

Regulatory Response by the Chief Inspector of Social Services to COVID-19¹

Communique no. 12

Friday 26 June 2020

NF02 Notifications

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Chief Inspector of Social Services are continuing to review the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and we note that a number of Registered Providers are now in a position to declare the outbreak of COVID-19 over in their centres.

Interim Public Health Guidance for the Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks published by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, sets out that an outbreak is over if a centre has not experienced any new cases of infection which meet the case definition of COVID-19 for a period of 28 days (two incubation periods)': <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/residentialcarefacilities/RCF%20guidance%20document.pdf>

Should this be the case in your centre, you are requested to:

- Send a Daily Update reflecting that there are zero cases of suspected or confirmed Covid19 for either residents or staff. **Please Note:** Following this, you do not need to send a further daily update as long as there remains zero suspected or confirmed cases.
- Once the period of 28 days has elapsed since the last new case of infection which meet the case definition has occurred, send an email to notify@hiqa.ie declaring that the centre is COVID-19 recovered. This email should be marked for the attention of the case holding inspector for the centre.

¹ Notice review date: January 2021

The case holding inspector will then close the current **NF02 Notification of an Outbreak of Any Notifiable Disease** for the centre noting that the centre is COVID-19 recovered.

Should there be any further case² of suspected or confirmed Covid19 in the centre, you will need to submit a new **NF02 Notification of an Outbreak of Any Notifiable Disease** for the centre and resume sending Daily Updates in relation to this.

Publication of Reports

We will resume publication of inspection reports on the week commencing 06 July 2020. Providers will be notified in advance of publication of a report as per our normal process. We will continue to provide updates as required



Mary Dunnion
Chief Inspector of Social Services

² The Chief Inspector requires you to submit such a notification for any single case of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 as per the COVID-19 case definition which is found at : <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/>

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