



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 40294/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the rationale for managing long-Covid in children via general practitioners and general paediatricians rather than dedicated long-Covid services as in the case of adults with long-Covid.

- Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 40294/22) 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.

As you may be aware the HSE Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long COVID was finalized in September 2021. An expert subgroup was set up under the office of CCO to develop this MoC and was led by the National Lead for Integrated Care, with input from a variety of different stakeholders. Extensive literature reviews were conducted in relation to the prevalence of Long COVID, risks factors, symptom profile and trajectory and approaches to treatment. Published reports at that time indicated that approximately 10– 20% of COVID-19 patients experience lingering symptoms for weeks to months following acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. There was a paucity of research in children however, with initial reports indicating that children recover quickly from Covid and that the incidence of Long COVID was very low in these populations. For children and young people suspected of having long Covid, the diagnosis and care is therefore provided by GPs and General Paediatricians.

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.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt



General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations