



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital|Steevens' Lane|Dublin 8|D08 W2A8
email: cco@hse.ie

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy John Lahart

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 23/02/2021

NEW PQ ref 5621/21 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide nationwide long Covid clinics; when he expects these to be open; if there is a current waiting list for such clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lahart

As COVID 19 is still a relatively new disease information on it, its features and its course are just emerging. We do however know that the clinical course of viral illnesses varies between people, and that the virus that causes Covid-19 can be detected in some people for many weeks. However this does not mean that people are infectious for a prolonged period of time.

Specific guidance on what has been referred to as the “long-tail” is presently under development both here and internationally. People who have had Covid-19 are being followed up by their doctors as appropriate-this is usually their GP, and in the case of those who required hospitalisation and/or ITU admission, this is hospital-based. Longer term observational studies will be required to understand the health consequences presently being attributed to post COVID-19 infection.

Work has been undertaken internationally and in the UK. Guidance will be developed to align needs with care provision and to develop criteria and strategies for the ongoing evaluation of patients

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO