

25th November 2020

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 28430/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the average turnaround time from initial contact with a general practitioner to confirmation of the result of a test for teachers”.

Dear Deputy Carroll MacNeill,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

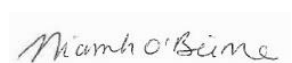
We understand the importance of an appropriate clinical response and fast turnaround within the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) services and indeed across all testing of children, younger people and those working with these groups. To support this sector and all other sectors, we continue to prioritise reducing our end to end turnaround time of all testing completed for COVID-19. The current end to end turnaround time within the community is a median of 1.8 days from the point of referral to result communicated and 92% of GP referrals are provided with a Covid-19 test appointment within 24 hours. Results are communicated to over 95% of people within 48 hours of swabbing appointment and the vast majority within 36 hours.

I have included the below link to the report on mass testing in schools which will be published on a weekly basis for your information:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-schools-mass-testing-report.html>

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing