

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

22nd of December, 2021

1

Key T&T Messages

2

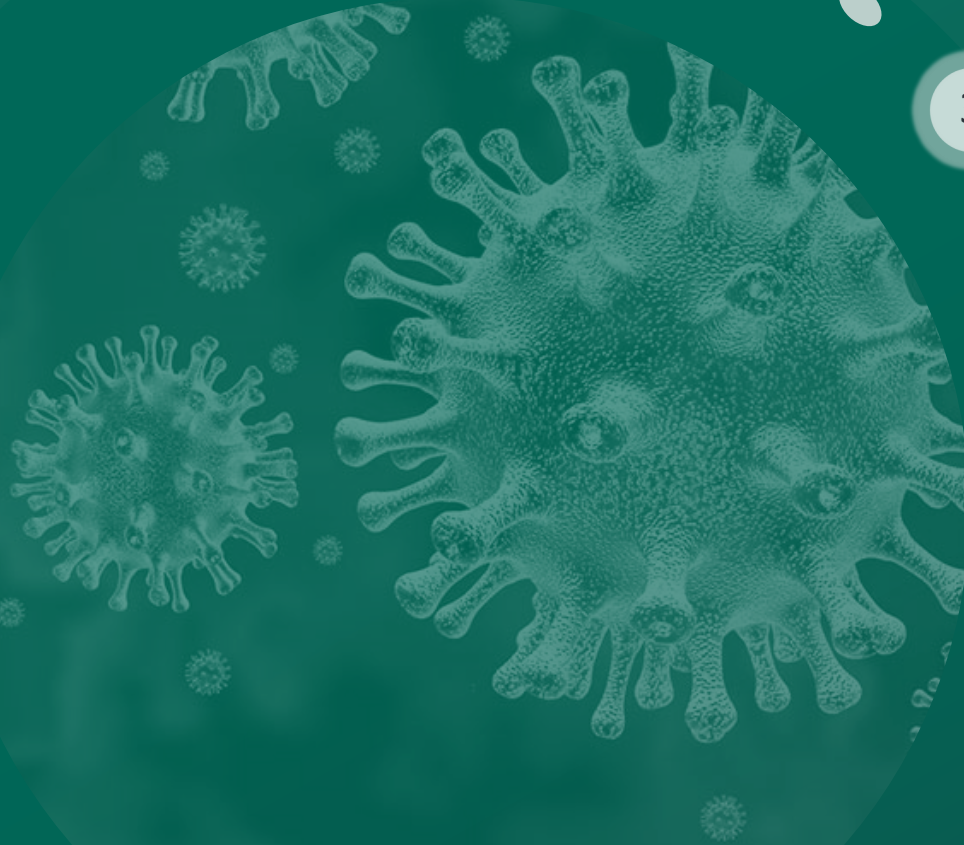
Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

3

Testing Programmes

4

Recruitment



A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows 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 blurred background within the circle.

1. Key Test and Trace Messages



Test and Trace Key Messages

- PCR Testing capacity is now at **245,000** per week from the original weekly 100,000 capacity, we are currently working to try to increase PCR by an additional 5,000 appointments per day. This would bring our weekly PCR test capacity to **285,000** tests.
- Community referrals have **increased by 16%** in comparison to the same time-period last week while **community positivity is now at 21.2%**.
- We have offered **210,621 PCR test** appointments over the **last 7 days**. Yesterday December 22nd was our busiest day to date in community testing with **31,992 PCR test appointments** offered in our testing sites.
- 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-test centres to provide additional capacity where required.
- Over the last week **32,707 calls** were completed to inform people of their detected COVID-19 test result
- We are continuing see increasing numbers of people who are positive for COVID 19 use the List Your Contacts portal. This enables them provide details of their close contacts online which enables the HSE contact them quickly to advise them that they are a close contact and give them the necessary public health advice
- In the last week contact tracing was completed for **c.35,212 individuals** that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- We have implemented new public health guidance for asymptomatic close contacts. From today all asymptomatic close contacts will be provided with antigen test kits to do at home. Through the implementation of this updated guidance, we are working on the assumption and planning that we may see the number of antigen tests distributed to close contacts significantly increase from current volumes of 4,000 test kits per day.
- In addition to the current volumes the HSE has sufficient capacity to increase the daily volume of antigen tests provided to 50,000 per day subject to demand.



Testing Capacity has increased significantly since September

PCR Capacity Per week

September

105,000

- ✓ The community testing service was established initially to support the delivery of 105,000 tests per week.

October

147,000

- ✓ Additional measures to increase capacity - support of our community testing teams, the National Ambulance service, the Defence Forces - to 147,000 per week

November

224,000

- ✓ Private providers - 6 new testing sites
- ✓ Recruitment is ongoing for swabbers
- ✓ Home & Mobile testing increased to 2,400

December

245,000

- ✓ Home & Mobile testing increasing
- ✓ 6th Dec - commenced Residential Care Facility Serial Testing

January

285,000

- ✓ Additional capacity for PCR to be secured in January

Antigen Test Kits capacity per week

**Total dispatched since
end of October:
262,162**

October

20,000

- ✓ Includes antigen for asymptomatic close contacts

November

100,000

- ✓ Includes antigen for asymptomatic close contacts and Schools programme

December

140,000

- ✓ Includes antigen for asymptomatic close contacts and Schools programme

A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows 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 blurred background within the circle.

2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Headlines



1.1 days

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



1.4 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c.185,792

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c.225,800

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.32,707

Calls made to detected cases

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 14th – 20th 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 14th – 20th December



Total Community Referrals

- There were **210,621 community referrals** over the seven-day period (16% increase in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
 - **123 international travel portal referrals** (↑**46%** compared to last week)
 - **125,887 self-referrals** (↑**23%** compared to last week)
 - **15,760 GP referrals** (↓**26%** compared to last week)



Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were **185,792** swabs completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **225,800** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 17.3% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 21.2%**



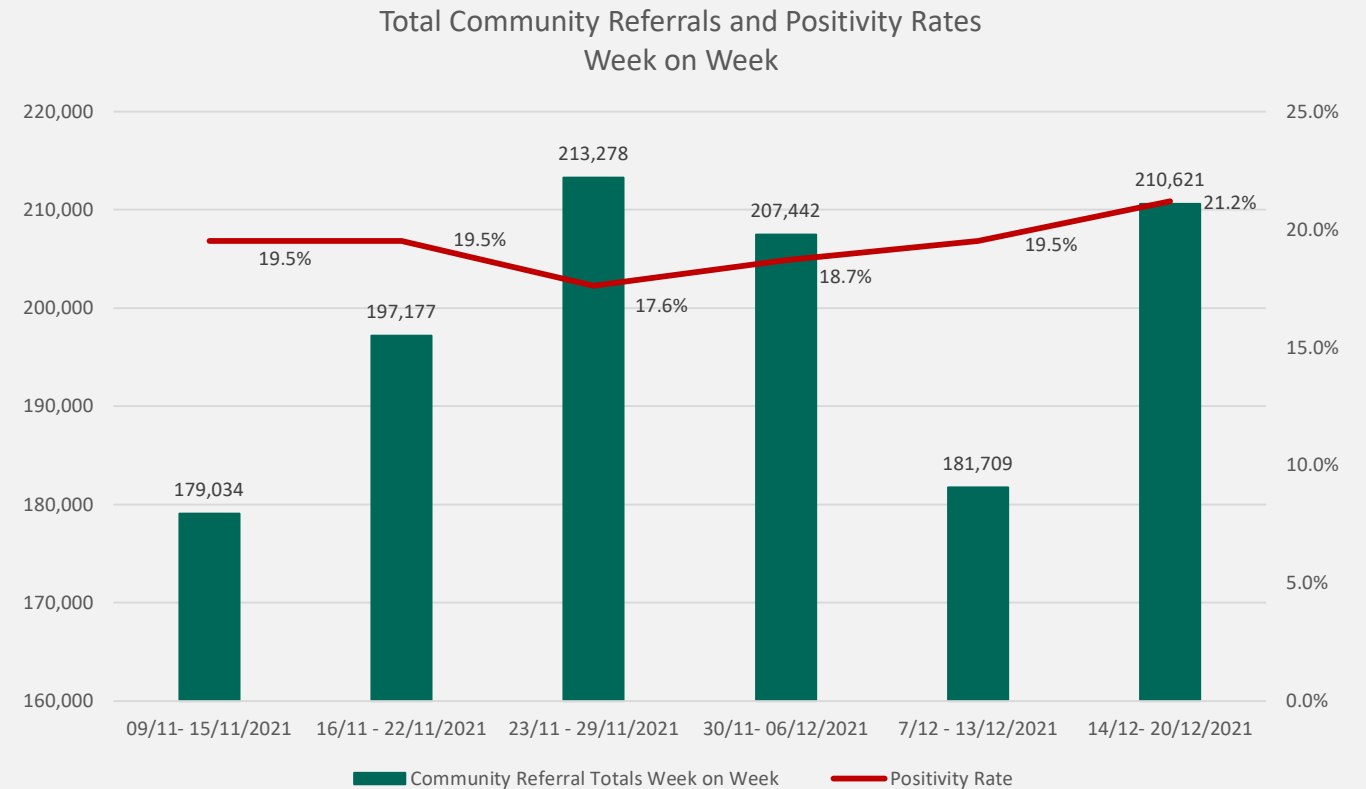
Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3 per person**.
- From 14th– 20th December, a total of 32,707 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 14th– 20th December, contact tracing was completed for c.35,212 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case



Total Community Referrals

- From the 14th – 20th December, there were **210,621 Community Referrals** (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 16%** 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

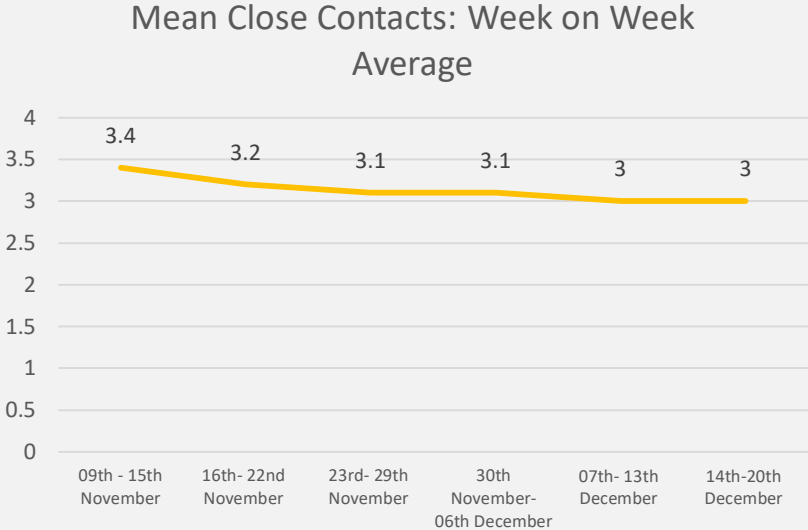




Close Contacts Trend

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



The source of the close contact trend graph is the IIS Test and Trace Dashboard

A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows 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 blurred background within the circle.

3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 19 (Commenced 6th December)



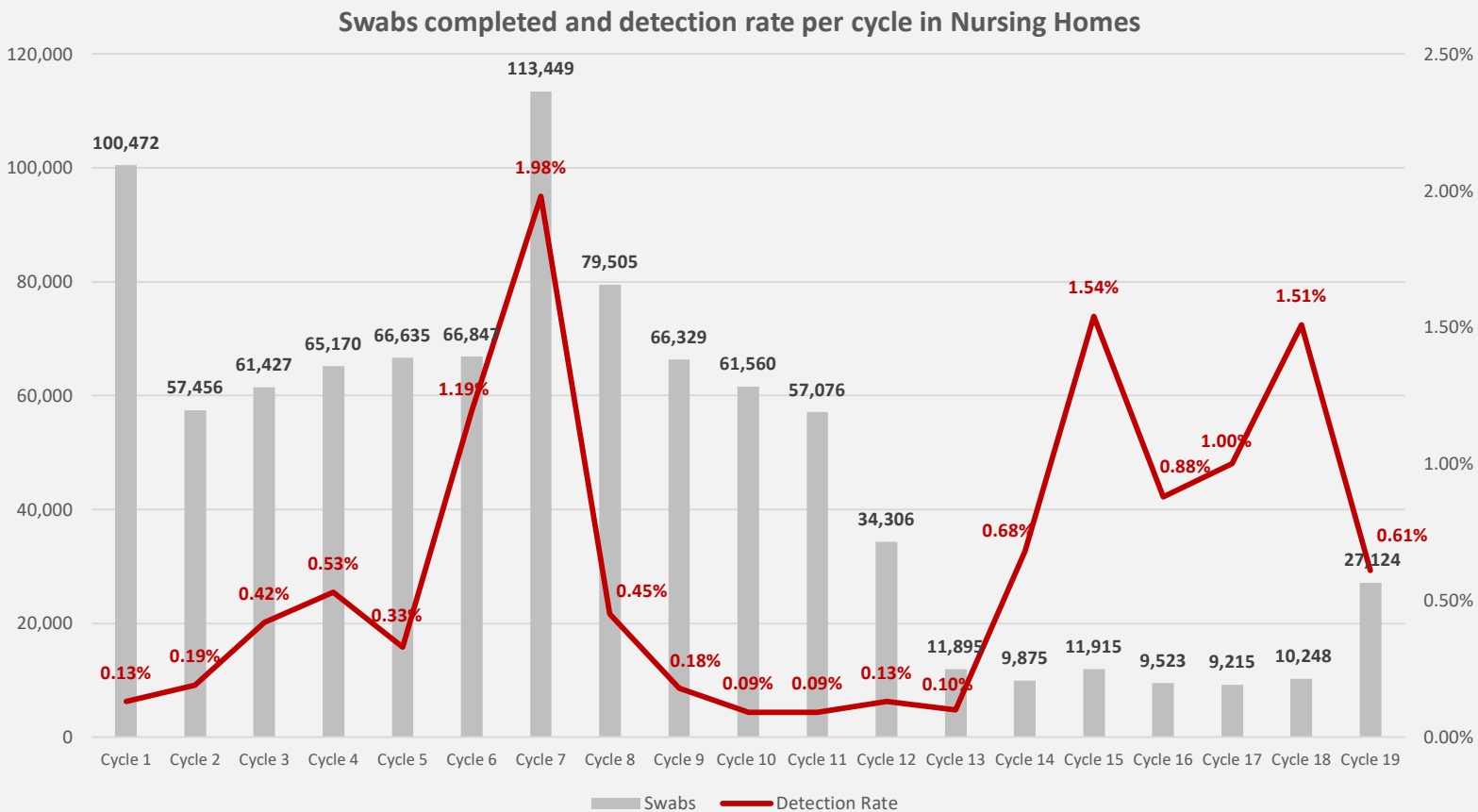
563 facilities have been tested



27,124 tests have been completed



166 detected cases identified
(0.61% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 12 (Commenced 11th December)



1 facility have been tested

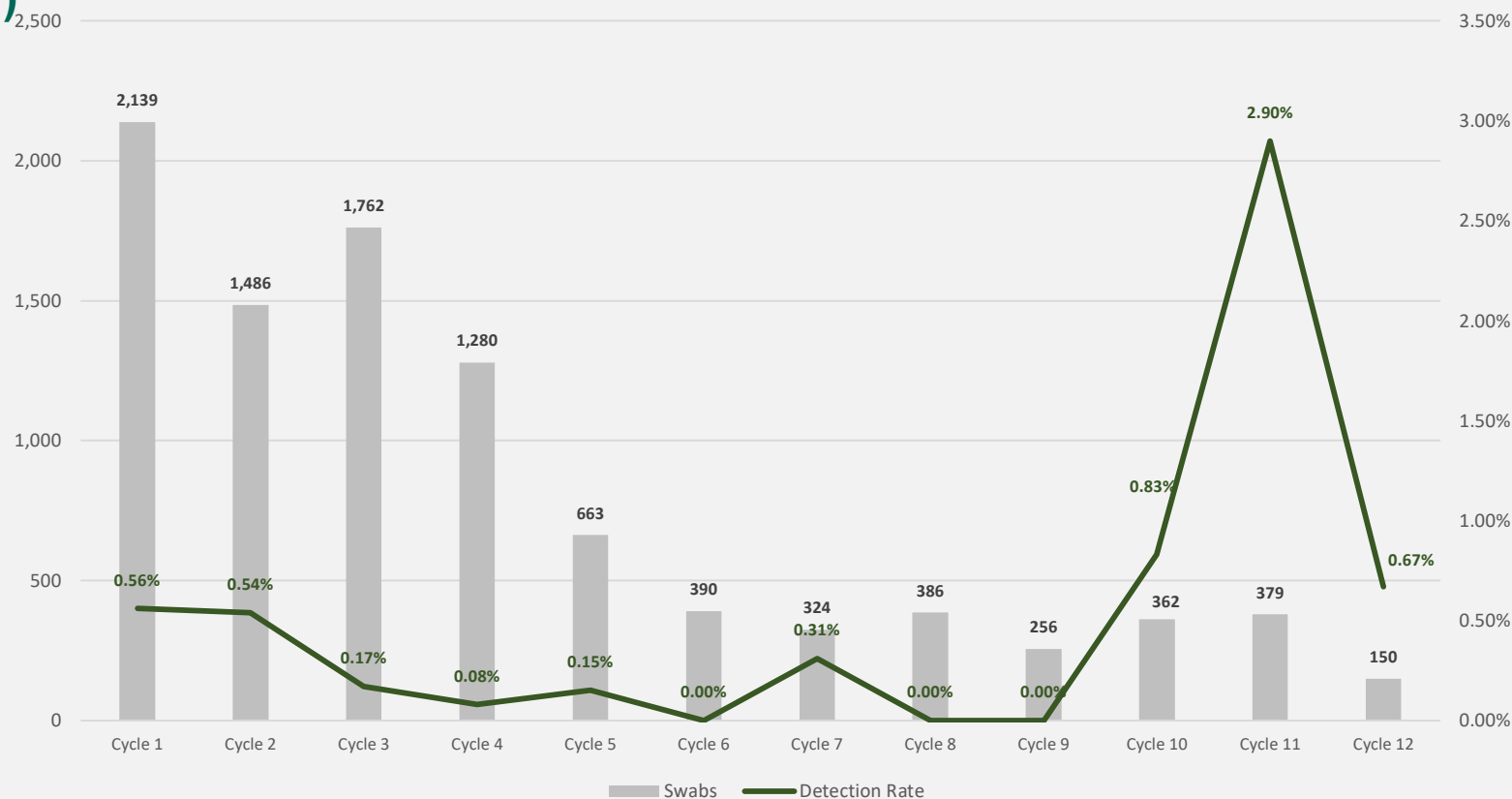


150 tests have been completed



1 detected cases identified
(0.67% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health facilities





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 16 (Commenced 15th November)



65 facilities have been tested

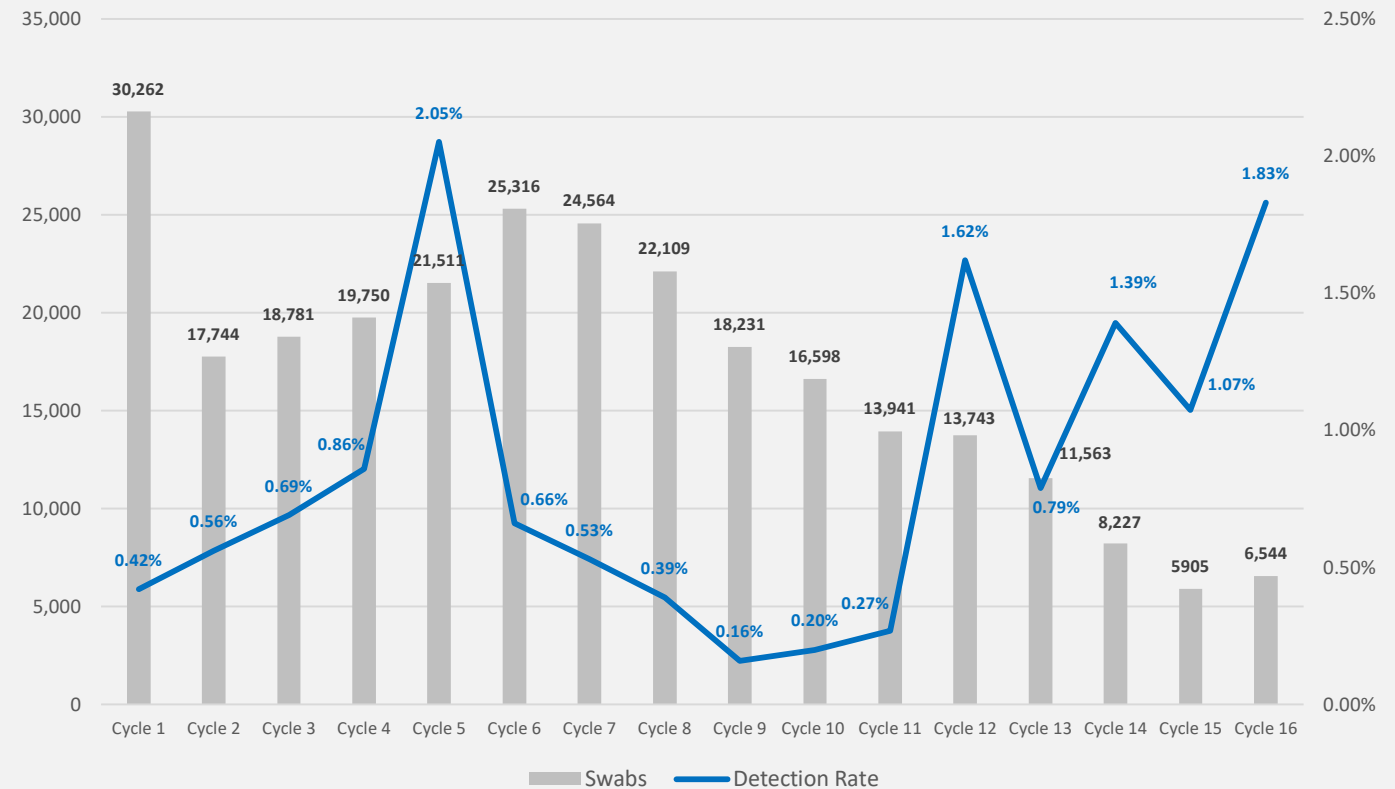


6,544 tests have been completed



120 detected cases identified
(1.83% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with prominent, irregular surface spikes (glycoprotein spikes). They are set against a dark, textured background, possibly representing a cell membrane or fluid medium. The inset is framed by a thin white border and is positioned on the left side of the slide.

4. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 21st December

832

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 832 staff;
737 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

