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

29th September 2021

PQ ref: <u>44974/21</u>

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if all STI testing, including non-emergency cases and those without a general practitioner referral, has fully recommenced; 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 improved COVID-19 situation nationally and the ongoing recovery from the HSE cyber-attack has enabled public STI services to resume a more routine STI service delivery. At this time, not all services are fully operational. To offset challenges in service user access to STI testing, the online STI testing service (integrated with public STI services) has continued beyond the pilot phase, which ended in May 2021. In addition the service has been extended geographically to those living in Wicklow and Kildare. Further geographical extension of the online STI testing service is in development.

Yours Sincerely

Moeve O'Breen

Maeve O'Brien Interim Programme Lead Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme