



Sláinte Ghnéis & Clár Thoirchis Ghéarchéime,
Urlár 4, 89 – 94 Sráid Chéipil,
Baile Átha Cliath 1,
T:01 7959130 Email: info@crisispregnancy.ie
www.sexualwellbeing.ie

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

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

11th February 2021

PQ ref: 6065/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reintroduce STI testing for non-emergency cases or those without general practitioner referral; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Carroll MacNeill,

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

The recent wave of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the acute hospital system since January, resulting in many public STI services having to again restrict services to emergency appointments only. Over the last year, public STI services re-configured services, such as establishing online booking systems, and providing virtual appointments, in order to support STI service provision in line with the social distancing requirements due to COVID-19. These systems allowed services to remain operational during the second wave of COVID-19 and will support the resumption of STI services as soon as service and staff capacity permits. The timeframe for each service will be based on the COVID-19 situation in each of the hospitals.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the HSE Sexual health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) have been in regular communication with public STI services and are working together with HIV Ireland to maintain an updated list of service restrictions for service users. <https://www.hivireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Health-Service-Restrictions.pdf>

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme