

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

02nd of December, 2021

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Key T&T Messages

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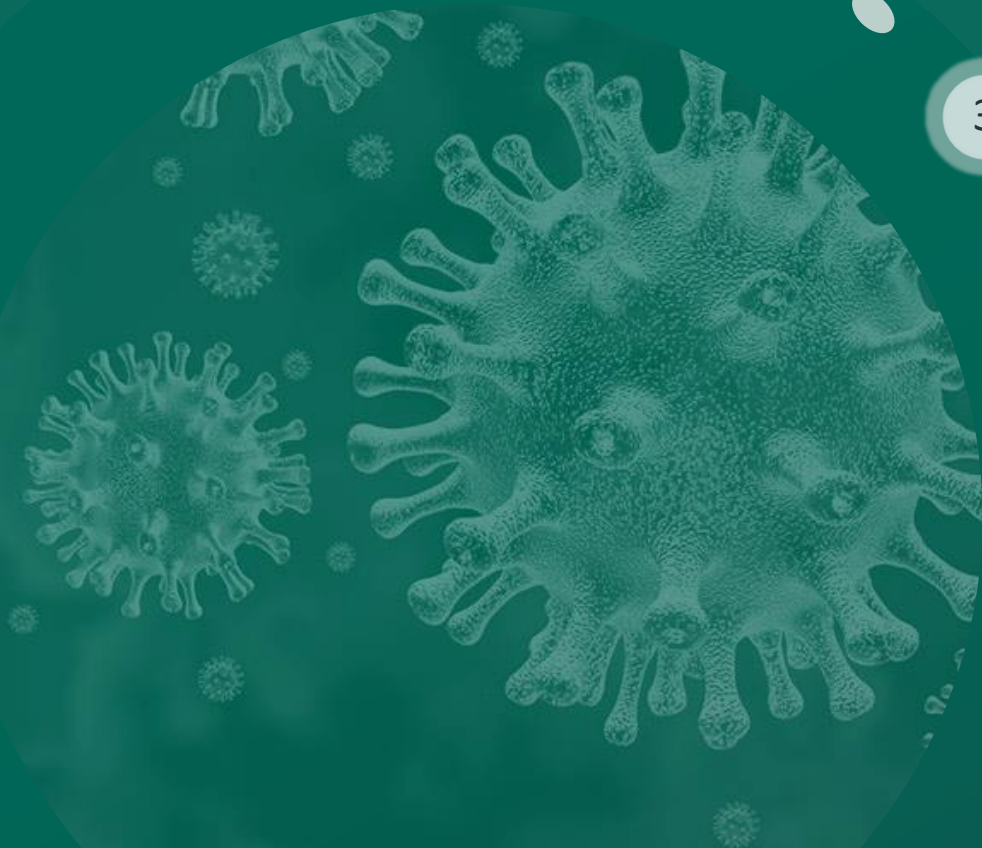
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A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like projections (glycoprotein spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly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

1. Key Test and Trace Messages



Testing Capacity has increased significantly since September

Capacity
Per
Week

	End October	End November	End December
	105,000	147,000	224,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The community testing service was established initially to support the delivery of 105,000 per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Additional measures to increase capacity - with support from our community testing teams, the National Ambulance service, the Defence Forces - to 147,000 per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Private providers - 6 new testing sites✓ Recruitment is ongoing for swabbers✓ Home & Mobile testing increased to 2,400
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Home & Mobile testing increasing✓ 06/12 Commence Residential Care Facility Serial Testing

Key
Stats

10,000

Average more tests per day than 6 weeks ago

c. 200,000

swabs per week at the moment

1 million

people have been tested in past 6 weeks



Test and Trace Key Messages

- The community testing service was established initially to support the delivery of **15,000 tests per day**. Over the last number of weeks, the service has implemented a number of additional measures to increase the number of test appointments we can provide. This additional capacity has been put in place with the support of our community testing teams, the National Ambulance service, the Defence Forces and a number of private providers
- We have offered **186,000** appointments over the last 7 days, an average of over 26,500 per day
- Yesterday **November 30th** was our **busiest day to date** in community testing with **28,709** COVID 19 test appointments offered
- **c. 90%** of clinically prioritised groups i.e. GP and close contact referrals get their test appointment same day/ next day
- This week, 3 new testing centres have commenced operation, one each in **Athlone, Leopardstown and Swords**. These are being operated in partnership with private providers and together with the 3 sites opened in the previous week at the airports in **Dublin, Cork and Shannon, bring to 6 the total number** of such sites now in operation.
- Additionally, we continue to add further capacity to our testing service through the establishment of **pop-up testing centres** in various locations across the country. In the last week we have operated pop-up testing sites in **Tuam (Galway), Rathdrum (Wicklow), Drogheda, Carlow, Navan and South Kildare** increasing capacity in areas of significant demand.
- **Pop-up teams** also support testing in **outbreak situations**. We continue to monitor demand closely and deploy our pop-up teams as they are available. We anticipate opening further pop up centres in additional locations in the coming days
- We are continuously recruiting into our community testing service, and across the whole process there are almost **2,000 people employed**
- Over the last number of weeks we have further automated some of the processes in our Contact Management Programme. This is enabling us contact cases and close contacts faster and provide them with the necessary public health information they need, including details of their PCR test appointment where necessary. In particular the List Your Contacts portal is now being widely used by cases to provide us with details of their close contacts – this allows us to quickly contact these close contacts by text message and provide them with the necessary public health information.
- We are continuing to meet our targets to issue test results:
 - The median end to end TAT for a not detected result in the Community is **1.2 days**
 - The median end to end TAT for a detected result in the Community is **1.9 days**

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 them. They are set against a dark, slightly grainy background, suggesting a fluid environment.

2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Headlines



1.2 days

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



1.9 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c.179,463

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c.215,385

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.30,729

Calls made to detected cases

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 24th – 30th November

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 24th – 30th November



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.211,332 community referrals** over the seven-day period (5% increase in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
 - **103 international travel portal referrals** (↓ 14% compared to last week)
 - **108,176 self-referrals** (↓ 0.6% compared to last week)
 - **41,953 GP referrals** (↓ 18% compared to last week)



Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **179,463** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **215,385** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 15.2% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 17.4%**

Contact Tracing

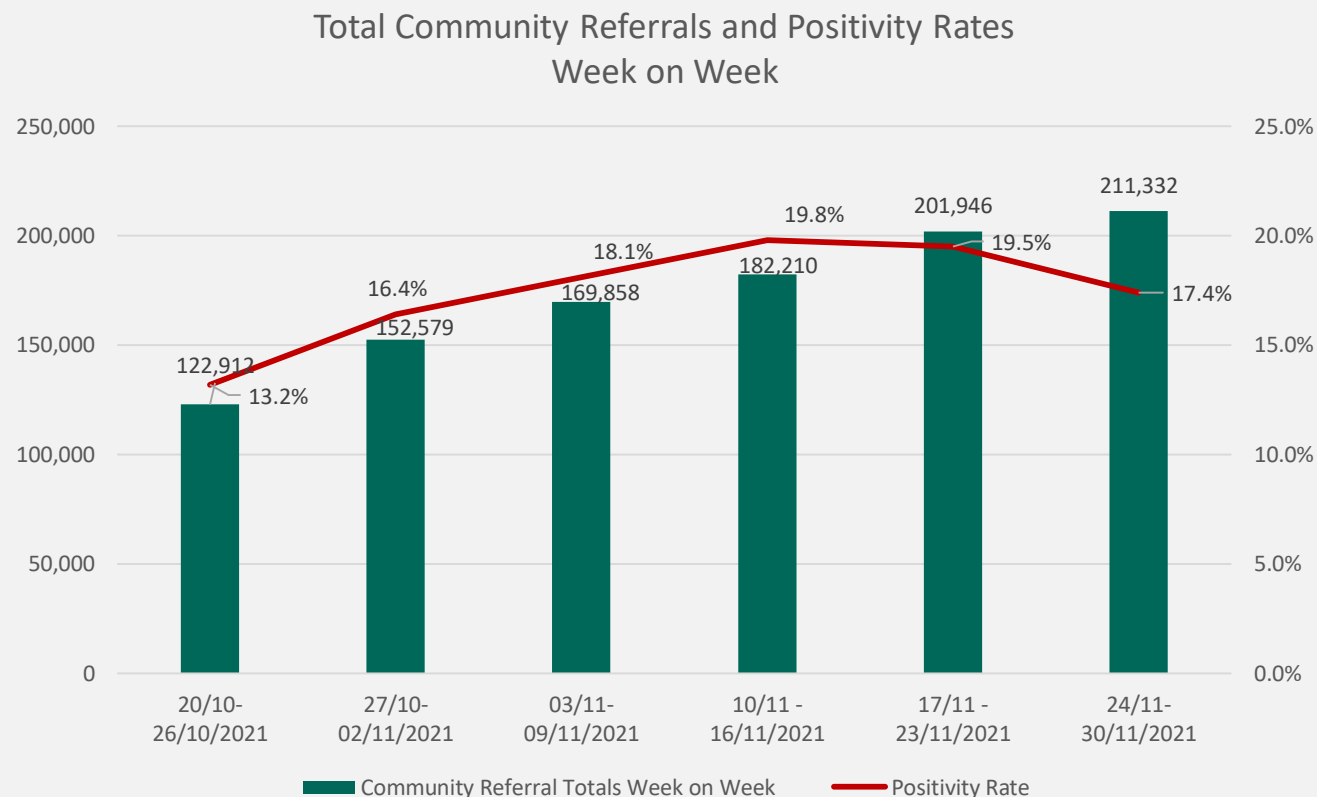
- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.1 per person.**
- From 24th – 30th November, a total of 30,729 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 24th – 30th November, contact tracing was completed for c. 29,902 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 4,035 calls were made to close contacts.





Total Community Referrals

- From the 24th – 30th November, there were **c.211,332 Community Referrals** (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 5%** 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.



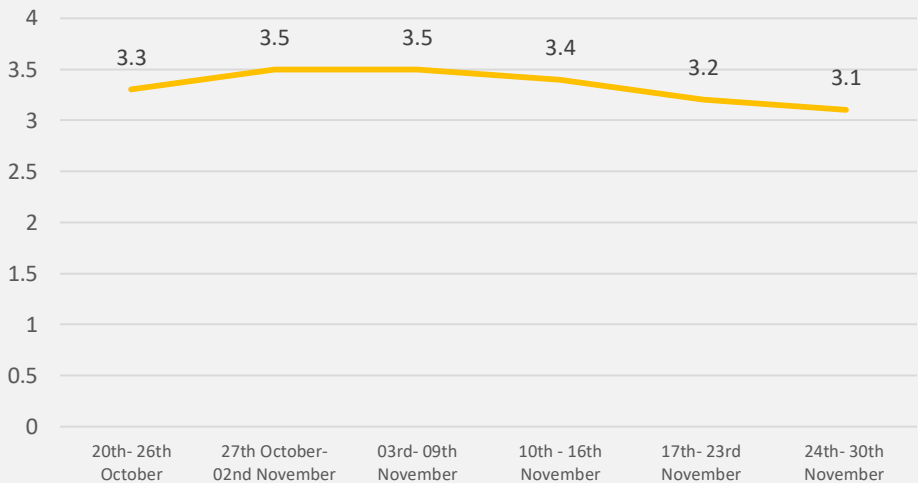


Close Contacts Trend

3.1

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was 3.1

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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 circular frame.

3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 18 (Commenced 8th November);



183 facilities have been tested

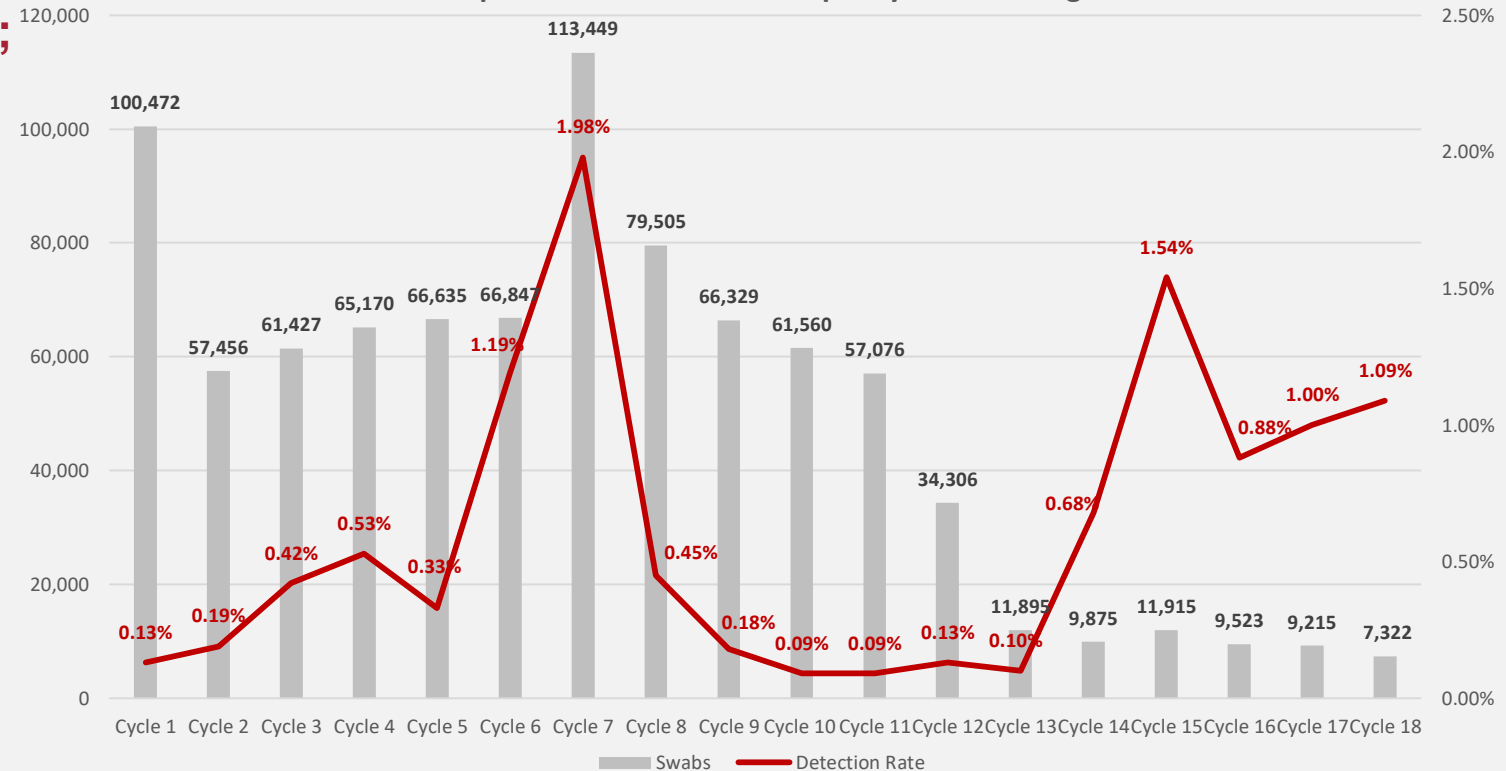


7,322 tests have been completed



80 detected cases identified
(1.09% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 11 (Commenced 11th October);



3 facilities have been tested

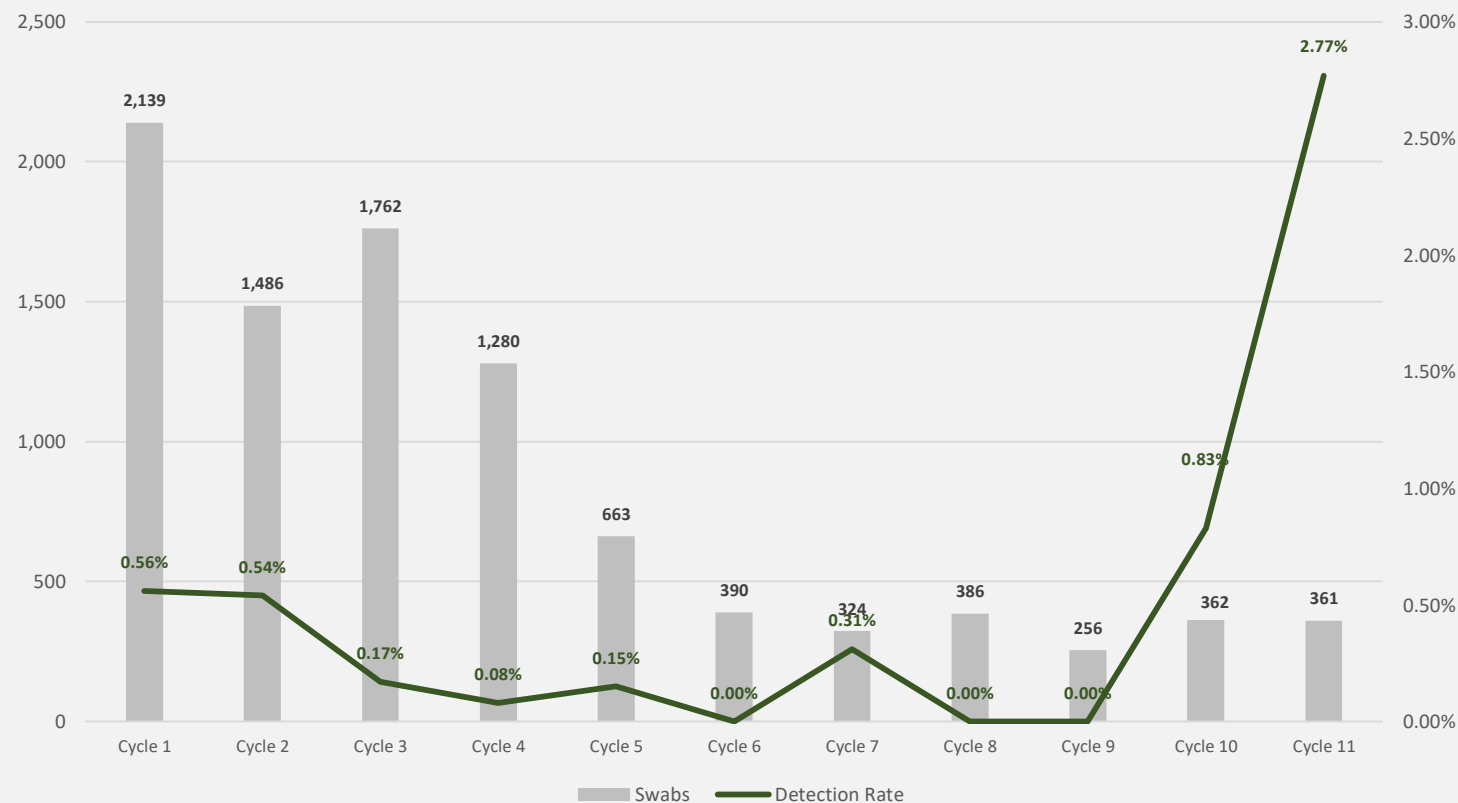


361 tests have been completed



10 detected cases identified
(2.77% 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);



