GP Referral for a COVID 19 test

Date: March 5, 2021

Healthlink has updated the referral system for COVID 19 testing in alignment with the revised criteria for testing people who have travelled from other countries.

Travel from Category 1 Country.

People who have travelled from a category 1 country are required to quarantine for 14 days. They have an option to take a RT-PCR test no less than 5 days after arrival, and if the result of this test is negative/ 'not detected', their period of quarantine can end.

At present, referrals for a Covid 19 test are automatically allocated when received, so it is important that referrals for a day 5 test are sent at that time and not in advance.

Travel from a Category 2 country.

People who travel to Ireland from any of the high risk countries, must complete a 14-day quarantine period. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine - regardless of whether they have a negative test result.

Advice on Travel to Ireland during the Covid 1 pandemic, including the list of Category 2 countries is available via:

https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b4020-travelling-to-ireland-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/

HSPC guidance

https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/sars-cov-2variantsofconcern/