



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97, Ireland

22nd December 2020

Deputy Thomas Gould,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 43659/20

"To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a situation in which persons who are required to access preoperative Covid-19 testing are forced to travel to the hospital or a sister hospital and cannot avail of this through the centralised testing system particularly in circumstances in which this is a significant distance from their home address and in view of Crumlin Children's Hospital's agreement with a private hospital to reduce the backlog".

Dear Deputy Gould,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response.

The COVID-19 swabbing team in CHI at Crumlin contact each of the patients that meet the criteria for testing prior to their procedure. During the early phases of COVID-19, it was difficult to access local testing centres due to the volume of testing, local capacity and the time sensitive screening that was required to ensure the result was valid. As such, it was recommended that the patients travel to CHI at Crumlin at a 48-72 hour interval prior to their procedure and have the COVID-19 swab taken. This would ensure that the result would be available within the timeframe necessary to proceed with their procedure.

In more recent times, the COVID-19 swabbing team remain in contact with patients in advance of their procedures and try to establish if the test can be facilitated locally within the 48-72 hour timeframe prior to the procedure date at a local centre. Where this is possible, the team work with the patient and their families to ensure that the test result is communicated back to CHI at Crumlin prior to the procedure.

There are a number of patients who express a preference to be tested at CHI at Crumlin including patients from Dublin and surrounding counties but also from further afield.

Mission – To promote and provide child-centered, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Prof Niamh Brennan, Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Mr Liam Dowdall, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Mr Turlough O'Sullivan, Mr Sean Sheehan



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CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street are currently working together and with external centres to develop a process that would agree a testing pathway that would be local to the patient. This is a work in progress as we receive patients from all 26 counties but we would be hopeful that where the test can be facilitated locally, it can be performed locally. CHI at Crumlin would like to confirm that there is no arrangement with any Private Hospital to address any backlog relating to COVID-19 swabbing and testing.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
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Children's Health Ireland
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