



11th February 2021

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 4909/21 “To ask the Minister for Health the number of outbreaks of Covid-19 in meat processing plants by county from 1 November 2020, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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 have provided below a breakdown of the number of outbreaks of Covid-19 in meat processing plants from 1st November 2020 by county:

County	Number of outbreaks
Carlow	1
Cavan	3
Cork	1
Donegal	1
Dublin	1
Galway	1
Kildare	2
Laois	1
Limerick	2
Longford	2
Louth	2
Mayo	4
Meath	3
Monaghan	2
Roscommon	1
Tipperary	3
Waterford	2
Westmeath	1
Wexford	3
Wicklow	1
Total	37

Please note that in addition to outbreak testing we also undertake Serial Testing in meat and food processing plants. This commenced on 21st August 2020 following a request by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) to implement this programme. This Serial Testing is operating nationally within the agreed schedule which is once every four-weeks and is informed by guidance from HSE Public Health. We are testing approximately 85 meat and food processing facilities nationwide. Serial testing is now established as a core component of the overall testing and contact tracing service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing

