



01 July 2020

Deputy Thomas Pringle
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Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ13492/20: To ask the Minister for Health the date that the Breast Check, Bowel Screen and CervicalCheck screening programme appointments respectively, will be reintroduced in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Pringle,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

The National Screening Service (NSS) is planning a phased restart of its screening programmes in July 2020. CervicalCheck will begin sending invites and reminders to participants in its cervical screening programme on July 06. It is projected that BreastCheck and BowelScreen will resume screening in September/October.

Invitations and reminders for people who are now overdue screening will be sent on a phased basis, in line with programme prioritisation. In the case of cervical screening, this means that invitations and reminders will be first sent to people who are overdue a non-routine repeat screening.

The BreastCheck static units are continuing to assist the symptomatic service delivery for their host hospitals, and prioritising patients with a known high grade/aggressive cancer. BreastCheck mobile units are being reconditioned to meet infection control and physical distancing standards ahead of breast screening restarting.

Screening is a population health measure for people who are presumed healthy and do not have symptoms. The aim of a population screening programme is to reduce the incidence of disease in a population. Screening is not a diagnostic tool and no screening test is completely accurate. All screening programmes are limited by the sensitivity of the test which is the ability to detect those with the disease in a population (true positives). Screening programmes are likewise limited by the specificity of the test which is the ability to detect those who are free of the disease (true negatives). Therefore, a negative test result is not a guarantee that you are clear of the condition or that you won't develop the condition between screening appointments.

The NSS continues to encourage all people who are between screening appointments, or waiting for rescheduled appointments, to be aware of, and act upon, any symptoms associated with the conditions for which they are being screened. We ask that those people contact their GP, who will arrange appropriate follow-up care.

For other queries patients can call the Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55, email info@screeningservice.ie or contact their clinic directly.

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King's Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.
☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie





An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

I trust this information is of assistance, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Celine Fitzgerald
Interim CEO,
National Screening Service

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An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service



BreastCheck
An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Uacht
The National Breast Screening Programme



CervicalCheck
AN CLAR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGHTASTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



BowelScreen
AN CLAR Náisiúnta Scagthástála Uacht
The National Bowel Screening Programme



Diabetic
RetinaScreen
AN CLAR Náisiúnta Scagthástála Uacht
The National Diabetic Retina Screening Programme