

30th June 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 24608/21 “To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests carried out at each pop-up testing centre for persons not displaying Covid-19 symptoms nationally.”

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

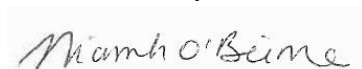
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. We have not been in a position to issue our response until now due to the Cyberware attack on our systems but please now see below information.

I wish to advise that when persons attend a pop up testing centre they are not categorised as symptomatic or asymptomatic so we are not in a position to provide a breakdown of this data. The Pop-up testing centres are an important part of the HSE's efforts to facilitate enhanced Covid-19 testing for local communities and means that persons concerned about Covid-19, as well as those who are symptomatic, have convenient access to testing. These temporary pop-up 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. Public Health teams across the country continue to advise on the most appropriate locations of pop-up test centres at any given time. They encourage the local community to come forward for testing to identify cases in those with and without symptoms.

To note Covid-19 testing is one part of the strategy in relation to managing the pandemic. It is key that the public continue to follow Public Health guidance in relation to prevention of the spread of Covid-19 including hand hygiene, use of a face covering, and social distancing, and that they contact their GP if they have symptoms suggestive of Covid-19.

I trust this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing