



Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Covid Unit
24/25 Doughcloyne Industrial Estate
Sarsfields Road
Wilton
Cork
Eircode: T12Y821

25th January 2022

Mr. Sean Sherlock, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 3208/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason PCR sites in Mallow and Youghal, County Cork have been removed from the online option; and if a commitment will be made to providing local PCR testing in County Cork.”

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

There was an extraordinary and unprecedented demand for Covid-19 PCR testing in the Cork and Kerry area in late December and early January due to the high incidence of Covid 19 in the community.

The pop up test centres at Mallow and Youghal were run by the National Ambulance Service as temporary sites to support the established local service in meeting the unprecedented demand for Covid testing that has been experienced over Christmas and into January. Demand has now reduced and local established services have adequate capacity to meet current demand as evidenced by the fact that all established sites have appointments available on the Self- Referral portal. Therefore the temporary sites at Mallow and Youghal have now been stood down.

The provision of Covid testing is kept under constant review taking into account the demand in local areas, available support from the National Ambulance Service and current Public Health Guidance and ongoing consideration is given to the provision of localised in that context. The public can be assured that there is adequate testing capacity available and that a test appointment can be accessed readily at all permanent test sites.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen O Mahony,
General Manager, Covid Unit,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare | Health Service Executive | Covid Unit Eagraíocht Phobail um Chúram
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