40 facilities have been tested

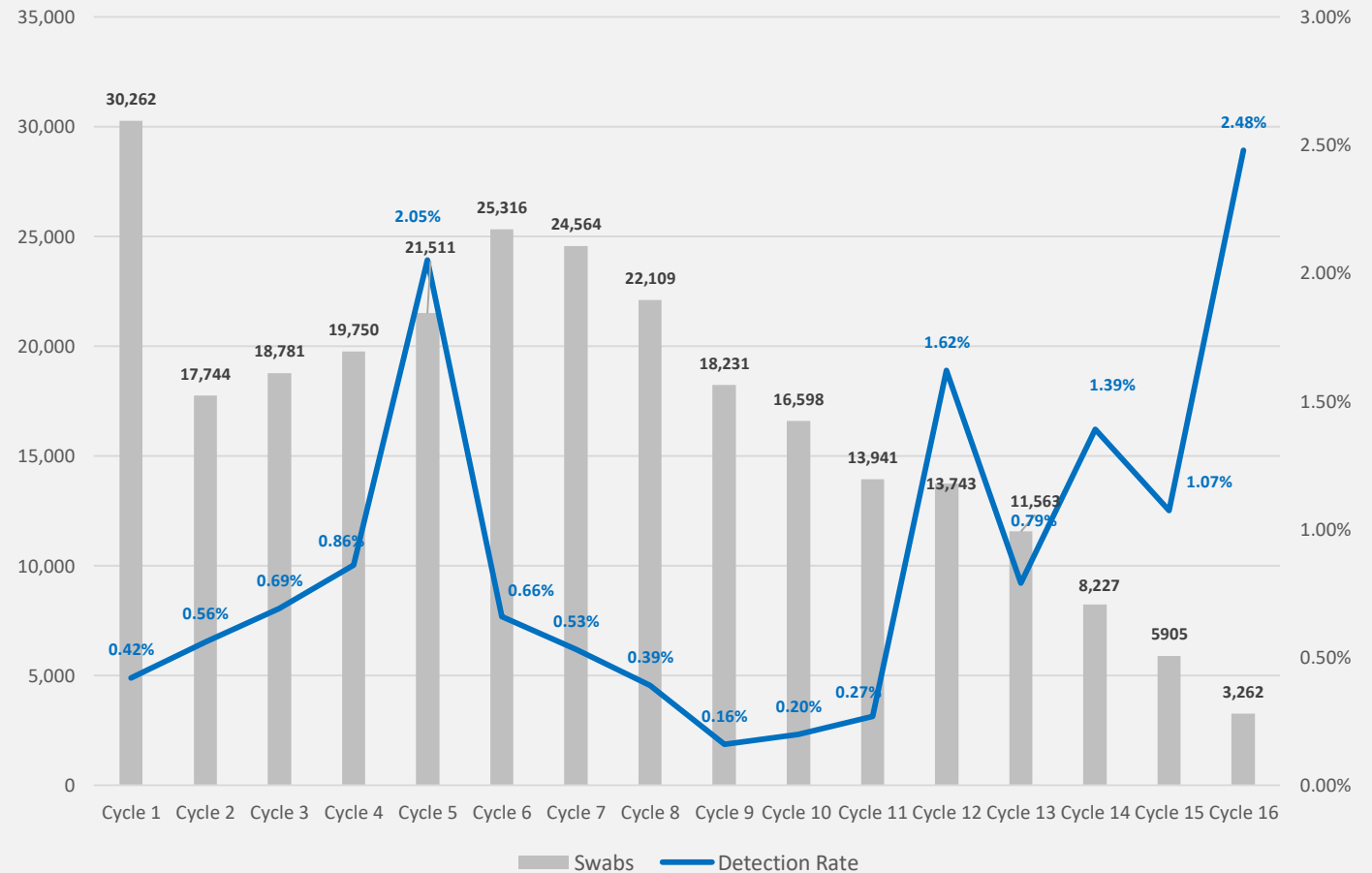


3,262 tests have been completed



81 detected cases identified
(2.48% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



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4. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 29th November

791

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 791 staff;
705 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining **86** staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

