



16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021

Deputy Emer Higgins,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: [emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie](mailto:emer.higgins@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ Number: 59392/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report on the cancellation and no-show rates for PCR tests.**

Dear Deputy Higgins,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The month of November saw the highest level of activity in the Community Testing Centres since the start of the pandemic. During this period, a total of 645,213 persons attended an appointment for a Covid-19 PCR test at a Community Testing Centre. These persons were referred for testing by their GP, as a result of having been identified as a close contact of a confirmed Covid-19 case or who self-referred for testing. 66,199 persons (9.3%) did not attend for their scheduled appointment.

A further 105,744 persons were offered an appointment or booked an appointment but cancelled their appointment in advance. The HSE encourages all persons who cannot make their test appointment to cancel it in advance so that we can provide someone else with that test appointment. The test centres do overbook to compensate for people who do not attend as best they can.

Covid-19 testing is one part of the strategy in relation to managing the pandemic. It is key that the public follow all Public Health guidance in relation to prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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**Damien McCallion**  
**National Director**  
**National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme**