



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Business Park, Raheen,
Limerick
Tel: 061 483722

30th September, 2020

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ Ref 25784/20 “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to persons in North County Tipperary being referred to University Hospital Limerick due to a lack of capacity in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; if he will make local testing facilities available; if those that incur additional expense in order to travel from Nenagh to Limerick for tests will be compensated; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Browne,

I refer to your Parliamentary Question in relation to the above *“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to persons in North County Tipperary being referred to University Hospital Limerick due to a lack of capacity in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; if he will make local testing facilities available; if those that incur additional expense in order to travel from Nenagh to Limerick for tests will be compensated; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.*

The Primary Care Services provide a Covid-19 Community Testing Centre in Nenagh. It is based on the grounds of the Derg Health Centre, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. This facility currently operates 2 lanes from 14:00hrs to 20:00hrs Monday to Saturday and 1 lane on a Sunday 14:00hrs to 20:00hrs. If there is an increase in referrals, we can increase the opening hours if required, this has been facilitated previously. There will be a permanent Community Test Centre opening in the coming weeks in Nenagh.

I note your reference to testing being carried out in University Hospital Limerick. Patients would not be referred to University Hospital Limerick for Covid-19 testing. Should you wish to furnish the details of the particular case(s) we can explore them further.

All patients prior to elective surgery are required to have a Covid-19 negative test result within a tight timeframe prior to their hospital admission. Covid-19 testing is provided on an appointment basis and it can happen that there is no available slot within the required timeframe in the local centre and therefore, the individual is then offered an appointment at an alternative Community Covid-19 Testing Centre. Usually the local centre would have capacity to meet the required timelines.

From Monday 12th October, the University Hospital Limerick Group will be undertaking pre-operative Covid-19 testing.

The HSE does not fund or reimburse transport costs in respect of individuals attending for a HSE provided service.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in our representation.

Yours sincerely,



p.c. **Carmel McLaughlin**
General Manager – Primary Care