



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

22 September 2021

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD
padraig.maclochlainn@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ43482.21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women currently awaiting a cervical screening test or smear test in County Donegal.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

We do not have a report that pulls together invitation letters on a county basis, so a breakdown showing how many of women in Donegal who are due a cervical screening test is not held by National Screening Service.

However, we are not aware of any capacity issue in primary care in Donegal that might affect waiting times for a cervical screening test. Nor are we aware of any women in Donegal who are awaiting a cervical screening test outside of the normal time it takes to get an appointment at their GP clinic.

All women and people with a cervix are being invited to attend for their cervical screening test when they are due. Each participant chooses when it is best for them to attend; they are responsible for making their appointment with their GP practice or a clinic.

The CervicalCheck programme has experienced a 25% increase in estimated volumes in the first six months of the year. The programme is happy to note that women and GP practices continue to use the service despite the impact and restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We continue to support GP practices and community clinics making individual decisions about the level of screening that is safe for them to provide, as they adhere to government guidelines and public health advice about the spread of COVID-19. Every GP surgery and clinic has measures in place to keep patients and staff safe. These include extra hand hygiene processes, social distancing, and the wearing of PPE. We will continue to follow public health guidelines; the health and safety of our patients and staff is our priority.

We ask that people do not attend their appointment if they are unwell, or self-isolating because they have symptoms of COVID-19. People should not attend either if they are a confirmed close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus recently.

We ask women to keep in touch with their GPs, and to take the earliest appointment offered to them. We are also letting women know that they do not need to book for screening with their own GP, and can book with any sampletaker in their area. A list of registered sampletakers is available on our website [here](#).

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



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An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Ciock
The National Breast Screening Programme



AN CLÁR NÁISIÚNTA SCAGTHÁSTÁLA CERIBHEACS
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Puitéige
The National Bowel Screening Programme



An Clár Náisiúnta Scagthástála Riatróil do Dhiabaitigh
The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme



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Cervical screening is for well people who do not have symptoms. Anyone who is worried about symptoms at any time is advised not to wait for screening, but to contact their GP immediately, for appropriate follow-up care.

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

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

Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive
National Screening Service

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