



20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Mr Tadhg Daly  
Chief Executive  
NHI

**Subject: NPHET Actions 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Dear Tadhg,

I would like to acknowledge your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> August to Minister Donnelly in relation to visiting restrictions in nursing homes. This issue was discussed at the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) meeting which took place today and I am writing to you to provide an update related to new advice arising from these discussions.

As you will be aware NPHE is monitoring closely the increase in COVID-19 cases and clusters nationally over the last few weeks in order to ensure the most appropriate measures are in place to continue to halt the transmission of COVID-19 and minimize risk for the most vulnerable members of our society. Within this context, NPHE gave consideration today to the current visiting guidance with regard to long-term residential care settings (LTRCs).

NPHE recognises the importance of visiting to the general health and wellbeing of residents in LTRCs. Given the stage of the disease nationally NPHE recommends that in addition to the current visitor guidance, and in keeping with the general public health advice to limit contacts, that the number of nominated visitors per resident in LTRCs is limited to 4 from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August and that PPE is provided to visitors as necessary.

Where additional visiting restrictions are in place for specific counties these should remain in place until further advised.

The HSPC guidance will be updated and will be accessible on the HSPC website at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/> This guidance will be kept under review.

In addition, consideration will be given to enhanced support from Community Response Teams and local public health teams to support service providers in the provision of safe, consistent and proportionate visiting balancing risk with benefits.



I would appreciate if NHI could bring this information to the attention of your members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of nursing homes to tackling the spread of COVID-19 and supporting their residents during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen MacLellan', positioned below the 'Yours sincerely,' text.

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Kathleen MacLellan  
Head of Social Care Division