



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

5 October 2021

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 45203/21 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact some community hospitals are utilising day care facilities for use as Covid-19 units and such units have day care centre staff deployed at swabbing and vaccination centres; if there are any interim measures that can be put in place for the elderly who require these facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Through coordination with colleagues at Community Health Organisation level, I can confirm that 3 community hospitals are currently utilising day care services for use as Covid-19 units.

Following on from the closure of Day Care Centres in March 202, a number of Day Care Centre staff were redeployed to Covid testing centres while centres were closed. The process of returning staff to their substantive posts is currently well underway, with every effort being made to backfill their posts by recruiting staff for the Covid testing centres. However, the current climate of high demand for testing has presented a challenge in some areas in returning staff to their Day Care Centre posts.

With regards to any interim measures available, Older Persons Services are working in conjunction with colleagues in the HSE Estates Department and a small number of community organisations in order to reopen services safely. Service Managers have remained in constant contact with clients who had attended services. Enhanced home support services, home sitting services and home respite are among services being offered to older persons in the community, who require support.

I trust this clarifies the issue.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Flynn". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.



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Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.