



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

28th September 2020

Deputy Verona Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 24611/20

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to allow for non-appointment drive through Covid-19 testing throughout Country Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 no plans in place for non-appointment drive through Covid-19 testing throughout County Wexford. Covid-19 Community Testing Centres in County Wexford, as in all other counties in Ireland operate on an appointment only basis.

The HSE continually monitor the demand for testing on both a national and regional level and 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 adding testing capacity at testing centres, extension of testing centre opening hours and, as needed, the set-up of additional testing centres on a short term basis.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. Over the past seven days, the median end-to-end turnaround time in community settings was 2 days, 90% of all those tested in the community settings received their results within this timeframe. In over 94% of referrals people get an appointment same day or next day.

I trust this clarifies the issue you have raised.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing