



26th January 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 44757/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of Covid-19 cases reported in December 2020 involving schoolchildren or close contacts of schoolchildren”.

Re: PQ 44758/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of schools in the country currently experiencing outbreaks of Covid-19.”

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

I wish to advise that a total of 10,673 tests were completed in December 2020 in Schools and Special Education Facilities. Within this data, 9,291 (87%) account for tests for individuals under 18, and 1,382 (13%) account for tests for individuals 18 and over. There were 328 (88%) detected cases for those under the age of 18, and 44 (12%) detected cases among those 18 and over.

Please see below breakdown for December 2020 for your information:

Facility Type	No. Facilities	No. Tested	No. Detected	Detected %	No. Not Detected
Primary	302	7,961	311	3.9%	7,644
Post Primary	163	2,333	45	1.9%	2,287
Special Education	23	379	16	4.2%	361
Total	488	10,673	372	3.5%	10,292

To date a total of 35,138 tests have been carried out in Schools and Special Education Facilities. Within these, 30,336 (86%) account for tests for individuals under 18, and 4,802 (14%) account for tests for individuals 18 and over. There are 831 (87%) detected cases for those under the age of 18, and 129 (13%) detected cases among those 18 and over.

Facility Type	No. Facilities	No. Tested	No. Detected	Detected %	No. Not Detected
Primary	726	24,140	727	3.0%	23,377
Post Primary	365	9,271	175	1.9%	9,079
Special Education	53	1,727	58	3.4%	1,664
Total	1144	35,138	960	2.7%	34,120

I have also included below the link to the update to the Mass testing report on Schools and Childcare Facilities for your information:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-schools-and-childcare-facilities-mass-testing-report-week-2-2021.pdf>



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing