Microbiologist. The Team consists of the following:

- Consultant Microbiologist
- Director of Nursing
- Medical Superintendent
- IPCC Clinical Nurse Manager
- Nursing Administration representation
- Regional Catering Manager
- Household Supervisor
- Hospital Manager
- Occupational Health
- Public Health

During the current COVID-19 pandemic this committee have had twice weekly teleconferences to discuss and manage the outbreak in Cherry Orchard Hospital. An integral part of the agenda is the cohorting and management of residents who are positive with the virus.

Cherry Orchard Hospital has 4 units which are mainly single en-suite rooms that can be sub-divided into 'wings'. We presently have 1 wing of 1 unit as a positive isolation unit; there are 11 single en-suite bedrooms in that wing.

Residents who test or who are suspected of having COVID-19 are isolated in a single en-suite bedroom; staff have full PPE and all recommended precautions are adhered to. There is a Public Health Laboratory on site where swabs are tested and results available within 24-36 hours. Any resident with symptoms who tests negative will continue in isolation for monitoring for 14 days. All residents who test positive will remain in isolation for a minimum of 14 days and will then have to have 2 negative swab results before coming out of isolation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or should require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Yours sincerely**



Carol Cuffe  
Head of Service – Older Persons