

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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Deputy Jennifer Whitmore Dail Eireann Dublin 2.

PQ: 9436/20

To ask the Minister for Health the protocols in place with regard to PPE in relation to mental health practitioners working with children; the way in which toys are handled and sterilised; the way in which social distancing can be encouraged among children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE continue to update and circulate guidance and advice to its staff including Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In addition, the HPSC has developed Infection Prevention and Control guidance for settings providing childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Included in this document is the Selection and management of toys from an infection prevention viewpoint and Physical distancing measures. www.hpsc.ie

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds

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General Manager Mental Health Services