



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
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19th July 2022

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

PQ 36582/22 – To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 415 of 3 February 2022, if he will revise the public health advice given that the incidence of long-Covid in children is rare and mainly of short duration in view of the systematic review and meta-analyses of long-Covid in children published on 23 June 2022; if as a result he will expedite the establishment of long-Covid clinics for children; the locations of these child focused clinics; 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 36582/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

COVID-19 is a new disease so information on it, its features, incidence and course are still emerging. The Department of Health and the HSE, continue to review new evidence, research and data as it emerges, nationally and internationally, to ensure care is in place for all adults and children who need it.

Fortunately, most children with COVID-19 infection have asymptomatic or mild disease. The incidence of severe disease and hospitalisation of children with COVID-19 is low. The international evidence to date is that the incidence of Long COVID in children is rare and mainly of short duration.

The National Clinical Advisory Group Lead for Children and the Long COVID Programme continues to review new evidence and research as it emerges internationally and will update relevant guidance as appropriate. At present, for children and young suspected of having long COVID, the diagnosis and care is provided by GPs and existing referral pathways within Paediatrics.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations