

Melanie Coghlan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 1 April 2020 16:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Immediate assistance at [REDACTED]
Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing as a follow up to our meeting last Monday at the Department of Health where I met with you and your colleagues to share my experience as a Nursing Home Facility with a Cluster outbreak of Covid 19. I am writing today to ask for **immediate assistance at** [REDACTED]

The situation is now extremely critical at [REDACTED] and if we do not have the below immediate support, we are not in a position to provide safe working conditions for our staff nor have sufficient staff to deliver the necessary care for Residents of the home. We have no choice but to transfer Residents to an Acute Hospital (as has been requested a number of times).

We are close to having [REDACTED] with symptoms in the home.

1. PPE

A Consultant Gerontologist from the Acute Services is assisting with medical care at the facility since Monday, and put in writing that the limited availability of PPE in our Covid units was extremely dangerous to staff and residents.

We currently have staff using gowns all day and using plastic aprons as a further protection in between residents, changing aprons and gloves in between residents. His recommendations of good practice would mean that each staff member on the unit would use on average 10 gowns a day bringing our gown use to approximately 350/400 a day for that one unit alone (we likely have 4 confirmed covid units now).

Within in the last hour we have finally taken delivery of 600 gowns and other PPE. While thankful for this, we need to be assured of a continuous supply daily to meet staff and resident needs.

We ask for a guarantee of a daily supply for PPE to keep our residents and staff safe and a review and advice from experts within the HSE public health.

2. Swabs and results

Today I have been in contact with the National Virology lab regarding results of swabs for residents [REDACTED] and Staff [REDACTED] pending results. [REDACTED] Some swabs were taken as far back as 21st of March. I was informed by a NVRL staff member that a number of swabs from our facility had not been located as of yet and likely lost.

I did escalate to public health and requested we get our residents re-swabbed as a matter of urgency. I was informed that the National Ambulance Service are now refusing to come and swab our residents as we have an outbreak of more than two residents. Acute Services will not swab our residents or staff.

3. Staffing

We have [REDACTED] staff out sick. On a [REDACTED] bedded unit with [REDACTED] residents who are sick and being treated for suspected Covid [REDACTED] are out sick. It is unsafe and we urgently need more support at all levels (senior nurses,

staff nurses, HCA's, hygiene and catering staff). We immediately need healthcare workers transferred from other healthcare services.

We are asking for the following:

1. Immediate increase in the supplies of PPE.
2. Immediate access to swab results or re swabbing if swabs cannot be relocated with a one day turn around similar to the acute services
3. Immediate onsite advice from Public Health experts.
4. Additional staffing at all levels (senior nurses, staff nurses, HCA's, hygiene and catering staff).

The situation is now extremely critical and if we do not get additional personnel and the other measures outlined, we cannot provide safe care and will have no choice but to transfer out residents to the acute hospitals.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.