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30/06/2022

Deputy Réada Cronin  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ33689/22 To ask the Minister for Health the current reinfection rate of Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cronin

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Currently it isn't possible to calculate the COVID-19 reinfection rate.

The current testing policy that came into effect in March 2022 is outlined here.

1. PCR tests are now only recommended for those who are symptomatic and have one of the following:
  - Age 55 or older and have not had COVID-19 vaccine booster dose
  - Have a high-risk medical condition (definition on HSE website)
  - Have a weak immune system (immunocompromised)
  - Live in the same household as a person who has a weak immune system or provide support or care for them
  - Are pregnant
  - Are a healthcare worker
2. Antigen tests are only recommended for healthcare workers who are household close contacts of a COVID-19 case, provided the healthcare worker is asymptomatic and has not had COVID-19 infection in the past 3 months.
3. All other individuals who have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection are asked to isolate at home until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved. Testing for COVID is not recommended for this group

As group 3 above includes the majority of the population, it isn't possible to calculate the COVID-19 rate at this time, as most cases are not being tested.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Martin', written over a horizontal line.

**Dr Gregory Martin**  
**Interim Director of HPSC**  
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