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## BY EMAIL ONLY

**Deputy Róisín Shortall**

**Dáil Éireann**

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**PQ 10420/22 Deputy Róisín Shortall- To ask the Minister for Health his plans for creating a fast pathway to accessing antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments in view of the need to access these therapies within five days from testing positive for Covid-19; his engagement with general practitioners on this matter; if positive antigen tests will be accepted; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE National COVID-19 Therapeutics Implementation Preparedness Working Group was established to develop preparedness plans for the operational roll-out and implementation of novel COVID-19 therapeutics. Three novel therapeutics were agreed, following recommendations from the Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG), which includes GP representation:

- 1) Sotrovimab
- 2) Paxlovid
- 3) Molnupiravir

An interim pathway has been developed and is in operation for Sotrovimab and work is ongoing to develop the oral pathway. These operational pathways for the above-named therapeutics have and continue to be developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to enable timely pathways. Arrangements will be in place to review referrals 7 days per week in order to allow for timely access.

As each pathway is approved and rolled out, communications campaigns are undertaken with representative bodies and patient advocacy groups. This includes engagement and consultation with GPs.

Clinical discretion will allow antigen testing initially - but within the system, the result can be confirmed (for high-risk individuals at most risk who may benefit from these treatments) rapidly by testing, including PCR and point-of-care testing, on which treatment decisions can be based.



I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO