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Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme,
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Deputy Alan Farrell
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27th February 2023

PQ ref: 7345/23

To ask the Minister for Health the way persons can access post-exposure prophylaxis on weekends; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Farrell,

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

HIV post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a course of HIV medication that aims to prevent HIV infection following a recent exposure to HIV, for example following a sexual contact or a needle-stick injury. A full course of PEP is for 28 days (4 weeks).

PEP must be started within 72 hours (3 days and nights) after a possible exposure to HIV, and sooner if possible.

PEP is currently available through a number of public STI clinics (Mon-Fri) and Emergency Departments. Individuals are advised to attend STI clinics where possible within the 72 hour timeframe. If it is not possible for an individual to get PEP from a public STI clinic within 72 hours, PEP should be accessed through emergency departments.

Attendance at Emergency Departments should be reserved for situations where there is an injury requiring urgent medical attention or where it is not possible to get PEP from a local STI clinic within 72 hours.

The list of locations where PEP is available in Ireland are listed on https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/need-urgent-information-and-care-/post-exposure-prophylaxis/pep-availability-in-ireland-.pdf.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

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