



3rd February 2021

Deputy Michael McNamara
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 1686/21 “To ask the Minister for Health if persons continue to test positive for Covid-19 for up to three months after an initial positive PCR test; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy McNamara,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to the above. Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would have liked to respond.

I wish to confirm that the advice offered by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) is that a person with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test is considered to have immunity for 12 weeks. If a person with a previous positive test for SARS-CoV-2, is currently clinically well, is tested within 12 weeks, and receives a positive test result, this can be considered to be persistent detection of non-viable virus material rather than re-infection, and no other actions are required.

I have included the link below to the hpsc guidance for your information:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/frequentlyaskedquestions/frequentlyaskedquestionsonimmunityandinfection/>

I trust this addresses your questions.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne

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National Lead Testing and Tracing