



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

14 October 2020

Deputy Paul Kehoe  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

***PQ 28376/20 \* To ask the Minister for Health the hospitals that carry out a Covid-19 test to all persons admitted to the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.\****

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

Covid testing for patients is dependent of a number of considerations such as:

- Is the patient attending for an out-patient appointment
- Is the patient attending for a day case procedure
- Is the patient going to be admitted overnight to the hospital
- Is the procedure to be undertaken an aerosol generating procedure (AGP)

In the case of the above, guidance on scaling back up acute adult of (non maternity) hospital services was updated and issued to the system in August 2020, this guidance is available on the HSE Repository:

[https://hse.drsteevenslibrary.ie/ld.php?content\\_id=33122364](https://hse.drsteevenslibrary.ie/ld.php?content_id=33122364) and provides guidance to hospitals in the following areas:

- Interim pre-assessment, triage and review of patient in outpatient care settings (new ad return patients)

- Testing for SARS-CoV-2 prior to scheduled admission or admission for a procedure involving an AGP
- Interim guidance on the management of day case procedures that may nor may not involve anaesthesia or potential aerosol generating procedures (ABP's)
- Interim guidance on the management of planned hospital admission.

Recently interim clinical guidance for adult patients with unscheduled care needs for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 healthcare in the acute hospital system was provided to all hospital groups. This is also available on the HSE website: <https://hse.drsteevenslibrary.ie/Covid19V2/emergencydepartment>

Currently, the hospital testing policy will be determined by the hospital or hospital group COVID preparedness committee (or equivalent) and will be informed by the review of the 14 day cumulative review of incidence, local clusters and outbreaks in community and hospital settings which is issued by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre Monday to Friday. This information is also available via the COVID-19 app. Prevalence may be overlaid by local information and result in enhanced measures.

Additionally a subgroup of the National COVID-19 Testing Strategy Group convened to consider the options for SARS-CoV-2 testing / influenza testing for this coming Winter, in settings to include Nursing Homes, Residential Care Facilities, work places, hospital settings and Primary Care. Therefore it is important to stress that all guidance is iterative and will be updated periodically, based on feedback and any developments that increase the understanding of the virus and its management.

I trust that this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



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**General Manager  
Acute Operations**