



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta um Phleanáil agus Chlaochlú Straitéiseach
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10th February 2021

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 5745/21

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. The question concerned was referred by colleagues in Parliamentary Affairs to Strategic Planning and Transformation in the HSE for review and direct response, as we are managing the HSE's Covid-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP).

Parliamentary Question: To ask the Minister for Health when full contact tracing will resume given the reducing number of daily cases of Covid-19; if full contact tracing will resume when cases reach a certain level; if so, the level; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Deputy Shortall

Response: Thank you for your question. I can advise that as of Friday 29th January 2021, the HSE re-instated the automatic testing of close contacts. Our capacity is currently set at 1,500 detected cases per day for a full contact tracing service and close contact testing. As case numbers are now consistently at or below our capacity level (for a full tracing service) we have been able to resume close contact tracing and testing.

Close contacts of a detected case are now being scheduled a COVID-19 test appointment, five days from when they were last in contact with the confirmed case of COVID-19. Testing of close contacts would have commenced from Saturday 30th January and the volume grown from there. Close contacts are also receiving an SMS with a link to a new 'book a test' online service, as part of a new technology solution from the Contact Management Programme.

I trust this response deals with your query however; if you have any further queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Ryan
Business Manager
Office of the National Director, Strategic Planning and Transformation and Head of CMP



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á Forbairt

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