

8th October 2020

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 26476/20

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the dates and centres at which testing has taking place since 1 June 2020 in respect of serial Covid-19 testing at food processing plants; the number tested at each site on each date; the number of confirmed cases identified per testing cycle at each individual site; the average time for delivery of results per testing cycle at each confirmed site in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

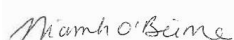
The Serial Testing programme at meat and food processing plants commenced on 21st August and is based on testing asymptomatic staff. As part of this Serial Testing programme we are testing approximately 80 meat and food processing facilities nationwide based on a four-week schedule, which is informed 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. To date, there has been 28,109 tests carried out in this serial testing programme with 110 detected cases, this represents a detected rate of 0.39%. In the attached Appendix it outlines by county the number of facilities tested, dates they were tested and the number of detected cases. 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.

Turnaround time from swab taken to result communicated for the serial testing programmes in food production plants is 32 hours. It is not possible at present to provide an individual view of turnaround times for each serial testing programme as you can understand the HSE cannot comment on individual cases or individual facilities.

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
Carlow	1	04/09/2020 14/09/2020 28/09/2020 29/09/2020	150	1
Cavan	3	07/09/2020 08/09/2020 15/09/2020 16/09/2020 17/09/2020 28/09/2020 30/09/2020	1964	9
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
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	926	7
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
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 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	5035	19



Kilkenny	1	21/08/2020 28/08/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020	654	1
Laois	1	21/08/2020 28/08/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020	348	0
Leitrim	1	08/09/2020 30/09/2020	102	0
Limerick	3	08/09/2020 17/09/2020 28/09/2020	773	4
Longford	3	08/09/2020 15/09/2020 21/09/2020 28/09/2020 30/09/2020	574	14
Louth	1	02/09/2020 03/09/2020 25/09/2020 07/10/2020	602	1
Mayo	3	03/09/2020 05/09/2020 15/09/2020 16/09/2020 17/09/2020 22/09/2020 23/09/2020	1395	4
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	402	1
Monaghan	11	01/09/2020 02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 17/09/2020 22/09/2020 01/10/2020 06/10/2020 07/10/2020	2161	3
Offaly	4	21/08/2020 24/08/2020 26/08/2020 28/08/2020 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	2418	7
Roscommon	1	04/09/2020 07/10/2020	379	0
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	3292	23





Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig Niamh O'Beirne, Foireann Bainistíocht Feidhmiúcháin,
Ospidéal an Dr. Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8
Office of Niamh O' Beirne, Executive Management Team, HSE
Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane, Dublin D08 W2A8

		29/09/2020		
Waterford	3	03/09/2020 05/09/2020 08/09/2020 24/09/2020 28/09/2020 06/10/2020	802	2
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
Wexford	3	31/08/2020 01/09/2020 02/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 06/10/2020 07/10/2020	1102	0
Wicklow	2	02/09/2020 03/09/2020 04/09/2020 05/09/2020 07/10/2020	874	0
Totals	80		28068	109



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

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