



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan
Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham

29th September 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 42486/21* To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultants who had to isolate after coming in contact with a Covid-19 positive patient; the impact this isolation has had on outpatient appointments and elective procedures; the plans if any he has to introduce systematic antigen testing of patients at points of entry to hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Response:

I wish to advise that the information you have requested is not collected centrally therefore I cannot provide a response to part 1 and 2 of your request.

In relation to antigen testing, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance promotes that the principle focus should remain on assessing visitors/nominated support partners for symptoms and on encouraging them to follow good IPC practice.

At present, it is not clear that a requirement for antigen testing will make services materially safer and it introduces significant practical complications for access. Antigen testing of visitors/nominated support partners is not currently recommended.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Assistant National Director
Acute Operations**