



17th November 2020

Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 34786/20 – “To ask the Minister for Health if the criteria for the roll out of home testing has changed now that level 5 restrictions are in place”.

-Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

The HSE provides Covid-19 testing in the community as part of its pandemic response. Large scale Community Testing Centres operate nationally with at least one such facility available in each county, with the exception of Leitrim where a Community Testing Centre is scheduled to open during November. In addition, the National Ambulance Services offers a home testing service to members of the public whose medical condition prevents them from being able to travel to a Community Testing Centre. The HSE provides information on its website for members of the public in relation to attending for a Covid-19 test in the community.

Well in excess of 90% of the population have a Community Testing Centre within 45 minutes travel time from their place of residence. Travel in order to attend for a Covid-19 test is considered an essential journey and a person will be able to reference their appointment details received via SMS should any questions arise.

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 91% of all persons referred for testing were offered a test appointment within 24 hours.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations