

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

5th of August, 2021

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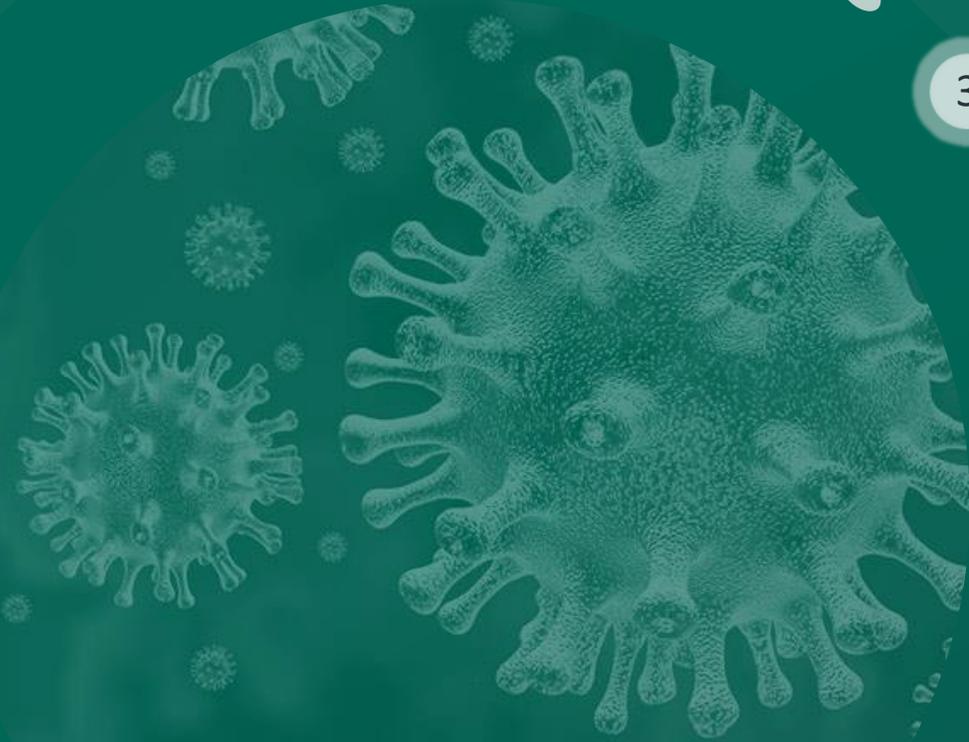
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Test and Trace Headlines



1 day

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



1.9 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 110,554

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 114,959

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 18,221

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 28th July – 3rd August.



Test and Trace Key Messages



Testing Demand

Demand is high, but steady

114,959 tests in last 7 days

13,000 to 22,000 on some days

94% can get a test in < 24 hrs



Pop-up Testing

To meet demand, pop up sites are now operational in:

Dublin, Donegal, Athlone, Cork.

Dundalk again this weekend



Walk-Ins & Self-Referrals

Positivity is >12% and growing

Highest positivity rates in Dublin, Donegal & Monaghan

Highest positivity is 19-24 age group



Close Contact Trends

Household close contacts highest at **46.5%**

Highest positivity rates in: **Transport (22%)**



Antigen Testing

New pilot antigen studies have commenced in **further education settings**

Planning for use of antigen testing in close contacts continues

- It is really important that when people go for testing and get a positive COVID 19 result, that they then engage with the HSE's Contact Tracing teams as quickly as possible.
- Even if you are vaccinated if you have symptoms of Covid 19 we urge people to not attend social gatherings, sports training, or attend their place of work stay at home. There are examples of this and outbreaks as a result.

A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 28th July – 3rd August.



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.92,326 community referrals** over the seven day period.
- This figure includes **3,195 International travel referrals** (↓ **3%** in comparison to last week) and **32,136 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↓ **45%** in comparison to last week), the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- Overall, this weekly total has **decreased by 14%** in comparison to the same time-frame the previous week (21st – 27th July; c.107,972 total referrals).



Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **110,554** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**114,959** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 9.1% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is c.12%**



Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.4 per person**.
- From 28th July – 3rd August, a total of 8,290 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 28th July – 3rd August, contact tracing was completed for c. 7,794 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 18,221 calls were made to close contacts.



Test and Trace Turnaround Times

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 28th July – 3rd August.

23 hrs



Combined median time from **swab to lab result** in community and acute setting

8.3 hrs



Median time taken to **complete contact tracing calls**

1 day



Median end to end turnaround time for a **not detected** result

1.9 days



Median end to end turnaround time for a **detected** result

A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from their outer layer. They are set against a dark, slightly hazy background.

2. Testing and Trace Trends

Total Community Referrals

- From the 28th July – 3rd August, there were **c.92,326** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **decreased by 14%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (21st – 27th July; c.107,972 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 5 weeks.



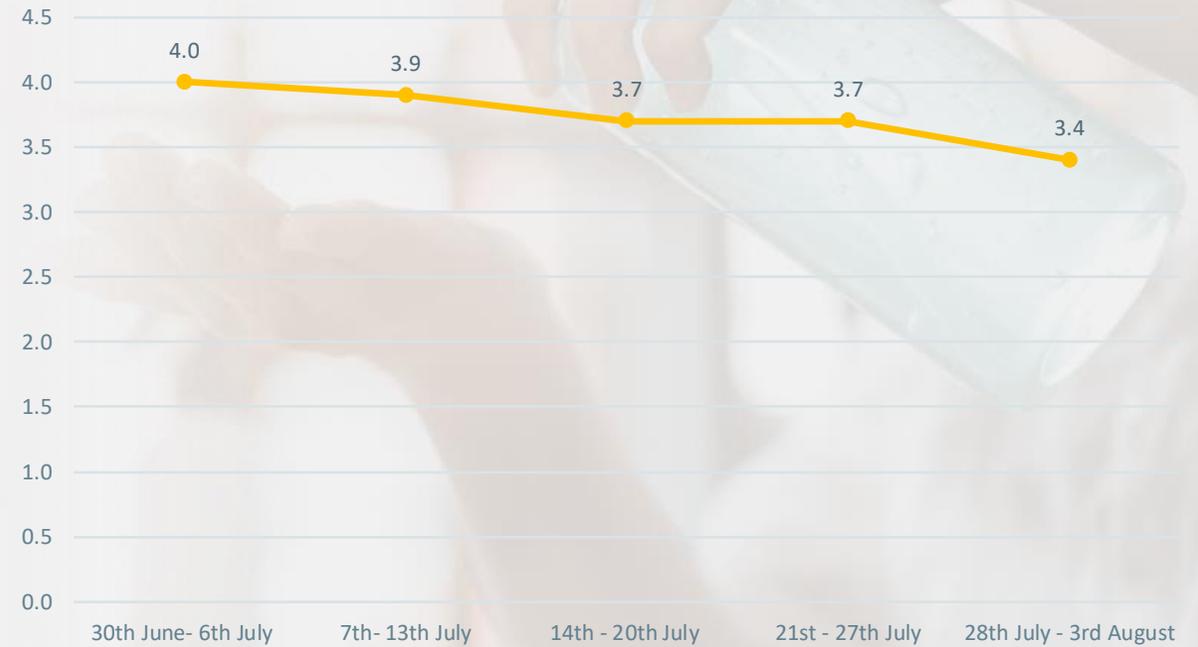


Close Contacts Trend

3.4

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.4**

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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3. Testing Programmes

Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 14 (Commenced 19th July);



