



[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

17 April 2020

Our Ref: [Redacted]

RE: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I am in receipt of information (mandatory notifications (NF02), dialogue with the inspector of social services and unsolicited information from a concerned relative) which suggests that the Health Service Executive (HSE) as the registered provider of [Redacted] Unit is not implementing the Interim Public Health and Infection Prevention Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities and Similar Units (V3.1 14/04/20).

Specifically I am concerned that residents on [Redacted] that have not yet tested positive for COVID-19 remain in the same multi-occupancy room as those residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. This puts vulnerable residents at serious risk of contracting the virus.

The information provided to us today is set out in the table below.

Unit	Bay/ ward	Number of residents C19+	Number of residents with suspected C19	Number of residents in C19 contact isolation with no symptoms
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	residents	resident	residents
			resident	residents
		residents		residents
		residents		residents
		residents		residents
		residents		residents

Page 24 of the above guidelines issued by the HSE/HPSC sets out the appropriate action to be taken when cohorting residents with possible or confirmed Covid-19 as follows:

Where single room capacity is exceeded and it is necessary to cohort residents in a multi-occupancy room;

- Only Residents with **a diagnosis of COVID-19** can be cohorted together;
- Residents with probable COVID-19 should not be cohorted with those who are confirmed positive;
- The risk of cohorting **probable cases** in multi-occupancy areas is much greater than that of cohorting confirmed positive residents together, as the suspect cohort is likely to include residents with and without COVID-19.

The document further states that where residents are cohorted in multi-occupancy rooms providers should maintain as much physical distance as possible between beds; if possible reducing the number of residents/beds in the area to facilitate social distancing.

Please respond to this office by close of business on 20 April 2020;

1. Setting out the risk assessment [redacted] undertook in advance of putting in place measures other than those set out in the above guidance.
2. Action [redacted] will take to protect those residents in [redacted] [redacted] who have not yet contracted COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Cliffe
Deputy Chief Inspector of Social Services
Health Information and Quality Authority

CC by email: [redacted]

CC by email [redacted]