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15 March 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan TD

Dáil Eireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 12231/21

To ask the Minister for Health if the costs of antigen tests are covered by the temporary assistance scheme for nursing homes; the supports in place to help cover the costs of antigen tests in nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Nursing Homes are currently not reimbursed for antigen tests under the Temporary Assistance Payment Scheme.

The current Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidance on this issue provides for the use of antigen tests at such locations in limited circumstances and under the direction of the local Public Health Department.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.