**13th October 2020**

Deputy Denise Mitchell
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 27293/20**
**Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time from being tested for Covid-19 to the patient receiving their results in CHO9".**

Dear Deputy Mitchell,

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 advise that we do not have a regional breakdown of turnaround times. The vast majority of tests are processed in one laboratory. I can confirm that the current end to end turnaround time for detected and not detected results from referral to communication of result is 2 days. We are continuing to keep sharp focus on end-to-end turnaround times, while recognising that some cases are increasingly complex in nature.

There are currently 37 testing centres in operation nationally, a combination of permanent Community Testing Centres and temporary "pop-up" testing centres. Currently all counties in Ireland have at least one testing centre with the exception of County Leitrim where a centre is currently being planned. Centres operate on an appointment only basis, providing appointments for people with suspected Covid-19 symptoms referred by their GP. In addition close contacts of positive cases are referred by the HSE Contact Tracing Team for Covid-19 testing in the centres.

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, over 95% of all persons referred for testing were offered a test appointment on the same or next day.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

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