

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

4th of November, 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. The circular inset is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the dark teal background.

1. Key Test and Trace Messages



Key Test and Trace Messages

1. Surge Planning

- There has been high positivity rate in the community this week, at 16.4% (in comparison to 13.2% last week).
- The Testing and Tracing Surge plan has been reviewed and updated to respond to the significant and ongoing increase in demand across the test and trace pathway. This plan outlines measures that can be taken to increase capacity and manage demand.

2. Key Service Improvements

- From the evening of Tuesday, 2nd November, Call 3 has been further automated to reach a wider group of close contacts via the Contact Management Programme (CMP).
- Antigen testing for fully vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts went live on Thursday 28th October (>1,000 per day).

3. Close Contact Tracing Initiative

- In order to ensure that we can quickly arrange COVID 19 testing for those close contacts who require a COVID 19 test, we have further developed our online system.
- From this week, when close contacts click on the link we send them by text message, they can provide us with information that will be used to determine whether they need a PCR test if unvaccinated or if they have symptoms, or antigen tests if fully vaccinated and asymptomatic.
- Those who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms will be able to enter their details and the HSE will send them antigen tests via An Post.
- For those that need a PCR test, they will get details of their test appointment in a further text message.
- The SMS contains a link to the HSE website where there is further information and advice about what close contacts need to do.
- Close contacts in complex settings such as Special Education Needs classes or schools, receive a telephone call from the contact tracing team, who will arrange COVID 19 testing for them if it is necessary.
- The HSE continues to call all those people who are confirmed cases of COVID 19 and provide advice and guidance to them on what they need to do.

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2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Headlines



1.0 day

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



3.1 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



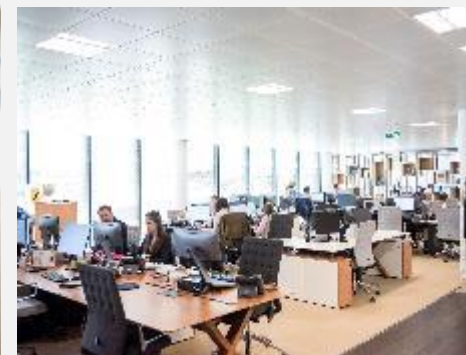
c.132,219

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c. 167,846

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.16,005

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 27th October – 2nd 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 27th October– 02nd November



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.151,375 community referrals** over the seven-day period (23% increase in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
 - **239 International travel referrals** (↓11% in comparison to last week)
 - **100,202 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↑16% in comparison to last week)
 - **13,667 GP referrals** (↑33% compared to last week)



Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **132,219** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **167,846** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 13.8% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 16.4%**

