



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

29th September 2021

PQ ref: 45335/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HSE pilot scheme for a free home STI and HIV testing service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
Jennifer Carroll Mac Neill.

Deputy Carroll Mac Neill,

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

In 2020, with Sláintecare funding, the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, HSE Health and Wellbeing, (SHCPP) commissioned a pilot online STI testing service, integrated with public STI services, which ran between January and May 2021. During this time, the service dispatched 13,749 home STI testing kits across three counties (Dublin, Cork and Kerry); 1 in 12 of returned kits had positive and/or reactive results requiring further action; over half of those who availed of the service had not previously accessed STI testing; and 99% of users highly rated the service. The formal pilot evaluation report is currently being completed, with an anticipated favourable outcome.

Recognising the impact of the COVID19 pandemic and more recently the cyber-attack on public STI services, coupled with the declaration by Public Health of a national early infectious syphilis outbreak in June 2021, the SHCPP has been supported to extend the current contract on a temporary basis to continue the service for the remainder of 2021 and into 2022 for individuals in the original pilot counties. Additionally the service has been extended to those who are resident in Wicklow and Kildare to increase access to STI testing to protect individuals and public health.

A funding proposal has been developed by the SHCPP seeking to continue to roll-out a national free, integrated STI testing service in 2022.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme