



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

Deputy Bríd Smith,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: [brid.smith@oireachtas.ie](mailto:brid.smith@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ Number: 60909/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health if a Covid-19 PCR testing centre can be provided in the Dublin 8 area as a matter of urgency; his views on whether those who do not drive may put others at risk if they have to use public transport to travel to testing centres outside of the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -**

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 HSE has operated multiple Community Testing Centres in the Dublin area since March 2019. In line with the National Test and Trace Operational Model, long term locations were established in several locations to serve the people of Dublin. These sites were strategically placed throughout the city following a detailed evaluation at locations which best met defined criteria including suitability and sustainability of the location as a long term testing centre, as well as the location of centres relative to observed travel times. More recently, we have increased capacity for testing in the Dublin area through the establishment of 2 new test centres in North Dublin and one additional testing centre in South Dublin. These centres provide a broad footprint of testing centres across the city.

The HSE continually evaluate options to augment capacity in specific areas experiencing very high level of demands through the use of pop-up Testing Centres. We have on regular occasion utilised the facilities in the Dublin 8 region including at the Old Health Centre facility on Emmett Road in Inchicore as one such location which has been utilised on regular occasions in recent times. We do envisage that this location may be used again in the future to add capacity for PCR testing for Dublin. The Community Testing team continue to monitor demand for testing and deploy these pop up teams to areas with greatest need nationally.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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