



27th November 2020

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 34754/20 – “To ask the Minister for Health if routine Covid-19 testing is available for home helps and carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

-Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Recommendations on which cohorts of persons should be tested are a matter for NPHE and Public Health. The HSE continually monitors the spread of Covid-19 and possible requirements for further routine testing amongst different cohorts. The overall approach to testing is risk based and informed by ongoing review of data. At present data does not suggest that home helps are vectors of Covid-19 and a high compliance with IPC guidelines is evident in this cohort. All healthcare workers that are not part of serial testing programmes who meet the case definition, still have access to testing in the same way as all other members of the public by way of a free of charge GP referral.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. Over the past seven days, over 96% of all persons referred for testing were offered a test appointment on the same or next day

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations