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30th September 2020

**Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 24964/20 "To ask the Minister for Health the number of drive through testing facility lanes available on a weekly basis since 1 April 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

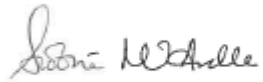
Information is not collected in the format requested. The HSE have provided large scale Covid19 testing for the community at testing centre locations throughout the country since March in line with overall demand for testing. Covid-19 Community Testing Centres are operating at 33 locations currently around the country with the vast majority of the population having access to a testing centre within 1 hour of their residence. Of the testing centres currently open, twenty two can facilitate drive through testing. All testing undertaken at testing sites is done 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 (addition of testing bays/stations) 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.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhan McArdle,
Head of Primary Care, Community Operations