



28th September 2021

**Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 44032/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of post Covid-19 clinics nationally; if any of these clinics are accepting children under 16 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- Jennifer Carroll MacNeill

Dear Deputy MacNeill,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 44032/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Post COVID/Long COVID is a new disease so information on it, its features, incidence and its course are still emerging. Generally, signs and symptoms develop during or following an infection consistent with COVID-19 which continue for more than 4-12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. The condition usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which may change over time and can affect any system in the body.

A new national model of care has been developed to further enhance service provision to those living with symptoms of Long COVID. This model of care, for all age groups, builds on service provision currently provided with a view to strengthening our response to addressing the needs of these patients across a number of care settings to include Acute, General Practice, community reablement and enablement. This is a key priority for the HSE.

There will be a programmatic approach to the implementation of this model and a National Oversight Group has been established to oversee and drive the implementation of this plan.

Long and Post COVID clinics will be established and will form a multidisciplinary approach to care. A key requirement in the establishment of these clinics will be ensuring that there are age appropriate arrangements in place for managing children and young people with post-COVID syndrome. Locations for these clinics have been identified in the North West, West, Midwest, South and Eastern regions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations