

PPE breach part of review into St Mary of the Angels outbreak

By TADHG EVANS

A BREACH in personal protective equipment (PPE) regulations was noted as part of an early review into an outbreak of COVID-19 at Saint Mary of the Angels in Beaufort, *The Kerryman* understands.

Saint Mary of the Angels Parents and Relatives Group chairperson Jack Fitzpatrick has this week said that “the families affected by the recent outbreak have a right to know” what this breach entailed after service provider Saint John of God Kerry Services confirmed last week

that eight cases of the virus had been confirmed at the campus in Beaufort. Five residents and three staff members were confirmed as having COVID-19, and Saint John of God Kerry Services said that these were confined to one residential location on-site.

“I was informed by a manager at St John of God services that there had been a breach of regulations,” Mr Fitzpatrick told *The Kerryman*, “but I wasn’t told what exactly had happened when I asked.

Families affected have a right to know what happened.” **CONTD. PG2**



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IN a response to *The Kerryman*, a Saint John of God Kerry Services spokesperson did not answer queries relating to the alleged PPE breach but said that the outbreak is being reviewed under its Incident Management Policy, with input from its Serious Incident Management Team.

Existing procedures and practices are being reviewed as part of this.

They added that those impacted by the outbreak continue to recover and are doing well.

“The impacted residents are all isolating in their homes and the staff members who have been impacted are also isolating off campus in line with public health guidelines,” the spokesperson said.

“The service is receiving on-



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going support to manage this COVID-19 situation from the HSE and the Public Health Outbreak Teams as per national guidance.

“Kerry Services have been consistently implementing the HSPC/HSE National Infection Prevention and Control Guidance and continuously emphasise full adherence at all times

to the appropriate procedures and practices and have recently put additional training in place for staff.

“We once again would single out the efforts of our staff and the great work being done under difficult circumstances which continues to support those living at St Mary’s of the Angels on a 24-7 basis.”