203 facilities have been tested

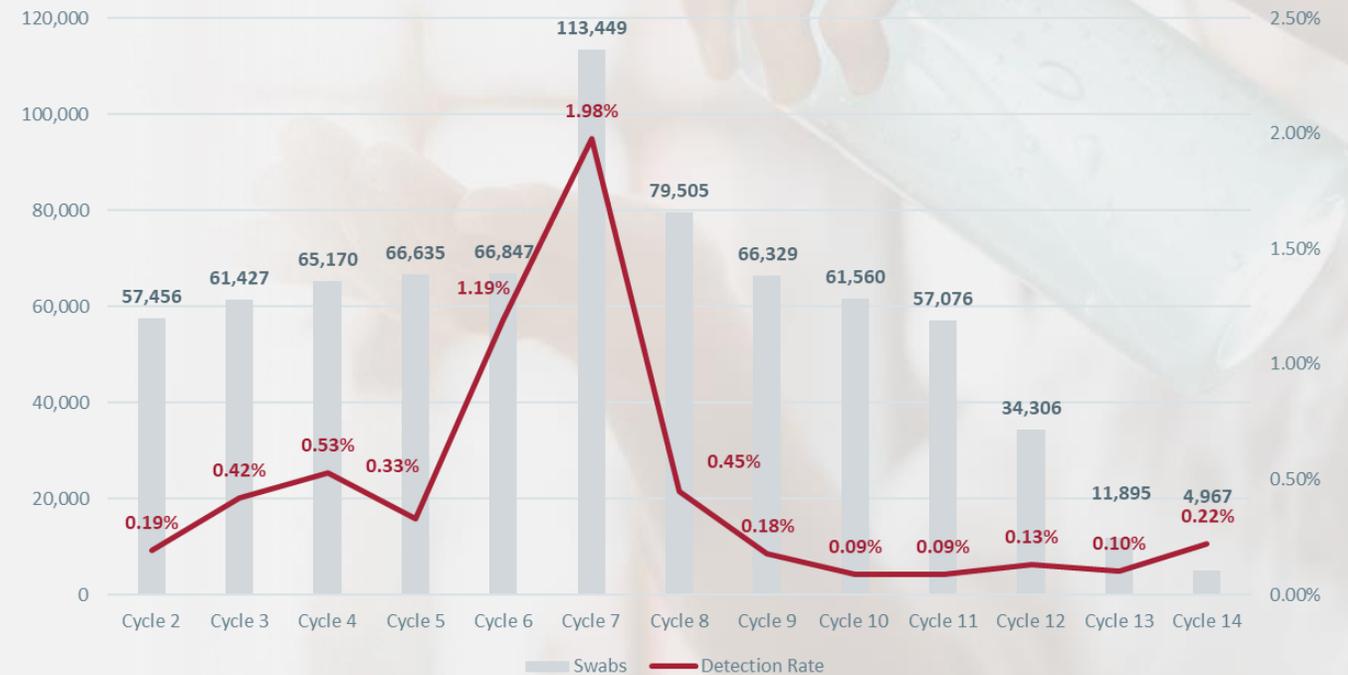


4,967 tests have been completed



11 detected cases identified
(0.22% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 7 (Commenced 23rd July);



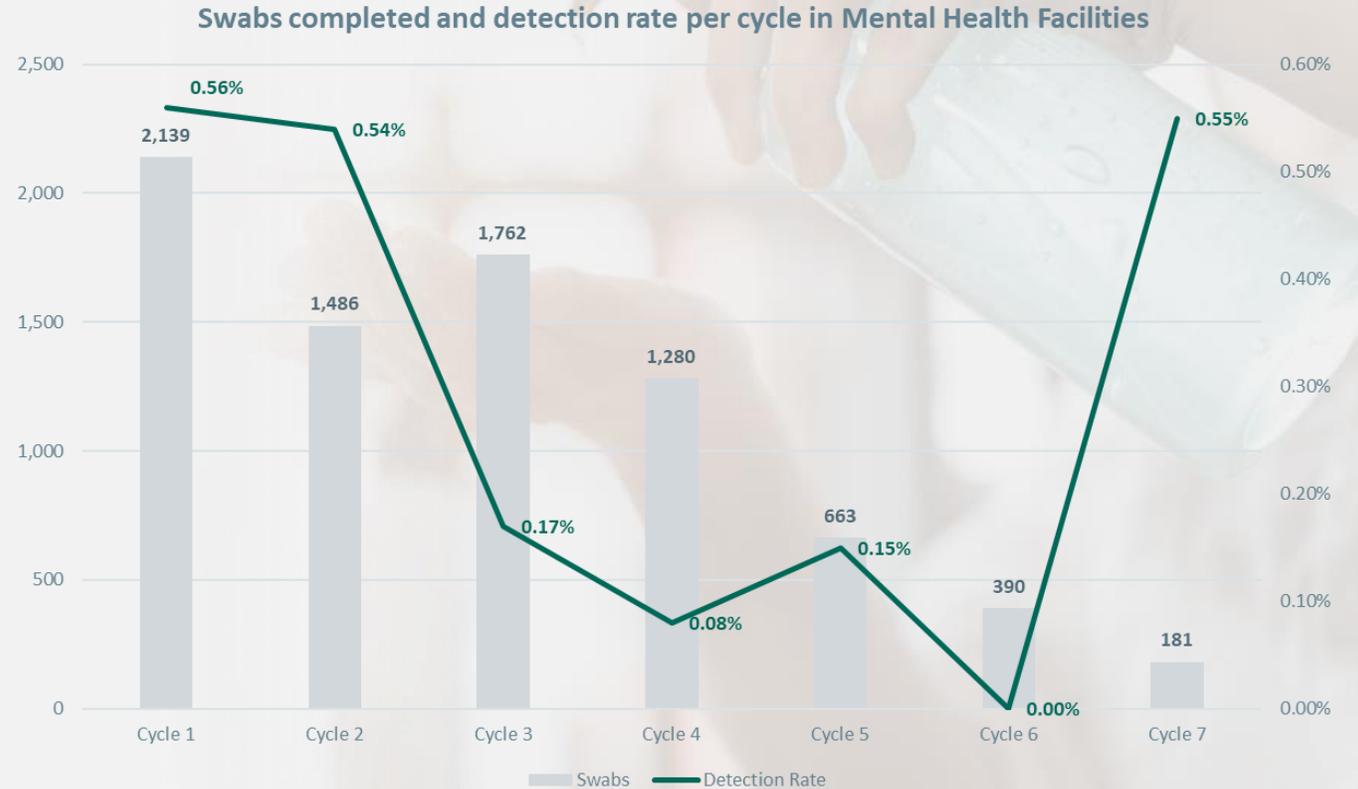
3 facilities have been tested



181 tests have been completed



1 detected case identified
(0.55% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 12 (Commenced 26th July);



30 facilities have been tested



3,838 tests have been completed



28 detected cases identified
(0.73% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production Facilities





Mandatory Hotel Quarantine Testing

- All passengers arriving into Ireland from designated states are required to pre-book accommodation in a designated quarantine facility.
- Testing resources have been made available in Quarantine Facilities since 26th March 2021, and are available on a daily basis to accommodate the testing of all new arrivals.
- The scope of testing includes:
 - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 2 Countries on Day 0 and Day 10
 - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 1 Countries that have not been able to produce a negative result
 - Testing of Quarantine Hotel Staff on a weekly basis

Total Hotel Quarantine Swabs as of August 3rd:

Hotel Staff

6,967 swabs complete

Quarantine Residents

15,834 swabs complete

Detected Cases To Date

449



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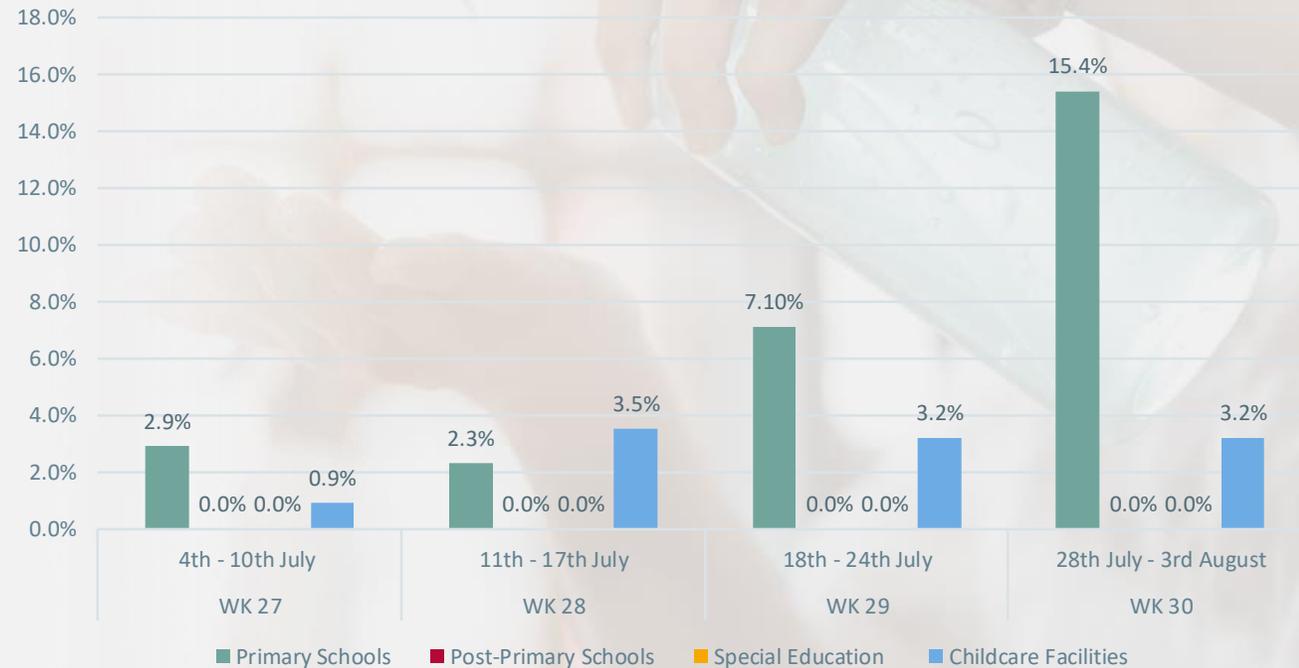
4. Education and Childcare

Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 25th – 31st July;

- **13** tests were completed in **<5 primary schools** (**15.4%** positivity rate)
- **< 5** tests were completed in **<5 special education** settings (**0.0%** positivity rate)
- There were no tests conducted in **post-primary school** settings
- **528** tests were completed in **49 childcare facilities** (**3.2%** positivity rate)

Positivity Trends in Education and Childcare Setting



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5. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 2nd August

876

Community Swabbers

Recruited and Onboarded

967

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 967 staff;
864 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function

The remaining 103 staff are redeployed from the HSE and other Public Service Roles

