

24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Johnny Guirke  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 26781/20**

**Question: “To ask the Minister for Health if it is possible to see if a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 has not observed the isolation period, potentially infecting others by using the track and tracing system; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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.

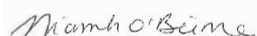
When a person receives a positive result for Covid-19 they are advised that they will need to self-isolate due to the high-risk that the virus could be spread to other people. Their GP is informed of their result. They are advised to stay in a room, on their own, with a window open for ventilation and to completely avoid contact with other people. It is a person's personal responsibility to adhere to Public Health advice once they receive a positive test result and it is not possible for the HSE to confirm if a person has not observed the isolation period.

Clear guidance is provided on the HSE website to the public with regards each step of the testing process including how to manage a positive result. Advice is provided with regards to the isolation period and how to cope with the self-isolation period which is included below for your information:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/testing/test-positive-covid-19.html>

I trust this clarifies your above query.

Yours sincerely,



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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
**National Lead for Testing and Tracing**