



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Neale Richmond**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

23/06/2021

**PQ 22203-21: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the work and research his Department has been conducting into long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Richmond,

Thank you for your query which was deferred to the HSE for response.

As COVID 19 is still a relatively new disease information on it, its features and its course are just emerging. We do however know that the clinical course of viral illnesses varies between people, and that the virus that causes Covid-19 can be detected in some people for many weeks. However this does not mean that people are infectious for a prolonged period of time.

Specific guidance on what has been referred to as the "long-COVID" is presently under development both here and internationally. People who have had Covid-19 are being followed up by their doctors as appropriate-this is usually their GP, and in the case of those who required hospitalisation and/or ITU admission, this is hospital-based. Longer term observational studies will be required to understand the health consequences presently being attributed to post COVID-19 infection.

Work has been undertaken internationally and in the UK. Guidance will be developed to align needs with care provision and to develop criteria and strategies for the ongoing evaluation of patients. This will include the understanding of fatigue as part of the effects of long COVID.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO