



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig Niamh O'Beirne, ,Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Tástála agus Rianaithe
Ospidéal an Dr. Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

Office of Niamh O' Beirne, National Lead for Testing & Tracing
Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane, Dublin D08 W2A8

29th September 2020

Deputy Imelda Munster
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 24234/20

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health his plans to locate additional Covid-19 testing centres in County Louth or in east County Meath; if so, the locations in which the test centres will be based; and when they are expected to commence operations - Imelda Munster. -”.

Dear Deputy Munster,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. There are Community Testing Centres currently in operation in Dundalk at MuirhevnaMor Health Centre and in Slane at Slane Health Centres to serve the population of Louth and Meath. Both centres are long established and offer in excess of 750 appointments on individual days.

As part of the HSE Test and Trace Operational Model a comprehensive assessment of locations is being undertaken. The criteria, including suitability and sustainability of the location as a long term testing centre, as well as the location of centres relative to observed travel times, was considered. This assessment concluded that the facility identified in Ardee best met these criteria noting travel times from both Dundalk and Drogheda less than 25 minutes. The facility in Ardee is scheduled to open the week commencing October 5th 2020.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. Testing Centres are continuously evaluated to ensure that capacity meets demand, including extension of opening hours and addition of testing stations to existing sites. Further actions including the use of pop-up Testing Centres have been initiated in other areas where these actions were not deemed sufficient to meet demand.

I trust this clarifies the issue you have raised.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

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