



17 April 2020

To: Person in Charge, Long-term Residential Care Centre

COVID-19: Census of mortality rates in Long-term Residential Care Settings (LTRCs)

Dear Colleague,

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the on-going commitment of both you and your teams and I want to recognise your support for our national collective approach in tackling the significant challenges associated with COVID-19. I am very conscious of the level of care you provide for our citizens, as residents in your long-term care settings, and for their families at all times, and particularly during this pandemic.

A number of key actions including preparedness, training and active screening of staff through temperature checking are among many of the enhanced measures being implemented across all of our long-term residential care settings. All our actions are guided by the World Health Organisation, the European Centre for Disease Control and the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE).

Our collective primary public health objective is to interrupt the chains of transmission of COVID-19. We will be advising of new and enhanced testing measures and further information will be available.

In order to assist expanding our current information set, which includes deaths in long-term care settings, NPHE recommended today that we conduct a census over this weekend of mortality rates in long term residential settings, between January and April 2020, as a matter of urgency. We ask for your patience as we are keenly aware that you already provide such information. However I want to assure you that this census will provide essential information to NPHE next Tuesday.

Attached to this correspondence is a census to be completed by the Person-In-Charge of each facility. This template needs to be returned to the Department of Health by email to ██████████@health.gov.ie by 18:00 on Sunday 2020.

While I wish to acknowledge the challenge associated with the timeframe to complete this census I do sincerely appreciate your cooperation. I know we have a shared objective to provide as much public health information to assist in informing our required public health actions to interrupt transmission of this disease.

To support you during this process the Department will have staff available this week on Saturday and Sunday, between the hours of 14:00 to 18:00, to answer any questions you may have on how to fill out the survey. The number for the Department of Health is [REDACTED]

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter and most importantly for all your continued work to protect some of our most vulnerable members of society during this unprecedented crisis.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dr Kathleen Mac Lellan
Head of Social Care
Department of Health