

28th August 2020

Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17536/20

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests being carried out on a daily basis by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

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

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

I wish to advise that since May 2020, we have the capacity to conduct over 100,000 tests per week across our swabbing, laboratory and contact tracing infrastructure, the “end-to-end” process, as part of our roadmap of improvements on the testing and contact tracing process for Covid-19. To date we have conducted approx. 740,000 coronavirus tests.

Community testing is a key component of the national COVID-19 strategy making testing facilities available for people who experience symptoms of COVID-19 and / or have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

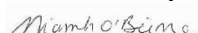
There are currently 29 Community Testing centre locations. These centres can be scaled up or down dependent on demand which can fluctuate daily. This is achieved by extending the opening hours and adding additional swabbing bays throughout the day. This means there is not a fixed amount of tests per swabbing centre each day. It will vary based on demand on a given day.

Please see below a breakdown of the number of tests completed in Community Testing Centres in the past 4 week period.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	total
week of 27 July	1,421	1,631	1,489	1,460	1,661	1,189	377	9,228
week of 3 Aug	939	1,868	2,566	2,418	2,457	1,955	635	12,838
week of 10 Aug	2,713	3,660	3,419	3,031	2,908	2,315	991	19,037
week of 17 Aug	2,794	3,621	3,663	3,159	3,386	2,569	1,704	20,896

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing