



30th April 2021

Deputy James O'Connor
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 23136/21 “To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the issue of those who do not have identification due to the passport backlog and wish to avail of Covid-19 testing; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Connor,

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

When a symptomatic person is referred, typically by their GP, for Covid-19 testing they are not required to bring photographic identification when attending a Covid Test Centre. In recent weeks and as part of a new initiative we have recently opened 'walk-in, no appointment necessary' Covid-19 testing centres to actively look for cases of Covid-19. These temporary walk-in testing centres are opened in areas where the number of positive cases are particularly high and locations are based on advice from the Directors of Public Health who ascertain where they are most needed. These centres support both the HSE's enhanced Covid-19 testing for local communities and allow further identification and understanding of any variants of concern within our communities.

A person can attend a Covid-19 walk-in test centre if they do not have symptoms of Covid-19 and:

- are aged 16 years and over
- live in the same area as the walk-in test centre
- have not tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 6 months

A person is required to bring photo identification and must also provide a mobile phone number when attending a Walk-in Covid Test Centre but it does not necessarily have to be a passport and an expired photographic ID would also be acceptable.

For more information on the Covid-19 walk-in test centres please see the HSE website at the below link:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/testing/covid-19-walk-in-test-centres.html>

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Lee
Assistant National Director -
Head of Operations Monitoring and Improvement

