



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

Tel: 087 345 5593

Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People

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16th December 2021

Michael Moynihan, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 59348/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the reopening of day centres for older people following closure in 2020.

The HSE has continued to prioritise the re-opening of Day Care Centres for Older People over the last number of months. This focus has been on both directly operated HSE Day Care Centres and also on Day Care Services provided under grant aid funding by the HSE. An updated guidance to assist Day Care Centres with re-opening was published on 1st July 2021 with further updated guidance published in November 2021. A webinar hosted by HSE Public Health also took place on 3rd September 2021 to assist providers with further queries/advice to assist with re-opening services in the safest environment and in line with public health guidance.

The table below sets out the current position in relation to the resumption of services by Community Healthcare Organisation across the country.

The latest update shows that 72% of Day Care Services for Older People have now re-opened.

Day Care Summary for November										
	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9	Grand Total
Open	46	4	29	29	30	17	23	15	19	212
December				3				1		4
January		1		1			1	1		4
2022			1					1		2
Cannot open without funding							9			9
New location required		3		1				1		5
Limitation	6	3			3	2	2	4	1	21
Staff Limitation	2			6	1		3	3	1	16
Closed	9			1		2		3		15



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Unknown		2	1				2			5
Grand Total	63	13	31	41	34	21	40	29	21	293
Percentage Open	73%	31%	94%	71%	88%	81%	58%	52%	90%	72%

However, there are still a number of Day Care Centres that remain closed and the HSE is working proactively in ensuring these open as soon as possible. The reasons for delays in re-opening are set out below:-

- A number of Day Care Services have advised there is issues getting staff back who have been redeployed to other key services.
- A number of HSE funded voluntary organisations have also advised their staff will not return to Day Care Services and they need to recruit for these posts and will not be able to re-commence their service until these staff have been recruited.
- Other centres have reported there is a requirement for a new location or major refurbishment work to resume services back in order to adhere to public health guidance.
- Some Day Care Services have also re-directed their services to home supports, meals on wheels etc., and plans are being put in place to support these clients who may not be attendees at the Day Care Service or will have deteriorated to a point that they will not be able to return to the Day Care Service.

The National Office for Older People, Community Operations continues to support the local services to ensure as many services as possible can resume as priority.

Additional funding has been identified in the 2022 Budget to assist with re-opening services. This is currently being allocated to Day Care Centres across the country to ensure as many as possible can re-open in 2022 in addition to expanding Day Care Services where full service has not resumed.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.