



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Marian Harkin

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

31/03/2021

PQ 14612-21 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the resources available for persons with ongoing symptoms of long Covid given that many with this condition are suffering from fatigue; if he will consider establishing multidisciplinary clinics throughout the country to help those with long Covid and other fatigue conditions such myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy

As COVID 19 is still a relatively new disease information on it, its features and its course are just emerging. We do however know that the clinical course of viral illnesses varies between people, and that the virus that causes Covid-19 can be detected in some people for many weeks. However this does not mean that people are infectious for a prolonged period of time.

Specific guidance on what has been referred to as the “long-tail” is presently under development both here and internationally. People who have had Covid-19 are being followed up by their doctors as appropriate-this is usually their GP, and in the case of those who required hospitalisation and/or ITU admission, this is hospital-based. Longer term observational studies will be required to understand the health consequences presently being attributed to post COVID-19 infection.

Work has been undertaken internationally and in the UK. Guidance will be developed to align needs with care provision and to develop criteria and strategies for the ongoing evaluation of patients. This will include the understanding of fatigue as part of the effects of long COVID

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO

