

1st Dec. 2021

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 53385/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the recommended standard for antigen tests for use by the public; and the steps being taken to publicise this.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

There is detailed guidance available on the HSE website which explains how and when to use antigen tests, including a video outlining the testing process; what to do when you get an antigen test result; and where to report your antigen test result. I have included the link below for your information:
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/testing/antigen-testing/>

There is also general advice on how to do an antigen test and what to do when you get a positive or negative result on the HSE website.

The HSE is currently running a number of antigen programmes in meat & food sector, in some higher and further education facilities, and early year's childhood facilities. Detailed information and guidance has been provided to participants involved in these programmes. These are led out by the sectors supported by the HSE.

The HSE are also providing antigen tests under public health guidance to vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts. In addition antigen tests are provided to school pods where appropriate. This is led out by the Department of Education in conjunction with the HSE.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme