Hello Niall

See below

Hope that covers the questions-If you require any further information - let me know.

Hope you get some time off this weekend

Regards

Mary

do Hiqa have the powers to close nursing homes who fail to comply with infection prevention controls outlined by the framework?

In line with the Health Act 2007, the quality assurance framework is developed and aligned with the regulations as set out under that act and the standards as referred to in section 8 of the Act . In line with section 51 of the Act the Chief Inspector on one or more of the grounds set out in subsection 2 , on one or more of the grounds specified in *subsection (2)* may—

(*a*) cancel the registration of a designated centre,

(*b*) vary or remove any condition of the registration of a designated centre, or

(*c*) attach an additional condition to the registration of a designated centre.

- Are there any consequences for nursing homes who fail to comply with infection prevention controls?

In line with the powers set out in the Act as set out above and in accordance with HIQA's approach to dealing with non-compliance the Chief Inspector of social services will apply regulatory interventions and any enforcement actions proportionate to the identified area of non-compliance and in accordance with risk to the health and well-being of service users

- And just a brief explanation on what the framework will be?

Precautions that will be taken on inspection

This inspection programme is taking place during a national health emergency and as such inspectors of social services will take all necessary precautions in line with Public Health advice.

1. **Physical distancing (social distancing)** will be observed at all times throughout the inspection.
2. HIQA will **monitor inspectors** for symptoms including the checking of temperatures prior to entering a centre.
3. The inspector will **declare** to the person in charge that they have no symptoms of illness or a raised temperature
4. Good **hand hygiene** will be observed at all time by inspectors including entering and leaving the designated centre.

Quality Assurance Programme:

This quality assurance programme is aimed at ensuring that registered providers and staff working in designated centres are prepared for and have contingency plans in place to ensure the care of all residents during an outbreak of COVID-19. This programme is in line with the Authority Monitoring Approach. Quality assurance

The registered provider is responsible and accountable for the quality of care and safety of residents in designated centres under the Health Act 2007 as amended. However, during this public health emergency, national and local supports and resources have been made available to registered providers and residential centres, through the Health Service Executive (HSE).

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This quality assurance programme is a regulatory framework in line with the Health Act 2007 as amended and the Regulations[1] and will assess:

- How prepared the registered provider and designated centre is in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in the designated centre under key governance, leadership and management and quality and safety regulations.
- The provider's knowledge of the resources available to support residents and staff in preparing for and management of an outbreak.
- The links the registered provider has made to access specialist clinical advice in providing safe care for resident.
- The systems in place to ensure the centre is a safe place for residents.

Programme Methodology
This assessment judgment framework set out the minimum standard required to effectively respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 in a designated centre. The programme methodology is through a self-assessment by the registered provider and an inspection to verify the provider's self-assessment.
Registered provider's responsibilities:
Effective governance is central to having a COVID-19 preparedness plan. Through effective leadership, governance and management the registered provider can ensure that appropriate systems, processes and behaviours are in place to support the staff and residents respond to an outbreak of COVID-19.

Self-Assessment
Every registered provider is required to undertake a self-assessment of their service.
The registered provider is required to use this assessment judgment framework and through the lines of enquiry:

1. Assess their capacity and capability to respond effectively to an outbreak whilst ensuring the care and welfare of all residents is maintained and promoted.
2. Review what actions measures have put in place to prepare for an outbreak and the effectiveness of these measures.
3. Identify deficits in the centres preparedness/contingency plans and take action to address these deficits.
4. Assess their own and their staff's knowledge of the support and resources available to them in the event of an outbreak and how they would access these supports.
5. Assess the sustainability of quality care to residents in the event of an outbreak
6. Assess their governance leadership and management arrangement to ensure that they can be assured of the quality and safety of the services in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19

in the centre.

Validation Inspection
Inspectors of social services will, through a focused inspection validate, where required, the registered provider's self-assessment of their preparedness and the adequacy of their contingency plans.
The format of the inspection is an interview with the registered provider or their representative and management of the centre supplemented with triangulation of evidence by a review of sample of documentation and observation.

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[1] Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013 as amended