

13th May 2021

Deputy Seán Sherlock,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 21819/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will establish a vaccination center in east County Cork.”

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare currently has two permanent and one temporary testing locations. Vaccination centres across Cork and Kerry are run as a joint project between Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and the South / South West Hospital group. This collaborative approach has allowed us to expedite the scheduling of appointments, thus speeding up the vaccination roll-out across Cork and Kerry.

The centres in Cork and Kerry are spread across the region with the aim of ensuring ease of access for as much of the public as possible, while also bearing in mind that each vaccination centre needs to meet many clinical and logistical requirements. The facilities were all identified against a standard national specification for vaccination centres. In the planning phase whilst we were cognisant of the factors outlined above such as access, clinical and logistical aspects. Our priority is still to ensure that the delivery of the vaccination roll-out continues to be safe and efficient.

The Cork region has a high number of vaccination centres – there are five centres, spread across six locations with a spread across the entire county. The centres vary in size and their operating hours are based on vaccine supply and catchment area need. They run on an appointment-only basis. There are no plans at this present time to increase the number of vaccination centres in Cork.

All of the centres have been strategically placed in order to facilitate individuals to not travel more than an hour to a centre. I understand that people may not have expected to travel outside of their locality for their vaccination and I thank them in advance for their co-operation. All efforts are made to accommodate individuals in receiving their vaccine such as any request for special assistance, change in date, time, venue and/or transport assistance.

The roll-out in this region continues to progress well, with appointments being offered as quickly as possible. Balancing appointments across all centres in the county allows this safe, efficient and timely roll-out to continue.

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Priscilla Lynch', written in a cursive style with several loops and flourishes.

Priscilla Lynch