



Deputy Peadar Tobin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

10th February 2021

Ref. PQ: PQ 5556/21 To ask the Minister for Health if hospital staff who have been deemed close contacts of those who have tested positive for Covid-19 are being tested; the number of hospital staff nationwide who are close contacts currently awaiting tests; and the average wait time for same.

Dear Deputy Tobin

Response:

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

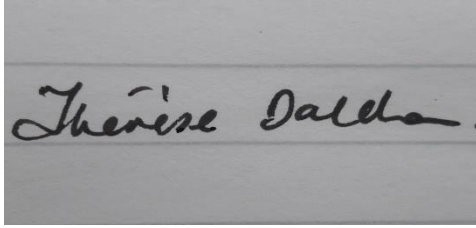
Hospital staff who are deemed a close contact of a patient or other person who has tested positive for COVID-19, in the context of their workplace are offered a COVID-19 test on day 5 in line with public health advice within the hospital or hospital group in question. They are also tested on day 10 and can return to work when they get this result if COVID-19 is not detected and they remain asymptomatic.

Hospital Staff who are deemed a close contact via community contact and off duty due to same, are offered a test as close contact at day 5 days via community contact tracing services in accordance with current contact tracing practices at the time of this response. These staff may also be offered a test from their employing hospital at day 10.

Unfortunately the number of hospital staff who are close contacts currently awaiting tests and the average wait time for same is not available in a national report as requested as the testing is actively managed locally on an on-going daily basis.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan
General Manager and AMRIC Lead
Acute Operations, HSE.