

14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Peadar Tóibín  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 30420/20**

**Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of schools nationally that have had outbreaks of Covid-19 among students since the schools reopened in September 2020”.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

I'm sure you will understand we cannot comment on individual cases or educational facilities but I wish to confirm that a total of 384 facilities have undergone mass testing to date in educational facilities following Public Health risk assessments. There have been 125 detected cases, which is a positivity rate of 1.7%, identified across 47 schools confirming 20 individuals are over 18 and the remaining 105 are under 18. Please see below the number of educational facilities broken down by Public Health Department:

PH Department	No. of Facilities	%
East	214	56%
Midlands	30	8%
Mid-West	26	7%
North East	29	8%
North West	23	6%
South	24	6%
South-East	10	3%
West	28	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100</b>

We have undertaken testing in childcare, primary, post primary and special education facilities where a total of 9,345 staff and students have been tested. Of all those tested, 14% (1,296) are aged over 18 and the remaining 86% (8,049) are under 18. The results of these tests are presented in the below table;

Facility Type	No. Facilities	No. Tested	No. Detected	No. Not Detected	No. Pending
Childcare Facility	84	1,649	58	1,506	85
Post Primary	102	2,440	40	2,125	273
Primary	184	4,743	70	4,306	361
Special Education	14	513	10	502	0
	<b>384</b>	<b>9,345</b>	<b>178 (1.9%)</b>	<b>8,439</b>	<b>719</b>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

*Niamh O'Beirne*

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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
**National Lead for Testing and Tracing**