

12th November 2020

Deputy Pa Daly
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 31560/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the criteria applied by the HSE for testing in cases in which a person is a close contact but does not have the Covid-19 App installed”.

Dear Deputy Daly,

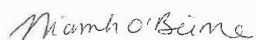
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

It is not necessary to have the Covid-19 App installed to be deemed a close contact. The contact tracing process is a three call process. Call 1 informs the person of their result, checks their health status and provides the necessary Public Health advice. Call 2 collects the details of people who are deemed close contacts, from 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms (or 24 hours before the date of their test, if they have no symptoms) until the time the case has self-isolated. Call 3 is calling the close contacts, advising them to restrict their movements and arranging for them to be referred for a test. Since the 21st October all close contacts get an SMS message advising them that they are a close contact, to restrict their movements, and that the HSE will call them.

When a person becomes a close contact of a confirmed case, they are referred for a test on day 0 and day 7. Day 0 is the day they are identified as a close contact, and day 7 is seven days after they were in contact with the confirmed case.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing