



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

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

T: 01 6352209/2682  
E: [community.primarycare@hse.ie](mailto:community.primarycare@hse.ie)

17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy Denis Naughten,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 5709/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken to develop rehabilitative and online support tools for persons with long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Denis Naughten**

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Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions (PQ 5709/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In July 2021, the HSE launched the Interim Model of Care (MOC) for Long COVID to further enhance Service Provision to those living with symptoms of long COVID. The aim of this Model is to provide a national approach to the provision of supports and services for patients experiencing persistent signs and symptoms of COVID-19. This Model of Care builds on service provision currently provided with a view to strengthening the Health Service response to addressing the needs of people post COVID 19. It sets out a framework for how these specialist services should be designed and delivered with a focus on providing care across a number of settings including acute hospitals, GP settings and community services. The establishment of Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics will be an initial priority for implementation of the Model. An implementation team has been established within the HSE to drive this programme of work.

The Model recognizes that Long COVID can have a significant impact on an individual's physical, cognitive and psychological health and wellbeing and in turn, affect their ability to return to their normal roles and responsibilities. Access to rehabilitation is therefore a key component to assist patients in their recovery from Long COVID. The Model identifies the key personal that are best placed to guide and support patients through this recovery including consultants in the area of infectious disease, respiratory medicine and neurology and additional multidisciplinary staff required to support the work of the Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics. Rehabilitation may be delivered virtually or face to face depending on the needs of the individual patient. Pathways back to community services and GPs will evolve as Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics are launched to further support the delivery of rehabilitation for patients.

In addition to the further expansion and development of services outlined above, the HSE are also developing a comprehensive set of online resources which will be accessible through the HSE website. The purpose of these resources is raise awareness of Long COVID as a condition and to empower patients to self-manage their symptoms. It will also provide guidance for patients regarding when they should seek additional services and supports and how to access these.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Dunford', written over a horizontal line.

**TJ Dunford**  
Head of Operations - Primary Care  
Community Operations