



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

7th April 2022

Deputy Alan Dillon,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15774/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the extent of work his Department and the HSE are undertaking in developing a cohesive plan dealing with long Covid patients; the level of investment that has been provided to support a nationwide network of multidisciplinary long Covid clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Alan Dillon

Dear Deputy Dillon,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 15774/22), 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 Post-Acute COVID 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:

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



University Hospital Galway
University Hospital Limerick
Letterkenny University Hospital

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

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

Some of these clinics are already operational. They have been established in response to local need and are leveraging existing resources and capacity. The HSE is now working with these sites to expand their resources to ensure they can meet the requirements of the Model of Care and what is required within a local context. It is also working with sites that do not already have access to designated clinics so that these can become operational.

€2.2 million has been allocated in 2022 for the establishment of this service. Hospital sites identified have commenced the process of recruitment of the personnel associated with each of the clinics. This includes consultants in the area of infectious diseases, respiratory medicine, neurology and additional multi-disciplinary staff to support the work of the clinics.

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