



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital|Steevens' Lane|Dublin 8|D08 W2A8
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúile
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

Deputy Réada Cronin

Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
Email: reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie

24th December 2020

PQ 40942/20 To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place for the treatment and management of Long-Covid and its acknowledgement as a medical condition; if he will establish multidisciplinary post-Covid-19 clinics around the State to include occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nutritionists and counsellors; the guidance that will be issued to general practitioners and consultants in relation to Long-Covid patients to ensure consistency of treatment; the further medical guidance that will issue to employers to ensure good understanding and fair management of employees; the detail of the provision of Departmental clarity on the entitlements of patients to medical care and adequate financial support; if HSE websites will be updated regularly with information and findings regarding Long-Covid recovery; if such recovery guidelines will be created and provided to all; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cronin

As COVID 19 is still a relatively new disease information on it, its features and its course are just emerging. We do however know that the clinical course of viral illnesses varies between people, and that the virus that causes Covid-19 can be detected in some people for many weeks. However this does not mean that people are infectious for a prolonged period of time.

Fatigue is a common symptom after many viral infections and while most people recover in a short few days or weeks it can be prolonged and more severe for others. The reason for this is unclear. It is expected that people make a full recovery over time. Covid-19 is a multisystem infection and may impact people in differing ways. There is no national data at this time on how many Irish people experience prolonged symptoms though there are some reports from individual centres.

Specific guidance on what has been referred to as the “long-tail” is presently under development both here and internationally. People who have had Covid-19 are being followed up by their doctors as appropriate-this is usually their GP, and in the case of those who required hospitalisation and/or ITU admission, this is hospital-based. Longer term observational studies will be required to understand the health consequences presently being attributed to post COVID-19 infection.

Work has been undertaken internationally and in the UK. Guidance will be developed to align needs with care provision and to develop criteria and strategies for the ongoing evaluation of patients.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.



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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden'.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO