



Sláinte Ghnéis & Clár Thoirchis  
Ghéarchéime,  
Urlár 4, 89 – 94 Sráid Chéipil,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1,  
T:076 695 9130 Email: [info@crisispregnancy.ie](mailto:info@crisispregnancy.ie)  
[www.sexualwellbeing.ie](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie)

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street,  
Dublin 1.

Deputy Róisín Shortall  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**PQ ref: PQ 10274/20**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to continue providing free HIV screening services for high-risk groups; if consideration has been given to distributing rapid HIV test kits to high-risk groups free of charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

Community HIV testing services for at-risk groups (including migrants and gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (gbmsm)) are funded by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme and delivered via NGO partners in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway.

In March, these services were paused temporarily due to the restrictions associated with Covid 19 pandemic.

Some of these services are now beginning to reopen in their office premises; HIV Ireland recommenced its rapid HIV testing service for gbmsm on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

It is hoped that other community HIV testing services across the country will be able to recommence service provision in the coming weeks. Services are taking account of public health advice, capacity, and the constraints of delivering services within a COVID environment.

Yours Sincerely

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**Maeve O'Brien**

Interim Programme Lead  
Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme