

19th October 2020

Deputy Paul Kehoe
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ28378/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health his plans to locate additional Covid-19 testing centres in County Wexford or the north Wexford area; if so, the locations in which the test centres will be based; the timelines on any works that are planned; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The HSE provides Covid-19 testing in the community as part of its pandemic response. There are currently 37 testing centres in operation nationally, a combination of permanent Community Testing Centres and temporary “pop-up” testing centres.

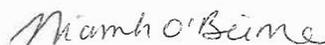
A Community Testing Centre has operated in Wexford since March offering Covid19 testing to members of the public from Wexford. The current facility operates in Whitemill Industrial Estate in Wexford Town. The HSE continually monitors the demand for testing on both a national, regional and local level in order to ensure that Covid-19 testing is available to all persons quickly. As needed, increased capacity for testing is added. This is accomplished through the extension of testing centre opening hours, expansion of available testing stations within a centre and, as needed, the set-up of additional temporary testing centres.

Due to increased demand in recent weeks in Wexford, an additional pop-up testing centre was opened at St Aidan's GAA Club in Ferns. This centre has been in operation since 12 October and has predominantly offered appointments to persons living in the North Wexford area. This centre has increased testing capacity within the region by approximately 250 tests per day.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing