



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tíre,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,  
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer  
Community Health Organisation  
Midlands Louth Meath

HSE,  
Area Office, Arden Road,  
Tullamore, Co Offaly

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

t 057 9359787  
e [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Mr. Paul Murphy T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Parliamentary Question - 55725/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that there are concerns from residents that the greater midlands area will now be left with a very reduced Covid testing service, given that at its busiest last winter, the Mullingar Covid testing centre alone swabbed on average 800 to 1,000 persons per day; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Paul Murphy**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

As you may be aware, Covid Testing Services are working towards transitioning to a long term surveillance and clinical model in Primary Care, similar to other respiratory conditions. The transition to this long-term model began earlier this year, as the criteria for testing changed based on Public Health Guidance and the demand for testing reduced significantly. National Ambulance Services (NAS) will support this model if there is a surge in demand or in an emergency response scenario. A review has been recently undertaken to determine the model for Testing from November 2022 as we evolve to complete the full transition of the service to the long-term model. Over the Winter months, Community Test Centres will continue to operate in order to maintain the required level of capacity within the overall system, which includes a surge capacity.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

---

Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation