



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Thomas Gould

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 10th March 2021

PQ 10276-21 To ask the Minister for Health when a full return to outpatient service is expected; and the metrics that will be used to decide same. -

Dear Deputy Gould

In its response to the current surge of the pandemic, the HSE has continued to follow public health guidance in relation to the safe delivery of health services. Notwithstanding the reduction in numbers of COVID 19 cases, all services are required to protect COVID pathways of care through the phased prioritised reintroduction of services and a continued focus on hospital avoidance through the ongoing development of enhanced community services.

Decisions in relation to the type and volume of activity will be made at site level based on local case numbers, available capacity and guidance from national clinical leads. Ongoing vigilance with regard to infection prevention and control measures will be essential given the vulnerability of healthcare settings to COVID 19 transmission. The need to operate parallel COVID and non-COVID pathways will also impact on the pace of service restoration.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO