

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021

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A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like projections (spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly grainy background within the circle.

## 1. Key Test and Trace Messages



## Test and Trace Key Messages

In the past week **206,996** laboratory tests were completed with **177,891** swabs completed in the community which is a **2% increase** in comparison to the same time-period last week.

There is now **230,000** PCR Testing capacity and **100,000** antigen test capacity per week in place.

There are now **41 testing centres** in operation nationally - 35 community swabbing centres and an additional 6 community swabbing centres operated by a private operator on behalf of the HSE. We continue to establish pop-up test centres to provide additional capacity where required. Over the next number of days, pop up test centres will operate in Youghal, Carlow, Narraghmore, Dundalk and Drogheda

Community referrals have decreased by **6%** in comparison to the same time-period last week while community positivity is now at **20%**

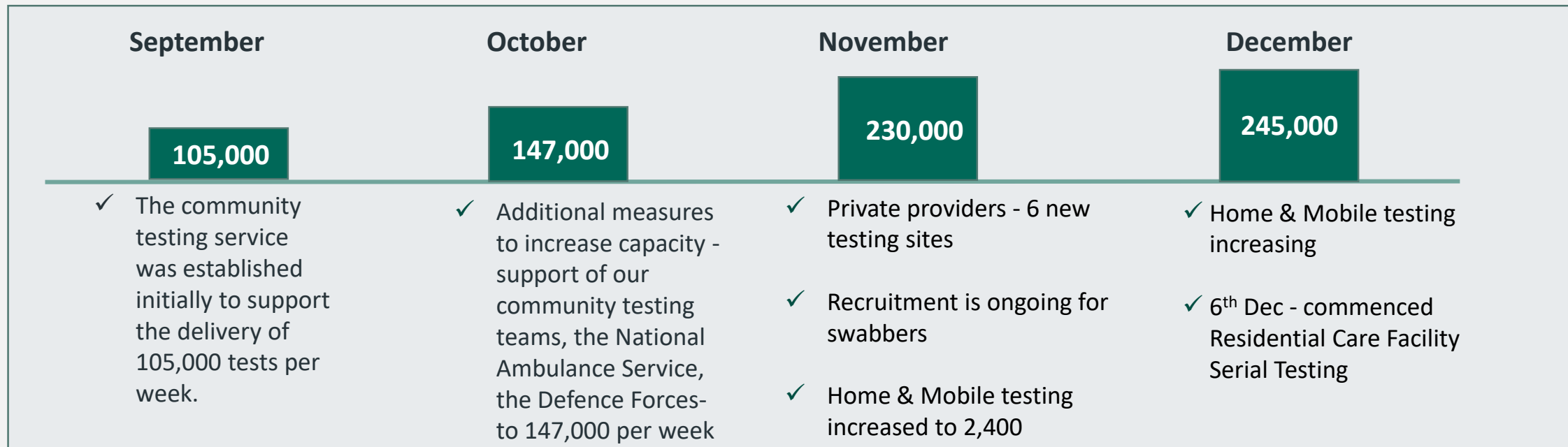
Over the last week **30,437 calls** were completed by the Contact Management Programme (CMP) to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.

Contact tracing was completed for individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 result and we have widened the scope of the List Your Contacts portal so enable positive cases upload their close contacts quickly.

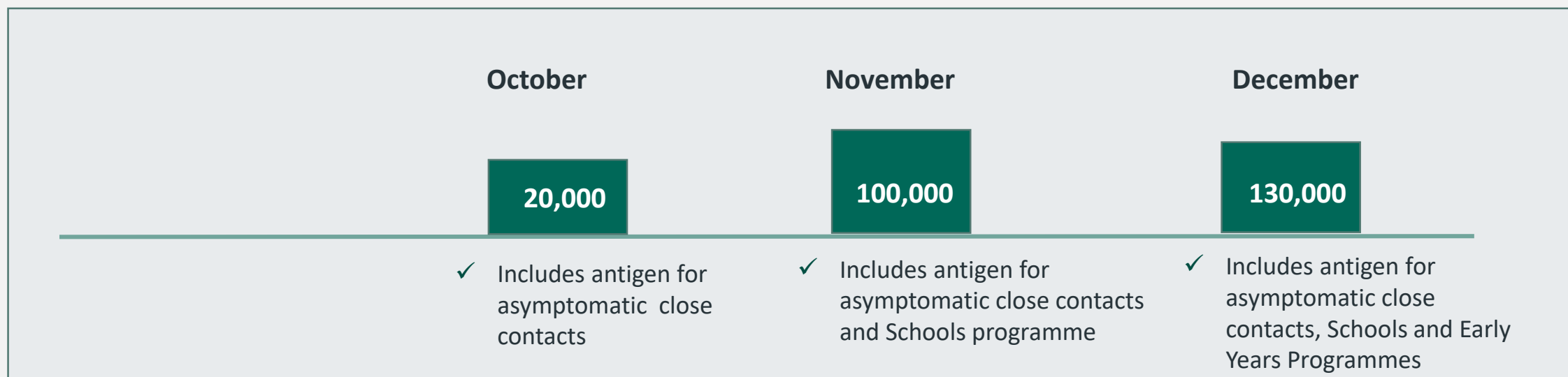
Antigen testing for children aged 4 and older who are in a pod with a confirmed case of COVID 19 for Early Learning and Childcare sector commenced on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.



## Testing Capacity has increased significantly since September



### Antigen Test Kits Capacity per week



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like projections (spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly grainy background. The circular inset is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the dark teal background.

## 2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times





## Test and Trace Headlines



1.1 days

Community - median end to end TAT for a not detected result



1.7 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c.177,891

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c.206,996

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.30,437

Calls made to detected cases

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December

Note 2: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



# Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December



## Total Community Referrals

- There were **185,674 community referrals** over the seven-day period (6% decrease in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
  - **100 international travel portal referrals** (↑223% compared to last week)
  - **110,497 self-referrals** (↓8% compared to last week)
  - **20,637 GP referrals** (↓37% compared to last week)



## Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were **177,891** swabs completed.



## Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **206,996** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 15.7% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 20%**