Contact Tracing

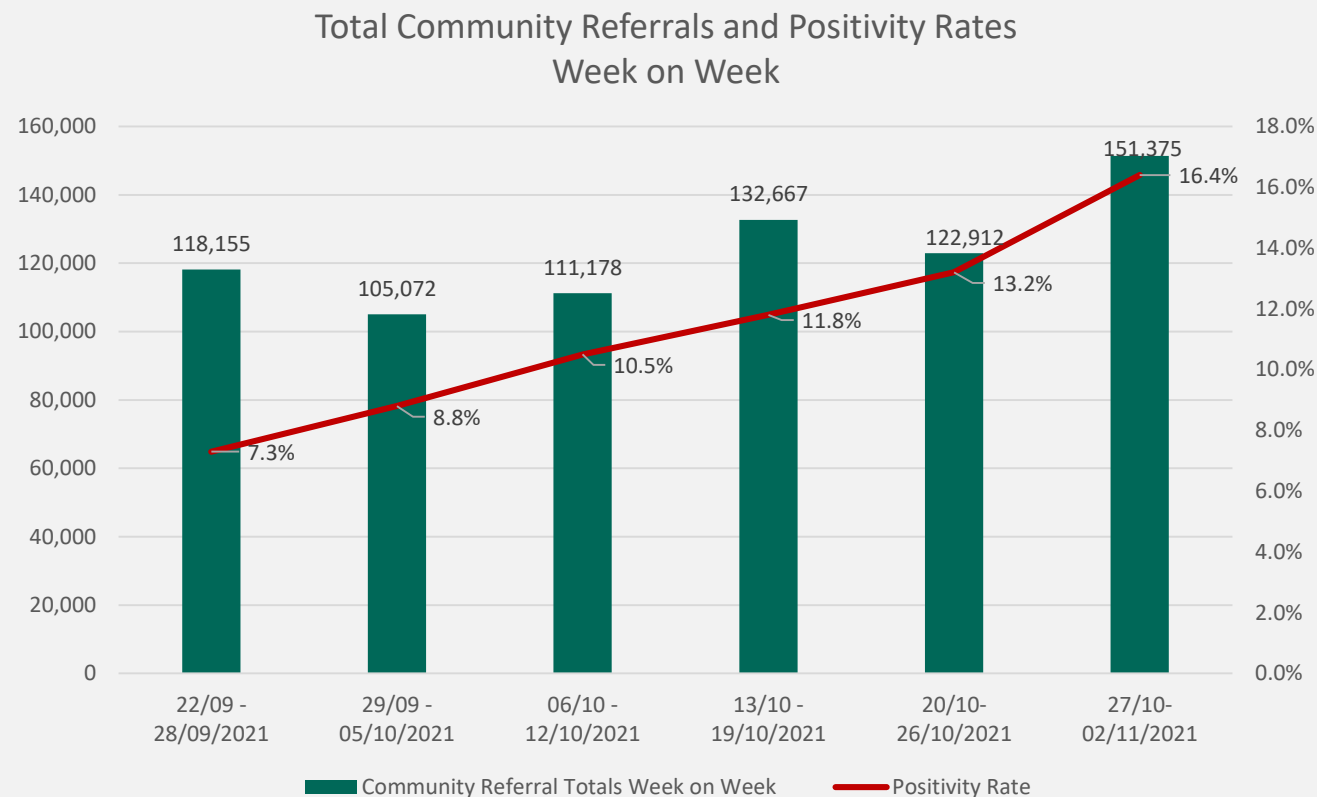
- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.5 per person.**
- From 27th October – 02nd November, a total of 16,534 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 27th October – 02nd November, contact tracing was completed for c. 16,372 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 16,005 calls were made to close contacts.





Total Community Referrals

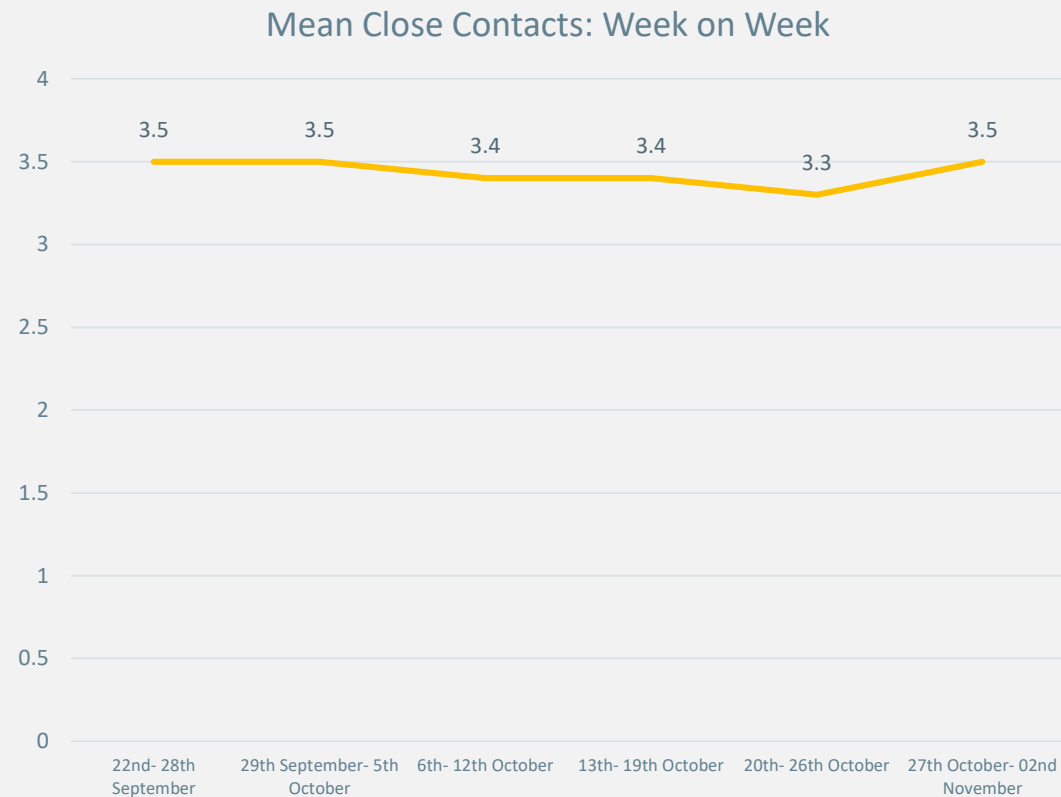
- From the 27th October – 02nd November, there were c.151,375 Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 23%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (20th – 26th October; c.122,912 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown of total community referrals over the past 6 weeks and corresponding positivity rate.





Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was 3.5
- From the evening of Tuesday, 2nd November, Call 3 has been further automated to reach a wider group of close contacts via the Contact Management Programme (CMP).
- Antigen testing for fully vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts went live on Thursday 28th October (>1,000 per day).



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3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 17 (Commenced 11th October);



186 facilities have been tested

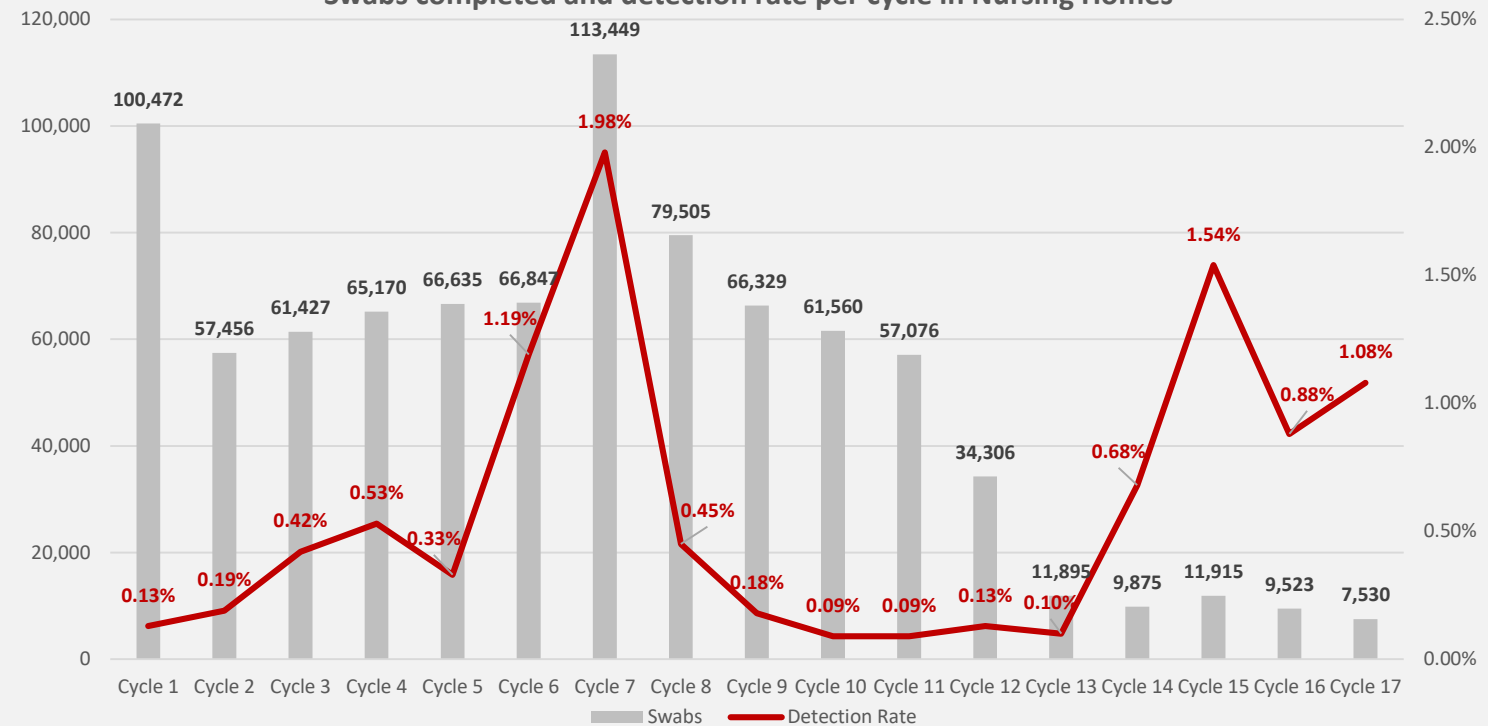


7,530 tests have been completed



81 detected cases identified
(1.08% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 10 (Commenced 11th October);



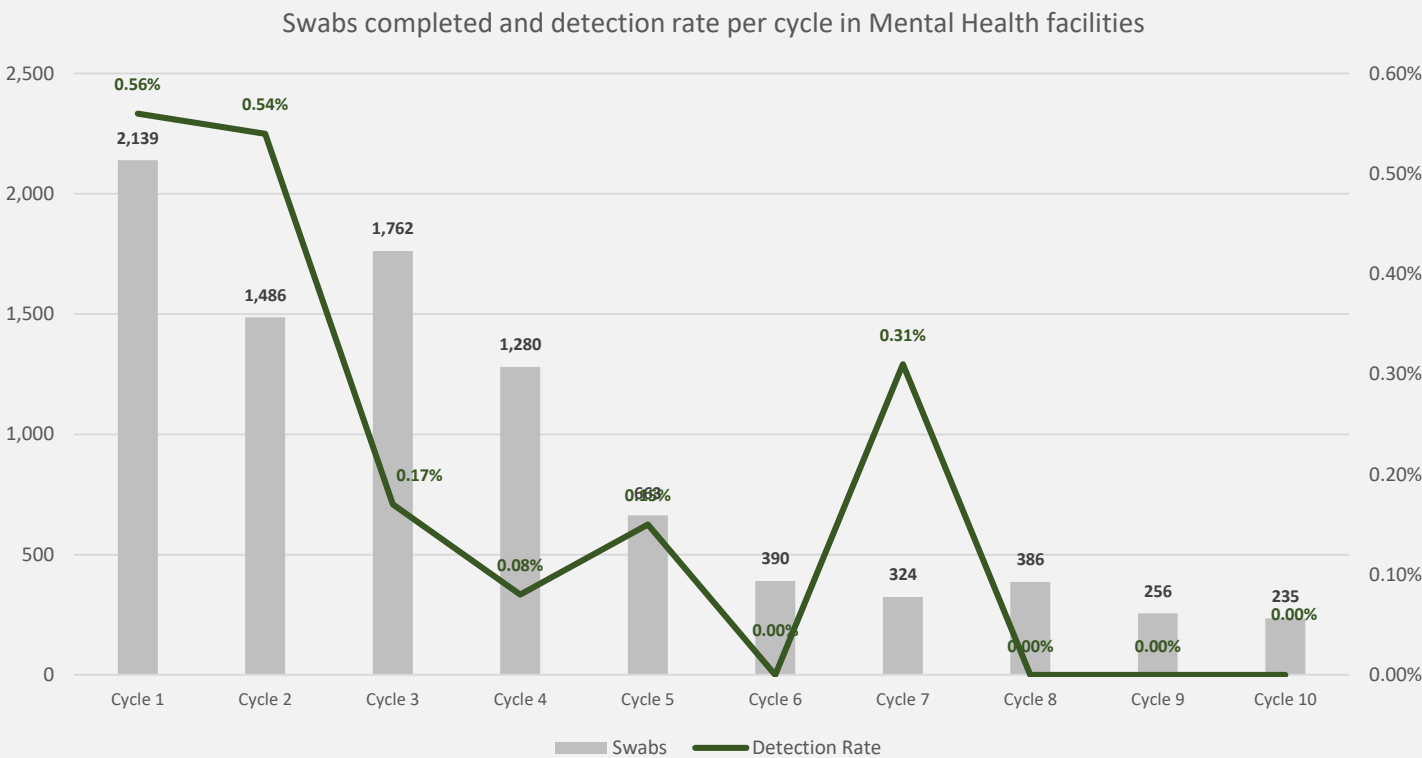
5 facilities have been tested



235 tests have been completed



0 detected cases identified
(0.00% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 15 (Commenced 18th October);



42 facilities have been tested

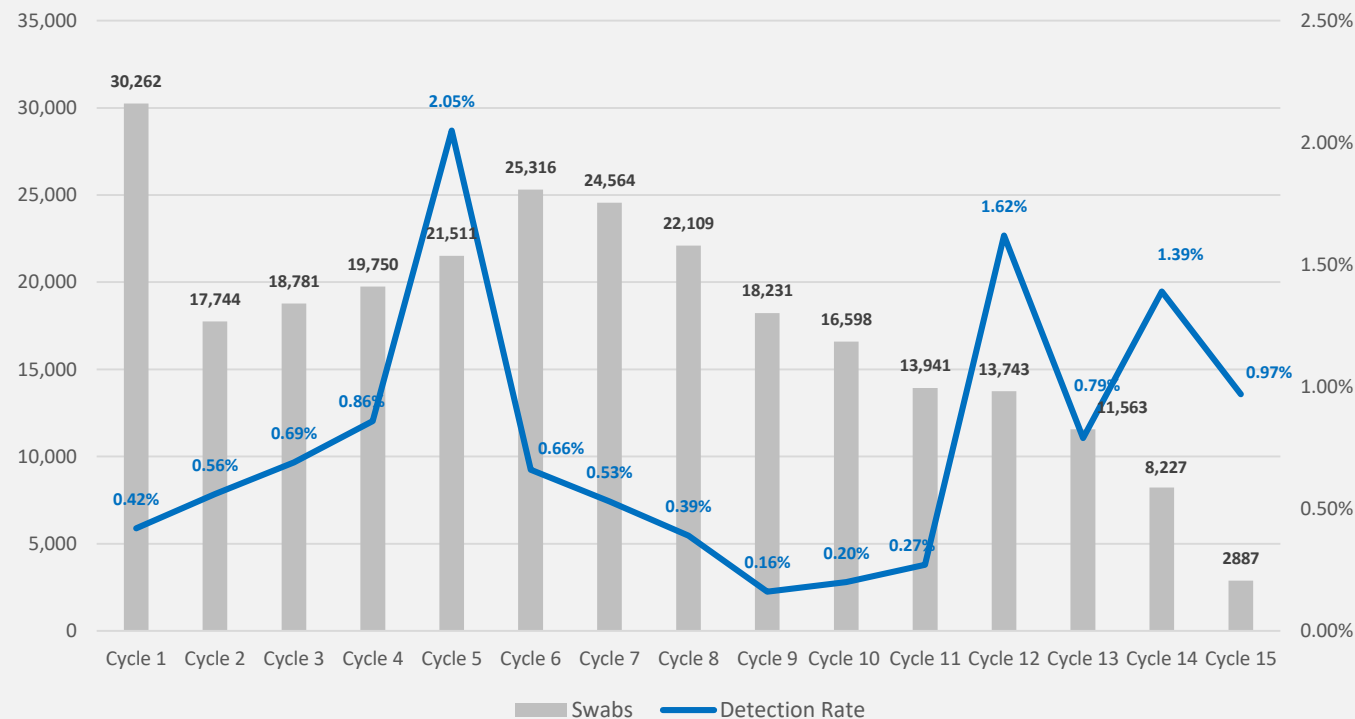


2,887 tests have been completed



28 detected cases identified
(0.97% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



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4. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 01st November

828

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 828 staff;
757 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining **71** staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

