



## Media Release

**Date:** 21 October 2020

### Visitors to Health and Social Care facilities

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HSC has experienced a large volume of calls following the announcement by some care homes earlier today in respect of their visiting restrictions.

Dermot Mullin, Director of Hospital and Adult Community Care Services said:

‘HSC has confirmed that similar restrictions are not being implemented at this time. All operational services are monitoring the emerging situation and liaising closely with our colleagues in Public Health.

As we move towards the end of the year, we do need the public to work with us through what could be a challenging period. It is the season when a lot of people will have coughs and colds so the message of Catch it, Bin it, Wash your hands is very important. I would also ask anyone with symptoms of a cough or cold not to visit any health and social care departments except if they require emergency treatment in the Emergency Department. Anyone with COVID 19 symptoms should contact the Coronavirus helpline or their GP surgery for advice and support.’

The Care Home sector is made up of private businesses who make operational decisions independently of HSC. However, they will contact HSC for advice and information – particularly Public Health Services. Public Health understands the cautious approach being implemented by some care homes, which it understands is being reviewed daily, bearing in mind the current uncertainty regarding the origin of a case of COVID-19.

**Ends**