



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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17th February 2022

Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 5708/22 - To ask the Minister for Health further to a topical issue of 27 January 2022 by this Deputy on long-Covid, the location of the long-Covid clinics that are presently operational; the location of post-acute clinics that are presently operational; if the clinics listed cater for children; the location of long-Covid and post-acute clinics, respectively in which working groups have been established; if he will list the operational clinics with a full complement of staff and the outstanding posts at the other operational locations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 5708/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE developed an interim Model of Care for Long COVID in September 2021 to address the need to provide follow up care for patients with prolonged signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The aim of this Model of Care is to provide a national approach to the provision of this follow up care, by setting out a framework for how services should be designed and delivered. The Model will build on existing service provision, in addition to establishing new services and supports across a number of different settings, including General Practice, Community Services, Acute and Integrated Care.

Within the acute setting, the Model further identifies the need for both Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics within each hospital group. The aim of a Post COVID-19 Assessment and Recovery Clinics is to ensure that patients who have recovered from the acute phase of COVID-19 are followed up in a timely and appropriate fashion taking into account factors such as disease severity, likelihood of long term respiratory symptoms and functional disability. As the recovery phase from COVID-19 may at times be unpredictable, clinical follow-up of this patient group should remain mindful of the possibility of additional, emerging issues. The Long COVID Clinics are a specialist service for patients with signs and symptoms that develop during or after an infection consistent with COVID-19, continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

Post-Acute COVID clinics will be located at the following hospital sites:

University Hospital Galway
University Hospital Limerick
Cork University Hospital
Letterkenny University Hospital



Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown
St James University Hospital
Mater University Hospital
Tallaght University Hospital

Long COVID clinics will be located at the following hospital sites:

University Hospital Galway
University Hospital Limerick
Cork University Hospital
St James University Hospital
St Vincent's University Hospital
Beaumont University Hospital

Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics have already been established at a number of these hospital sites to address the presenting local need. Further expansion of these clinics, in addition to the establishment of new clinics will be a key priority for implementation of the Model of Care. An implementation team representing the areas of neurology, respiratory medicine, infectious diseases and rehabilitation has been established to drive this programme of work.

The Model identifies the key personnel required to support the work of these clinics. Notification has been given to the Post-Acute COVID sites to proceed with the recruitment of resources that are outlined within the MOC. To support progress the National implementation team is working directly with the Long COVID clinics to finalise the resources required for established clinics and new clinics to become fully operational.

These clinics do not cater for children experiencing Long COVID. The National Clinical Advisory Group for Children within the HSE however will be liaising with the implementation team to ensure that clear pathways for children with Long COVID are developed in order to ensure they can access services and supports.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Dunford', written over a horizontal line.

TJ Dunford
Head of Operations - Primary Care
Community Operations