



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public  
Health/ChildHealth  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer,  
Health Service Executive,  
Public Health Department,  
Second Floor,  
Mount Kennett House,  
Henry Street,  
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

8<sup>th</sup>. March 2021

Deputy Reada Cronin  
TD  
Dail Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ Question 11510/21: To ask the Minister for Health if his Department or the HSE can identify the primary source of Covid-19 infection in north County Kildare and the virus strain or strains thereof, particularly in and around Naas; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cronin,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

It is not possible to identify the primary source of Covid-19 infection in the North County Kildare. Public Health are aware of significant changes in the community incidence rate of Covid-19 in this population over time. Public Health has investigated and controlled Covid-19 outbreaks at a wide range of different settings in this area which include nursing homes, schools, childcare facilities, various workplaces etc.

Regarding virus strains, referred to as lineages, information is available at county level from the beginning of 2021. A number of different lineages have been identified among cases. The three main lineages circulating in Kildare correspond to the same lineages detected in other counties during January and February 2021. Of these,

- B.1.1.7 lineage (UK strain) identified in 70% of isolates sequenced from Co Kildare, compared to 74% nationally
- The B1.177 lineage identified in 18% of isolates sequenced from Co Kildare, compared to 14% nationally
- The B1.258 lineage identified in 3% of isolates sequenced from Co Kildare, compared to 4% nationally

At the current divergence level is not possible to distinguish any specific lineage (or sub lineage) that can be traced to a specific source due to the spread of B.1.1.7 across Ireland as the predominant lineage during the last two months

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

**DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI**  
**ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH**  
**OFFICE OF CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER**  
**Medical registration number 19719**