## Contact Tracing

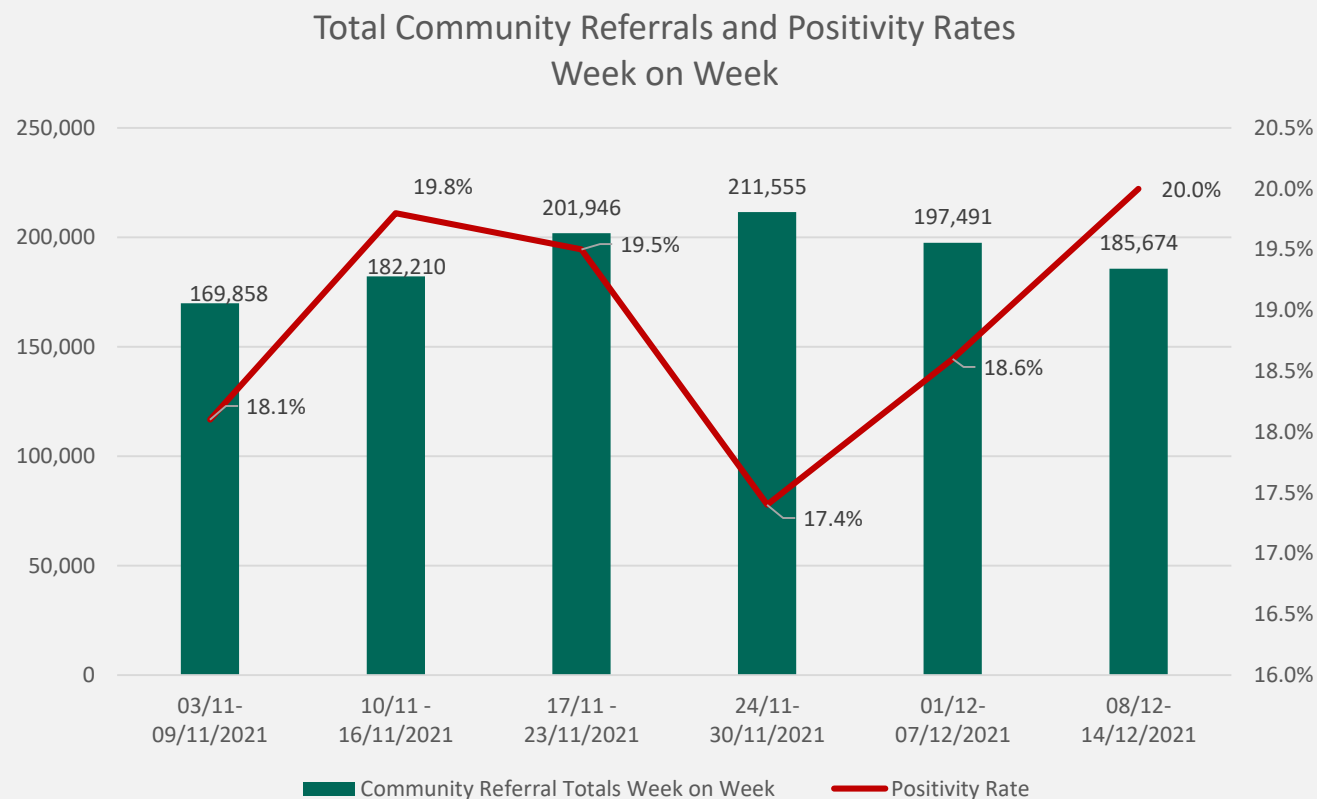
- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3 per person**.
- From 08<sup>th</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup> December, a total of 30,437 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 08<sup>th</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup> December, contact tracing was completed for c.30,576 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case





# Total Community Referrals

- From the 08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December, there were **185,674 Community Referrals** (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **decreased by 6%** in comparison to the same time-period last week
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown of total community referrals over the past 6 weeks and corresponding positivity rate



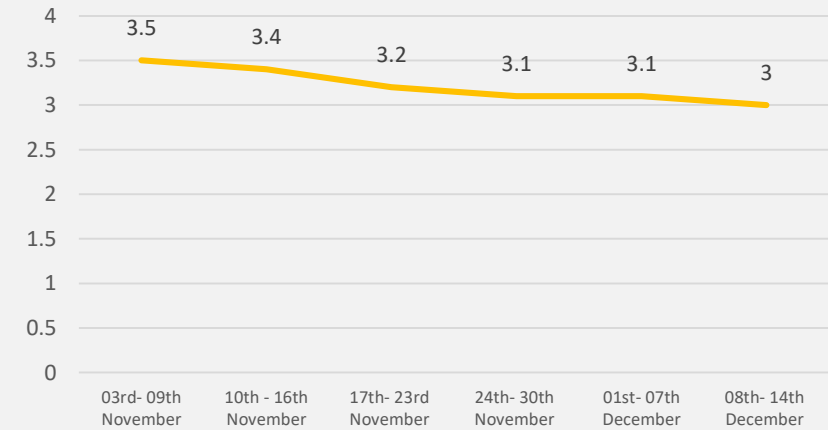


# Close Contacts Trend

3

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was 3

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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## 3. Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

**In Cycle 19 (Commenced 6<sup>th</sup> December)**



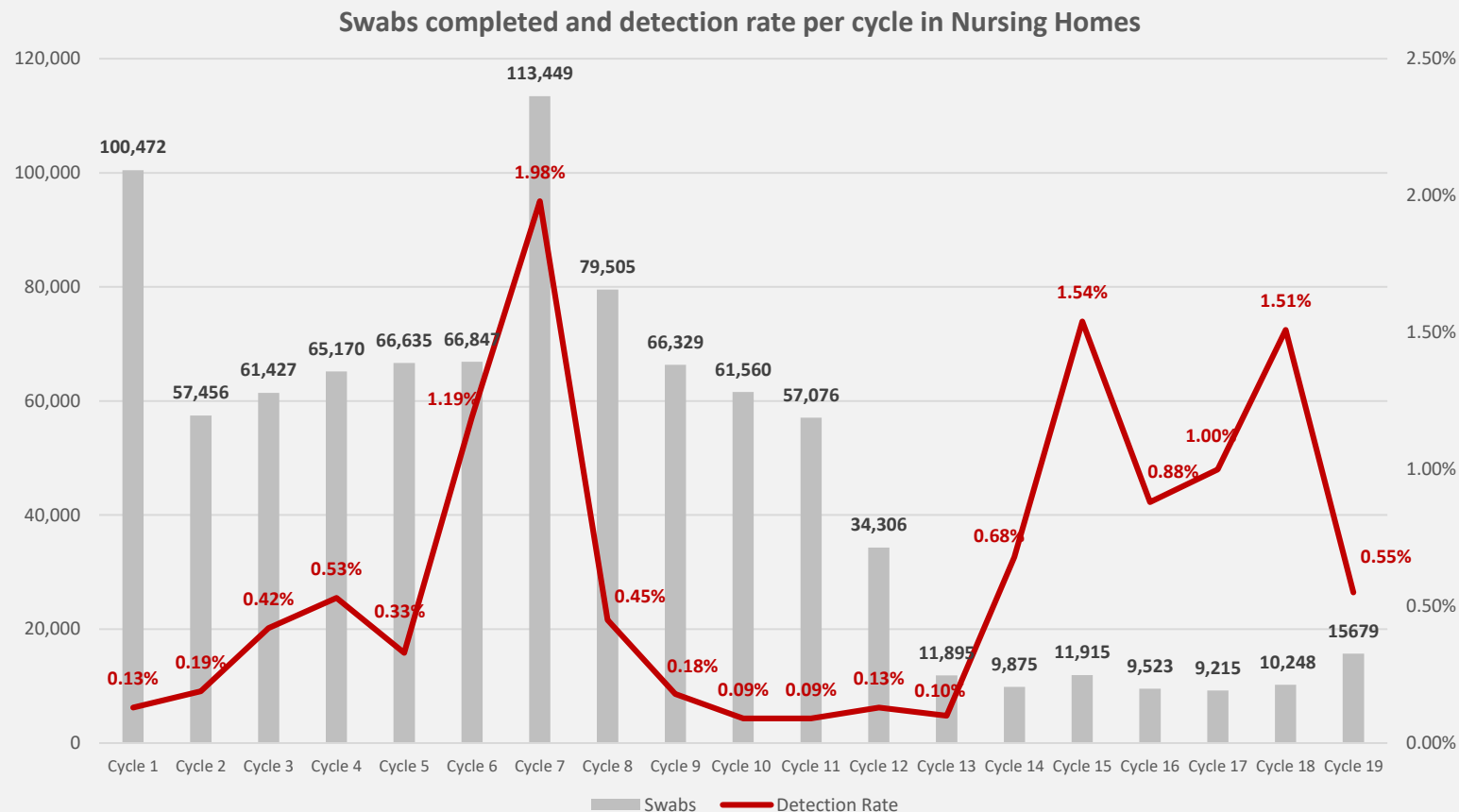
**348 facilities** have been tested



**15,679** tests have been completed



**86 detected cases** identified  
(0.55% detected rate)





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

## In Cycle 11 (Commenced 11<sup>th</sup> October)



**3 facilities** have been tested

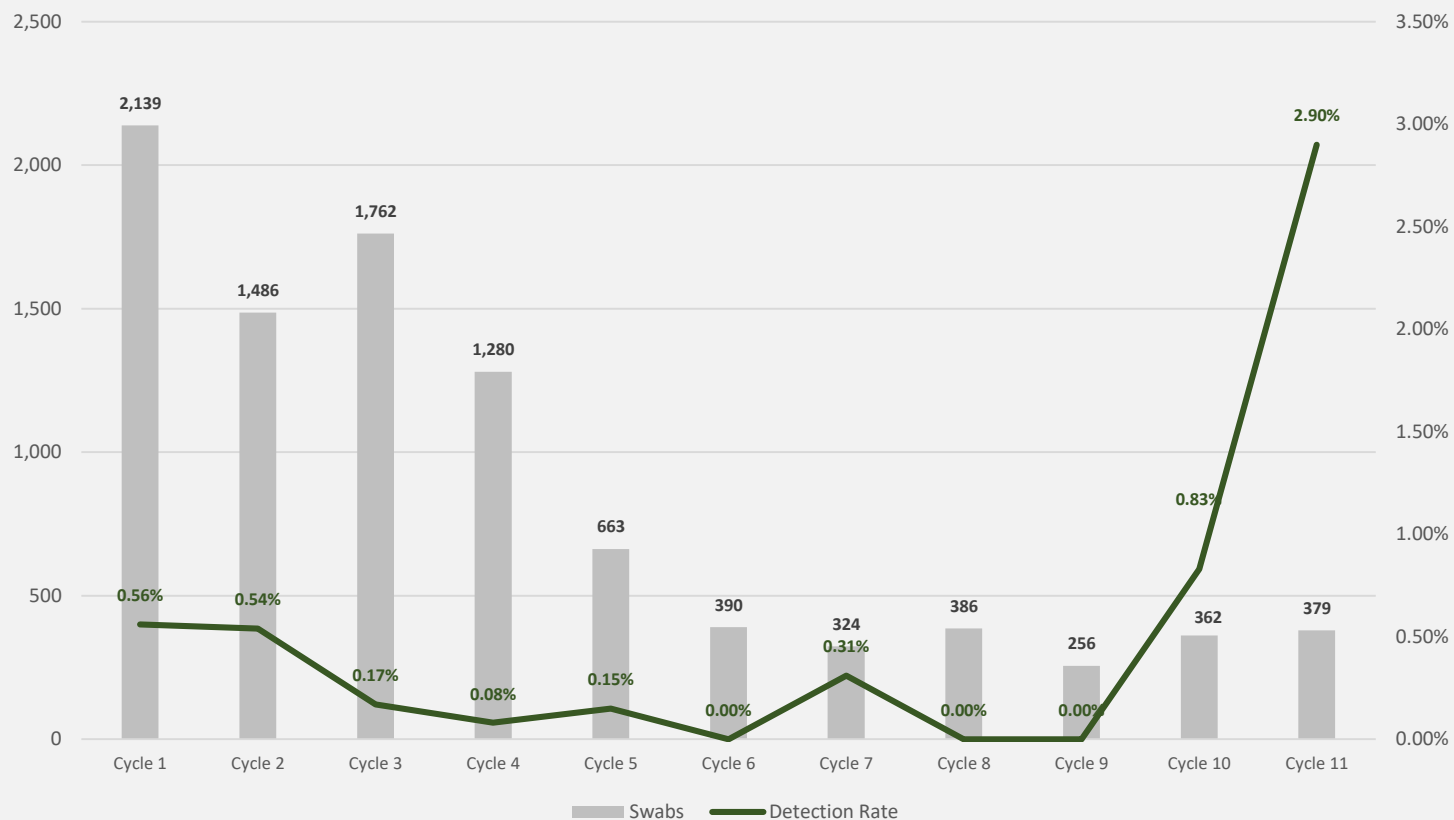


**379** tests have been completed



**11 detected cases** identified  
(2.90% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health facilities





# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

## In Cycle 16 (Commenced 15<sup>th</sup> November)



**65 facilities** have been tested

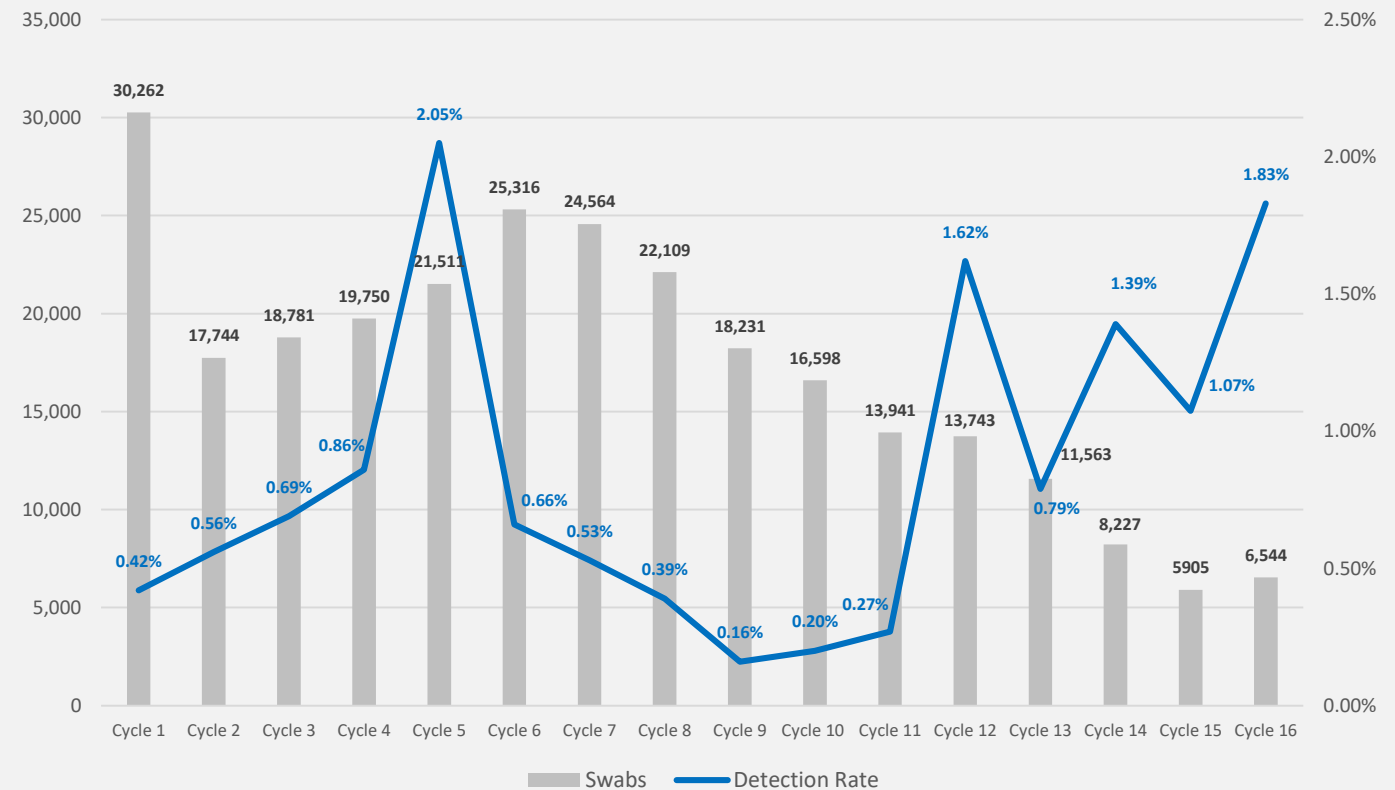


**6,544** tests have been completed



**120 detected cases** identified  
(1.83% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities





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## 4. Recruitment



# Recruitment as of 14<sup>th</sup> December

825

## Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 825 staff;  
**730** of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining **95** staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles

