



30th June 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 10452/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of residents in direct provision centres that have been exposed to Covid-19 and require a test; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 10454/20

To ask the Minister for Health the details of the testing programme for residents in direct provision in tabular form; the number of centres that have been tested; the number of persons have been tested; if a plan for the remaining tests to be completed is in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

COVID-19 Confirmed cases in IPAS Settings

Data as of 29th June 2020

In answer to PQ 10452/20 and 10454/20 the approach to COVID assessment and treatment including testing and outbreak investigation was conducted on public health principles and based on the approach to diagnosis and treatment in line with the general population.

Those exposed to COVID were those living in the community - some geographical areas and settings had higher incidence rates than others. In particular COVID was most prevalent in the Dublin Region and metropolitan areas. Persons most affected by morbidity and mortality were the elderly especially those in nursing homes. Healthcare workers also had high rates of infection. Outbreaks were detected and investigated in vulnerable group settings and the risks of transmission identified were multi factorial. The approach to testing and outbreak management is contained in the document for PQ 10453 which we developed during the course of the busy period. Mass testing was done based on public health principles in locations where there were known cases or one case or where the national ambulance service worked with local public health Directors. The overall yield from mass screening in direct provision was very low when



done in centres without known cases. The incidence of COVID although mainly asymptomatic was higher when done in centres with known cases. Positivity rates ranged from 0 to over 20%.

There were 180 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in IPAS settings to date. Of these 172 were residents; 8 are staff members. All cases are now recovered. A total of 26 centres had mass testing.

See results below in table 1 by CHO area

Table 1

CHO	No. COVID Tested	Number COVID detected
1	317	< 10
2	416	14
3	65	< 10
4	1,503	25
7	200	17
8	77	19
9	328	50
CHO 1 to 9	Single cases	
Total	2,906	172

Note: In addition to the above some residents may have availed of testing through Community/Employment testing.

Overall the COVID positivity rate was 5.8% (this included staff as well as residents when mass testing was conducted).

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist