



27th November 2020

Deputy James Lawless
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 36915/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests undertaken in the past two weeks in the Punches town Testing Centre, County Kildare; the average waiting times for the results to be returned to the persons tested; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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

In the two weeks up to November 26th inclusive 2,035 Covid-19 swab samples were taken in PuncHESTOWN Testing Centre, Co. Kildare, Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Area 07. We calculate turnaround times on a national level. The median turnaround time from swab taken to lab result communicated to the person is 1.2 days. The vast majority of people will have their result in less than 36 hours from swabbing appointment (75%), and over 95% of people in less than 48 hours.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. There are currently 36 testing centres in operation nationally, a combination of permanent Community Testing Centres and temporary “pop-up” testing centres. Over the last seven days in CHO 07 over 57% of all persons referred for a test were offered a test appointment on the same day and 96% were offered a test appointment within 24 hours. Please also note that over the past 14 days the average waiting time for a test for all persons referred for testing in CHO Area 07 is 14 hours.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing

