



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroiríochtaí

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Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

4th October 2023

PQ 39754/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the action his Department is taking to reduce waiting times for long-Covid clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

In response to the challenges posed by Long COVID-19, in 2021, the HSE developed an Interim Model of Care for Long Covid, which provides for six Long Covid Clinics and eight Post-Acute Covid clinics nationally, together with services and supports across General Practice, Community services and mental health services.

All of the clinics are using a range of initiatives aimed at managing clinic capacity, improving access to care, and reducing the number of missed appointments (DNAs). These include;

- Clinic capacity is regularly assessed to ensure it aligns with the patient demand. This involves tracking daily appointment schedules.
- Introduction/increase of Virtual COVID Clinics: Virtual COVID clinics are being utilised for triage of referrals as well as for follow up appointments for patients. This helps to alleviate the pressure on physical clinics.
- A number of clinics are in development and staff recruitment is ongoing.
- Clinical space is optimised to increase clinic capacity and offer better care to patients.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Clarke,
Assistant National Director, Acute Operations