

**From:** [Mary Dunnion](#)  
**To:** [Community Operations](#); [jp.nolan@hse.ie](mailto:jp.nolan@hse.ie)  
**Cc:** [Carol Grogan](#); [Phelim Quinn](#)  
**Subject:** Infection Control Hub  
**Date:** Monday 30 March 2020 16:42:52

---

Hello David

Trust you are well.

I am currently working on setting up the Infection Control Hub for designated centres.

I met with JP and Aileen last Thursday and explored potential linkages into the HSE outbreak management team per CHO area – JP was to explore this further and get back to us.

Today I have had several data and information requests from the DOH, the NPHET and Colm Henry in relation to the residential sector and areas of actual and or potential risk.

### **As discussed:**

#### **Proposal**

1. The HIQA Infection control hub will provide support and guidance on:
  - Suspected or outbreak preparedness
  - outbreak management advice to include ;
    - resident placement
    - cohorting and special measures especially in centres where isolation is not possible
    - Staff cohorting in the management of suspected and infected cases
    - transmission based precautions
    - standard precautions
2. The infection control hub will also support providers and staff in understanding HSE advice and how you can apply this advice to your specific centres as well as general support to providers and staff in designated centre on infection control issues.

#### **Structure**

The infection control hub will be staffed by inspectors with experience and expertise in infection control, delivering services and/or regulating designated centres.

Providers will be able to contact be the team in one of the following ways:

By telephone on **1800xxxxxxxxxxxxxx**

Or by e-mail at [DCICP@hiqa.ie](mailto:DCICP@hiqa.ie)

#### **Hours of business**

Initially the infection control hub will be available from **Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**, however we will keep this under review and will adapt depending on demand.

### **Out of Scope**

The following areas will not be in scope

- Access route for the securing of PPE or other infection control equipment or supplies
- Occupational health advice
- General designated centre queries, these will be managed by case holders
- Public Health Advice- this will be referred to Public Health
- Clinical management of staff and COVID-19 infected residents

### **NB**

This infection control hub does not replace providers obligation to notify;

- Public Health of any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19

To progress this, we need to agree the referral pathway into the HSE. You might let me know your thoughts and next steps.

Regards

Mary

Mary Dunnion  
Chief Inspector of Social Services  
Director of Regulation  
Regulation Directorate  
Health Information & Quality Authority  
Head Office, Unit 1301, City Gate, Mahon, Cork  
dd: +353 (0)21 240 9333  
m: +353 (0)87 0662251  
f: +353 (0)21 240 9600  
e: [mdunnion@hiqa.ie](mailto:mdunnion@hiqa.ie)  
[www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)