



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta um Phleanáil agus Chlaochlú Straitéiseach
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10th February 2021

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 44377/20

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. The question concerned was referred by colleagues in Parliamentary Affairs to Strategic Planning and Transformation in the HSE for review and direct response, as we are managing the HSE's Covid-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP).

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in issuing this response to you.

Parliamentary Question: To ask the Minister for Health the way in which persons who receive a negative PCR test will be picked up by the tracing service further to advice to persons travelling into Ireland that if they obtain a negative PCR test after five days they do not need to restrict their movements further; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response: Incoming passengers should ensure that they are aware of, and comply with, all relevant public health restrictions that apply to the population in general. Passengers will be asked to present evidence of their negative/'not detected' for COVID-19 result (using RT-PCR within 72 hours before their arrival) before boarding their airplane or ferry and will be denied boarding if they cannot produce such evidence.

If they are coming to Ireland from overseas they must complete a [COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form](#). The HSE's Departments of Public Health request the boarded manifest from the airline for all flights where a detected case of COVID-19 has been subsequently identified as having been on board. The flight contact tracing is under the management of the SPHM (Specialists in Public Health Medicine) in the Department of Public Health who identifies the close contacts.

A legal requirement to quarantine has been introduced for all travellers (except if your journey originates in Northern Ireland) – with very limited exceptions.

This applies for all arrivals from 4th February 2021:

- 14-day quarantine period must be undertaken at the address specified on the Passenger Locator Form
- Persons who travel from another country to Ireland, and arrive via Northern Ireland, must also observe the mandatory quarantine regime.



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If a person does not fulfil the legal requirement for mandatory quarantine they are committing an offence, and can be fined up to €2,500 or get a prison sentence of up to 6 months, or both. A person may only leave their place of residence during the quarantine period for unavoidable reasons of an emergency nature to protect a person's health or welfare, or to leave the State.

Under current Government guidelines a person may leave to take a RT-PCR test no less than 5 days after their arrival – if they receive written confirmation that the result of this test is negative/ 'not detected' their period of quarantine can end. They must retain the written confirmation of their test result for at least 14 days.

Due to the new variants of COVID-19 identified if a journey began in South Africa or Brazil the person must complete the full 14 days of quarantine. They must complete the full period of quarantine and remain in the place of residence specified on the Covid-19 Passenger Locator Form irrespective of their test results.

There are some limited exemptions from the requirement to complete mandatory quarantine such as patients travelling for urgent medical reasons.

Further information can be found regarding travelling to Ireland can be found here:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b4020-travelling-to-ireland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

I trust this response deals with your query however; if you have any further queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Ryan
Business Manager
Office of the National Director, Strategic Planning and Transformation and Head of CMP



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