



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

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: [peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ Number: 59982/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who were tested for Covid-19 in pop-up testing centres since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic; and the breakdown per county.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

Since March 2020, the HSE has operated Community Testing Centres throughout the country as a critical part of the pandemic response. These centres collect a swab for PCR-testing from persons referred for a Covid-19 test by their GP, by Public Health or because they are a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19. In March 2021, walk in testing for persons requiring a test commenced without the need for any referral while from June 2021 persons have been able to self-refer for a test appointment at a specific Testing Centre.

A national footprint of Community Testing Centres is established and currently 41 such sites are in operation throughout the country. Temporary pop-up testing centres have also operated throughout this period as part of the pandemic response. Pop-up testing centres have been established in specific areas experiencing very high level of demands to augment overall testing capacity. Additionally, pop-up centres have been established in specific areas as directed by Public Health. These centres operated for defined periods of time from single days of operation up to a multi-month period (temporary pop up site in the Dublin 15 area). In total, up to 30 November 2021, a total of 366,751 test appointments were attended by members of the public at such temporary pop-up sites. The breakdown by county is detailed in the attached appendix. There will be variation between the recurrence for community pop ups which will depend on fixed capacity and disease prevalence in an area.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. To note Covid-19 testing is one part of the strategy in relation to managing the pandemic and it is key that the public continue to follow Public Health guidance in relation to prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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

## Appendix:

Breakdown by county of persons tested at pop-up testing centres -

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Covid-19 Appointments attended at pop-up testing sites</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	<b>2,348</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	<b>445</b>
<b>Cork</b>	<b>17,464</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>15,687</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	<b>246,870</b>
<b>Galway</b>	<b>3,538</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>3,033</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	<b>3,063</b>
<b>Laois</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	<b>35,003</b>
<b>Louth</b>	<b>12,403</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	<b>2,388</b>
<b>Meath</b>	<b>3,121</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	<b>3,457</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	<b>2,522</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	<b>692</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	<b>3,031</b>
<b>Westmeath</b>	<b>5,614</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	<b>1,305</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	<b>3,769</b>