



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras  
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8  
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme  
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,  
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8  
T: 076 695 9991

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 10469/20 To ask the Minister for Health the steps taken throughout Covid-19 pandemic to facilitate the safe fact-to-face attendance when appropriate by women that are pregnant for regular check-ups and if necessary, treatment with their general practitioner and also with relevant consultants; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Care of pregnant women has continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, with antenatal care being delivered in a safe manner in safe environments. To manage the challenges that have presented over the last number of months in this regard, a number of initiatives have been introduced in maternity services. These include

- hospitals managing antenatal care through increased use of tele-consultations,
- accurate time slots being provided for antenatal appointments,
- clinics being held in larger spaces and areas in hospitals,
- additional antenatal clinics being provided in the community away from the acute maternity service site,
- patients entering maternity services having a history taken to ensure that where possible they have not been exposed to an environment that would put them at increased risk of Covid-19 for example in contact with a confirmed case,
- services reducing the footfall on their sites so as to reduce the risk exposure for women and staff; and
- staff in maternity services protecting both themselves and patients by applying infection prevention measures in line with HSE policy.

Essential antenatal care and treatment of pregnant women has continued in such a way that any risk to the pregnant woman's wellbeing has been kept to an absolute minimum.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



**Mary-Jo Biggs**  
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme