

15th October 2020

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ30768/20

Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests carried out in meat plants for the past two months by week and county in tabular form".

Dear Deputy Gould,

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

The Serial Testing programme at meat and food processing plants commenced on 21st August and is based on testing of asymptomatic staff. As part of this Serial Testing programme we are testing approximately 80 meat and food processing facilities nationwide based on a four-week schedule, which is informed with guidance from HSE Public Health. Serial testing is now established as a core component of the overall testing and contact tracing service, helping to detect asymptomatic individuals who may otherwise go undetected.

Cycle 1 of the serial testing programme in Food Production facilities commenced on Friday 21st of August and concluded on Friday 9th of October. Cycle 1 of the serial testing programme of food production facilities carried out 30,109 tests with 121 of these tests detected. This represents a detected rate of 0.42%. Cycle 2 of serial testing of food production facilities has commenced on 12th of October for a four-week cycle. In the attached Appendix it outlines by county the number of facilities tested, dates they were tested and the number of detected cases in Cycle 1. To date, Cycle 2 has carried out 2,341 tests with 7 detected cases. This represents a detected rate of 0.30%. The HSE is working closely with internal and external stakeholders to identify and implement improvements which can be built into the serial testing programme. This is unrelated to outbreak testing, it is serial testing of asymptomatic staff.

Where an outbreak occurs in a meat or food processing facility then outbreak mass testing will still occur. Public Health will be in touch locally in those situations. If a plant has confirmed cases there is a Public Health Assessment which determines what interventions are required and the subsequent frequency of testing. In all cases where an individual receives a detected result, the contact tracing process begins.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing

Appendix: Facility testing by county breakdown

| County | No. of Facilities Tested | Swab Dates | No. of Swabs | No. of Detected | Result Date of First Detected |
|---------|--------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Carlow | 1 | 04/09/2020 14/09/2020 28/09/2020 29/09/2020 | 150 | 1 | 06/09/2020 |
| Cavan | 3 | 07/09/2020 08/09/2020 15/09/2020 16/09/2020 17/09/2020 28/09/2020 30/09/2020 10/10/2020 | 1965 | 9 | 08/09/2020 |
| Cork | 7 | 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 07/09/2020 08/09/2020 28/09/2020 29/09/2020 14/09/2020 15/09/2020 21/09/2020 18/09/2020 19/09/2020 20/09/2020 30/09/2020 06/10/2020 | 2515 | 8 | 06/09/2020 |
| Donegal | 1 | 08/09/2020 25/09/2020 30/09/2020 | 436 | 0 | |
| Dublin | 4 | 04/09/2020 08/09/2020 15/09/2020 24/09/2020 29/09/2020 30/09/2020 07/10/2020 | 926 | 7 | 06/09/2020 |
| Galway | 1 | 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 29/09/2020 02/09/2020 | 276 | 0 | |
| Kerry | 1 | 08/09/2020 01/10/2020 | 96 | 2 | 02/10/2020 |
| Kildare | 9 | 24/08/2020 31/08/2020 07/09/2020 29/09/2020 26/08/2020 30/08/2020 02/09/2020 22/09/2020 28/08/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 23/09/2020 27/08/2020 03/09/2020 15/09/2020 26/08/2020 31/08/2020 07/09/2020 14/09/2020 | 5035 | 19 | 25/08/2020 |



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|----------|----|--|------|----|------------|
| | | 28/09/2020 01/09/2020 08/09/2020 30/09/2020 08/09/2020 29/09/2020 28/08/2020 25/08/2020 06/10/2020 | | | |
| Kilkenny | 2 | 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 28/09/2020 01/10/2020 02/10/2020 08/10/2020 | 830 | 1 | 04/09/2020 |
| Laois | 1 | 21/08/2020 28/08/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 08/10/2020 | 473 | 0 | |
| Leitrim | 1 | 08/09/2020 30/09/2020 | 102 | 0 | |
| Limerick | 3 | 08/09/2020 17/09/2020 28/09/2020 10/10/2020 | 774 | 4 | 09/09/2020 |
| Longford | 3 | 08/09/2020 15/09/2020 21/09/2020 28/09/2020 30/09/2020 | 574 | 14 | 10/09/2020 |
| Louth | 1 | 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 25/09/2020 07/10/2020 08/10/2020 | 741 | 2 | 04/09/2020 |
| Mayo | 3 | 03/09/2020 05/09/2020 15/09/2020 16/09/2020 17/09/2020 22/09/2020 23/09/2020 05/10/2020 | 1395 | 4 | 23/09/2020 |
| Meath | 4 | 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 06/09/2020 08/09/2020 16/09/2020 17/09/2020 29/09/2020 09/10/2020 10/10/2020 | 626 | 2 | 19/09/2020 |
| Monaghan | 11 | 01/09/2020 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 17/09/2020 22/09/2020 01/10/2020 06/10/2020 07/10/2020 09/10/2020 | 2266 | 5 | 04/09/2020 |
| Offaly | 4 | 21/08/2020 24/08/2020 26/08/2020 28/08/2020 | 2477 | 7 | 22/08/2020 |





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|---------------|-----------|--|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | 31/08/2020 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 07/09/2020 08/09/2020 17/09/2020 18/09/2020 24/09/2020 08/10/2020 | | | |
| Roscommon | 1 | 04/09/2020 07/10/2020 09/10/2020 10/10/2020 | 382 | 3 | 08/10/2020 |
| Tipperary | 7 | 28/08/2020 29/08/2020 01/09/2020 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 14/09/2020 15/09/2020 19/09/2020 22/09/2020 23/09/2020 24/09/2020 25/09/2020 29/09/2020 02/10/2020 09/10/2020 | 3579 | 25 | 30/08/2020 |
| Waterford | 3 | 03/09/2020 05/09/2020 08/09/2020 24/09/2020 28/09/2020 06/10/2020 | 802 | 3 | 09/09/2020 |
| Westmeath | 5 | 02/09/2020 07/09/2020 14/09/2020 24/09/2020 28/09/2020 29/09/2020 30/09/2020 02/10/2020 | 810 | 3 | 08/09/2020 |
| Wexford | 3 | 31/08/2020 01/09/2020 02/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 06/10/2020 07/10/2020 08/10/2020 09/10/2020 | 1632 | 2 | 09/10/2020 |
| Wicklow | 2 | 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 07/10/2020 | 874 | 0 | |
| Totals | 81 | | 29,736 | 121 | |

