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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Sláinte Poiblí

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19 March 2024

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: 11361/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HSE FADA survey regarding the prevalence of long-Covid; the timeline for completion; the type of data being collected and measured; the reason children are not included in this survey; if this survey has been extended beyond HSE Public Health Area B; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall

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

Data collection for the FADA study is complete and data analysis is well advanced. The results will be presented to the FADA steering committee, which includes patient representatives, at the end of March for wider discussion and interpretation. A report will be drawn up shortly afterwards and published in Quarter 2.

The type of data collected includes data on symptoms, risk factors, use of health services for Long COVID and general health status.

The inclusion of children was beyond the scope of the work. Evidence from international literature suggests children are less likely to be affected by persistent symptoms resulting from COVID. Therefore, it is likely that presentation, risk factors and treatments for this group are different to the adult population.

The decision to extend the survey to other areas will be based on the final results and experience of the survey in Dublin and Midlands Regional Health Area.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227