



21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Deputy Richard Bruton,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 30053/20- "To ask the Minister for Health if provision has been made to provide transport to persons suspected of having Covid-19 who do not have means of transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard Bruton"**

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Dear Deputy Bruton,

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.

Members of the public are offered an appointment as soon as possible at a testing centre that is conveniently located to their residence. If an appointment slot is not available within 24 hours a person may be offered an appointment at alternate testing centre that is located as close as possible to their residence

As part of the HSE Test and Trace Operational Model a comprehensive assessment of locations is being undertaken and criteria, including suitability and sustainability of the location as a long term testing centre as well as the location of this centre relative to observed travel times to test centre, considered. At least one testing centre will be available in every county which will ensure that well in excess of 90% of the population have access to a testing centre within a 45 minute drive from their residence.

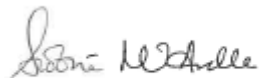
The HSE provides information on its website for members of the public in relation to attending for a Covid-19 test in the community. The content of the website is being updated to provide more detailed guidance on travelling to a test centre.

If you cannot drive yourself to the test centre, you can ask someone from your household to take you. The person who is getting tested will be required to follow public health measures; including social distancing, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face-covering in the testing centre and while travelling to and from it. Public transport should be avoided in order to reduce the spread of the virus.

A GP can request a home test if the person's medical condition makes them unable to attend a test centre. Our Community Healthcare Organisations also try to assist on the basis of clinical need, working with the National Ambulance Service and local GPs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations