

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

11th 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 within the circle.

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 18.1% (in comparison to 16.4% last week).
- Community testing attendance has been extremely high and over 20,000 people per day have attended for testing daily over the last number of days.
- Monday, 8th November 2021 reported one of the highest days for testing demand ever. Over 30,000 referrals were recorded in total, with 16,789 of these being self-referrals.
- We monitor testing availability on an ongoing basis to work to ensure that test appointments are maintained for GP referral and close contacts.
- We would ask that people seeking a test to check back later in the day as appointments may become available.

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 vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts went live on Thursday 28th October (>1,000 per day). We are continuing to issue antigen test kits to fully vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts – as of lunch time Wednesday 31,150 antigen test kits have been dispatched to An Post for distribution.
- Over 45,000 antigen tests have been reported through the public antigen results portal.

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 day

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



2.1 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c.150,532

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c. 184,612

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.24,746

Calls made to detected cases

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 03rd – 9th 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 03rd– 09th November



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.169,858 community referrals** over the seven-day period (23% increase in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
 - **190 International travel referrals** (↓20% in comparison to last week)
 - **111,002 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↑11% in comparison to last week)
 - **15,720 GP referrals** (↑15% compared to last week)



Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **150,532** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **184,612** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 15.3% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 18.1%**

Contact Tracing

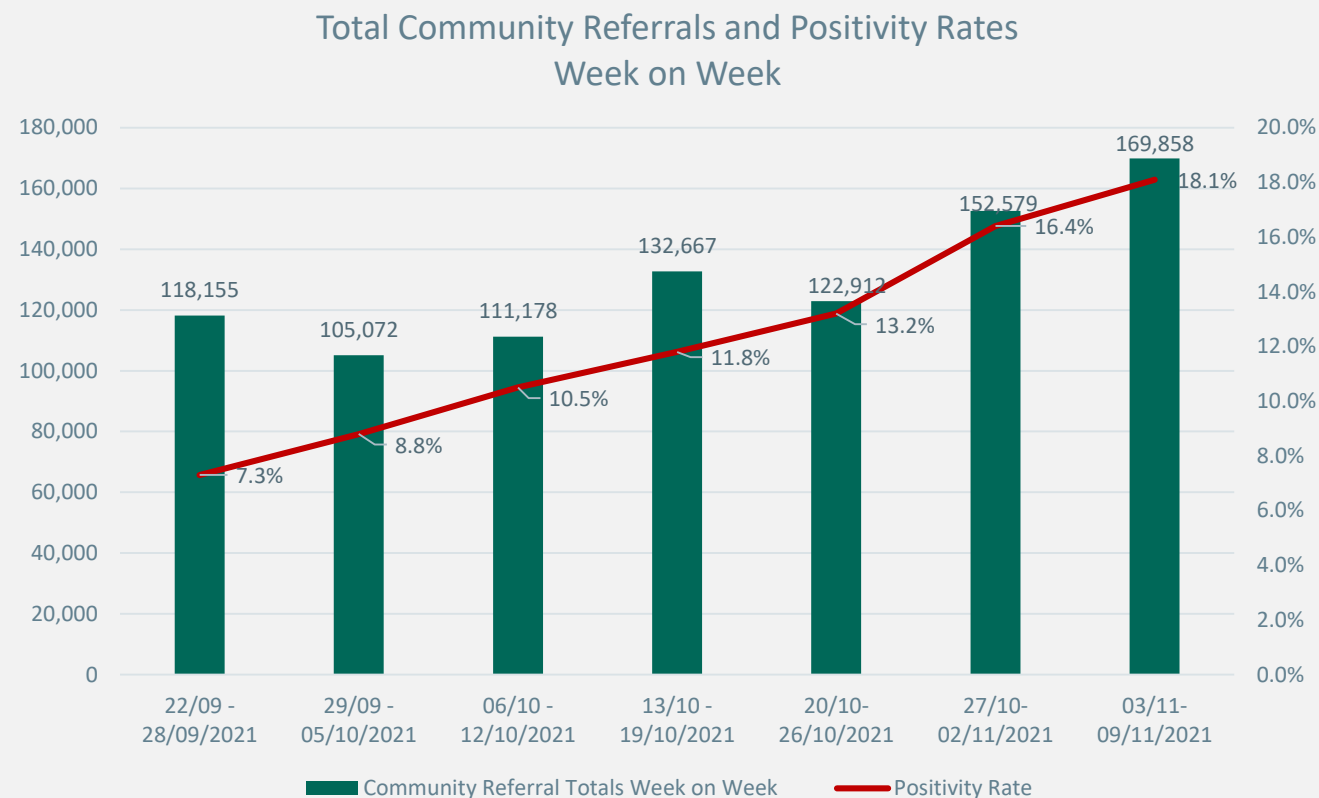


- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.5 per person.**
- From 03rd – 09th November, a total of 24,746 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 03rd – 09th November, contact tracing was completed for c. 22,218 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 7,779 calls were made to close contacts.



Total Community Referrals

- From the 03rd – 09th November, there were c.**169,858 Community Referrals** (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 11%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (27th October – 02nd November; c.152,579 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown of total community referrals over the past 7 weeks and corresponding positivity rate.



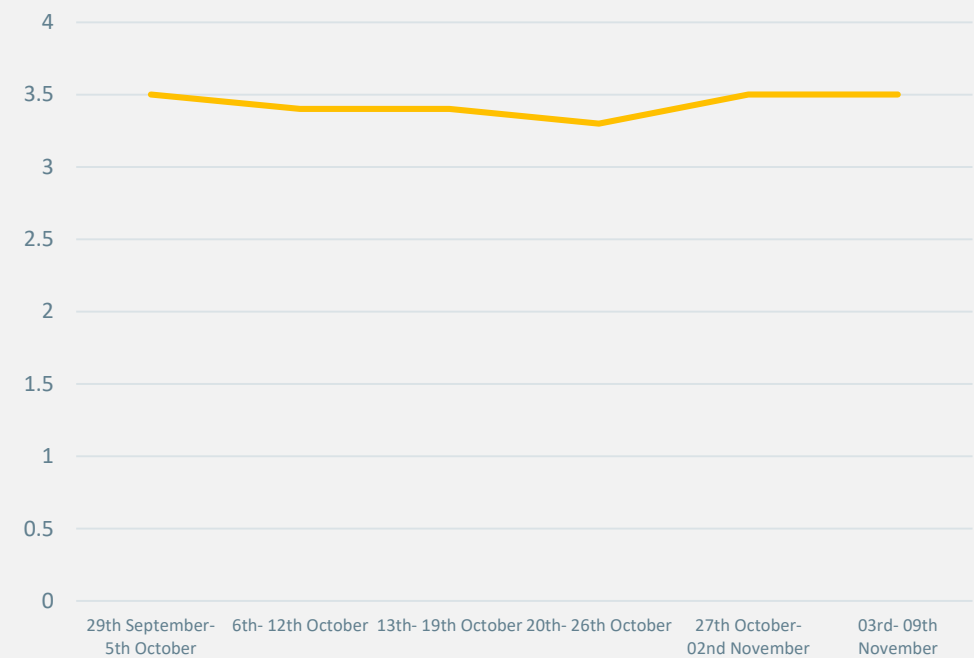


Close Contacts Trend

3.5

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

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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

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 microscopic field of view.

3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 17 (Commenced 11th October);



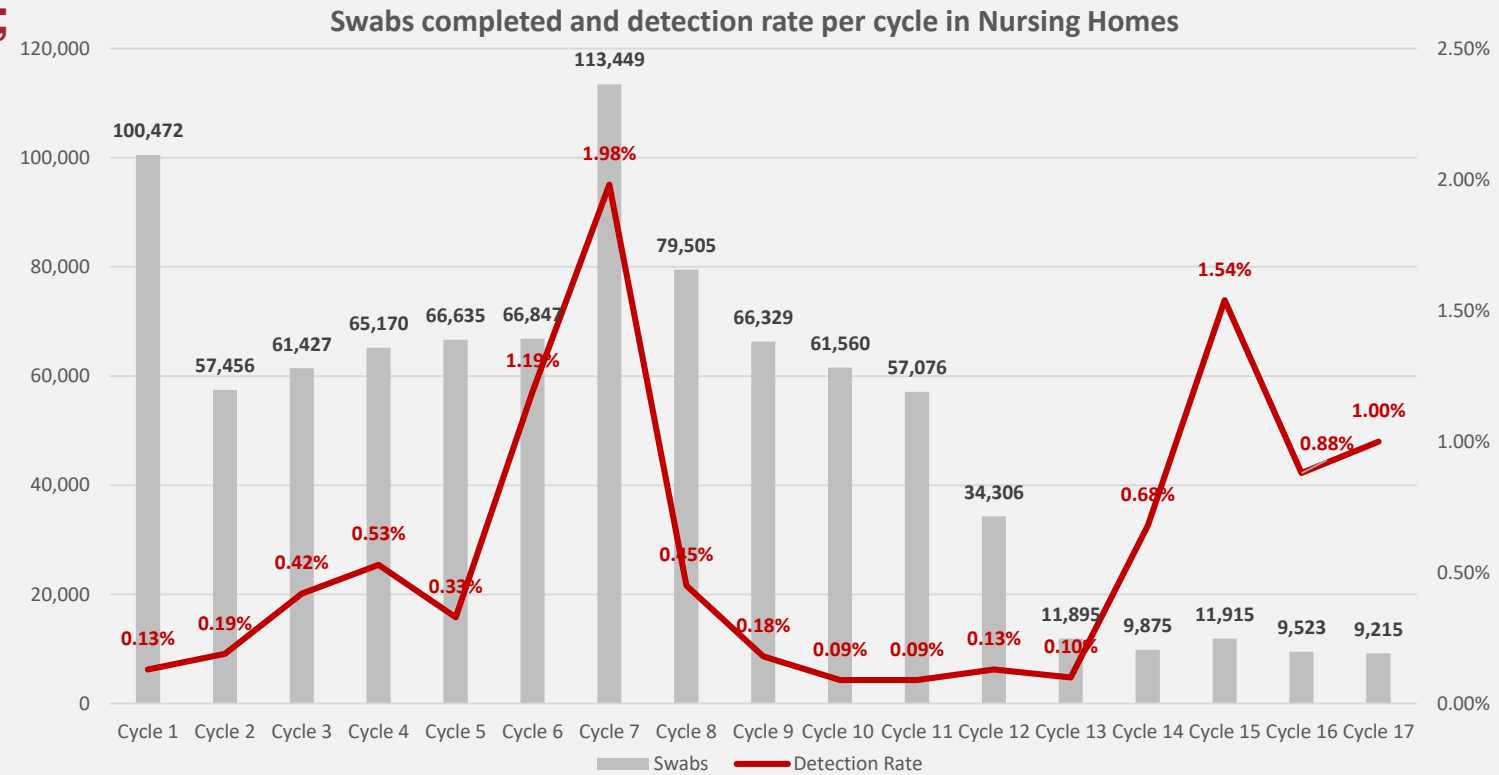
192 facilities have been tested



9,215 tests have been completed



92 detected cases identified
(1.00% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 10 (Commenced 11th October);



5 facilities have been tested

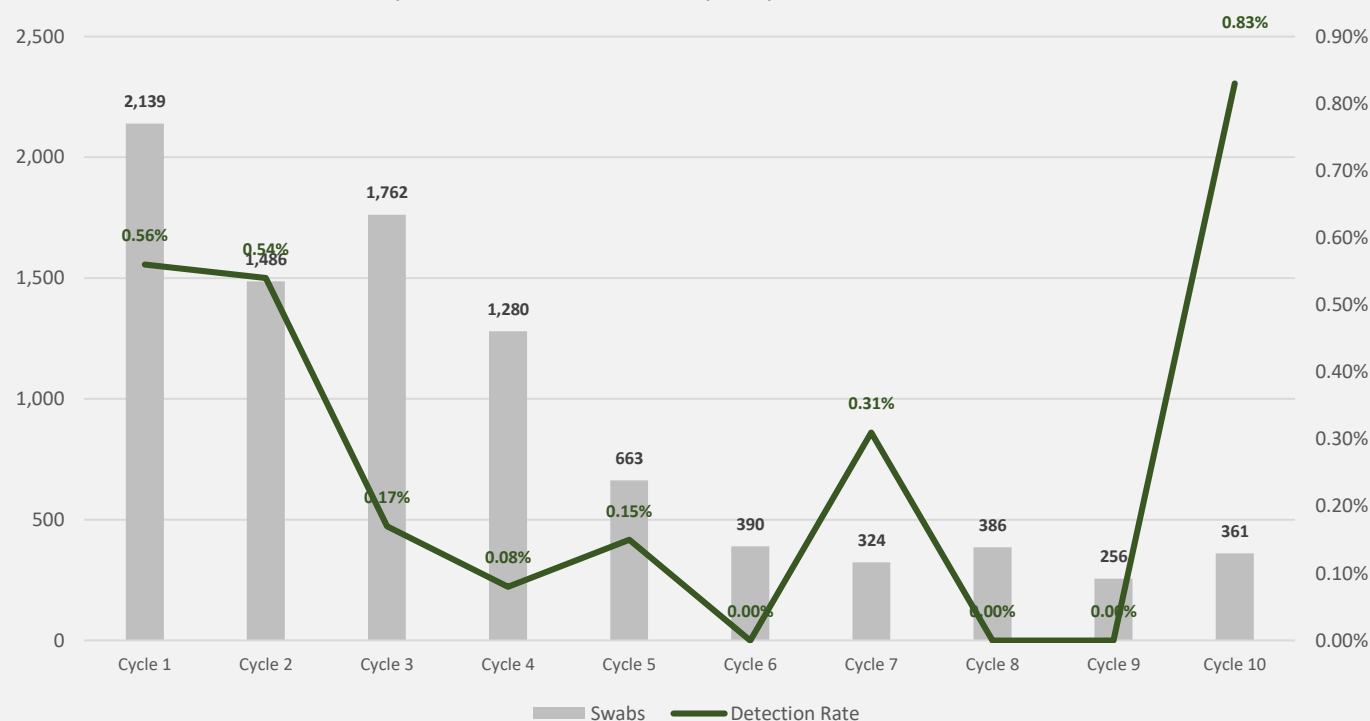


361 tests have been completed



3 detected cases identified
(0.83% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health facilities





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 15 (Commenced 18th October);



57 facilities have been tested

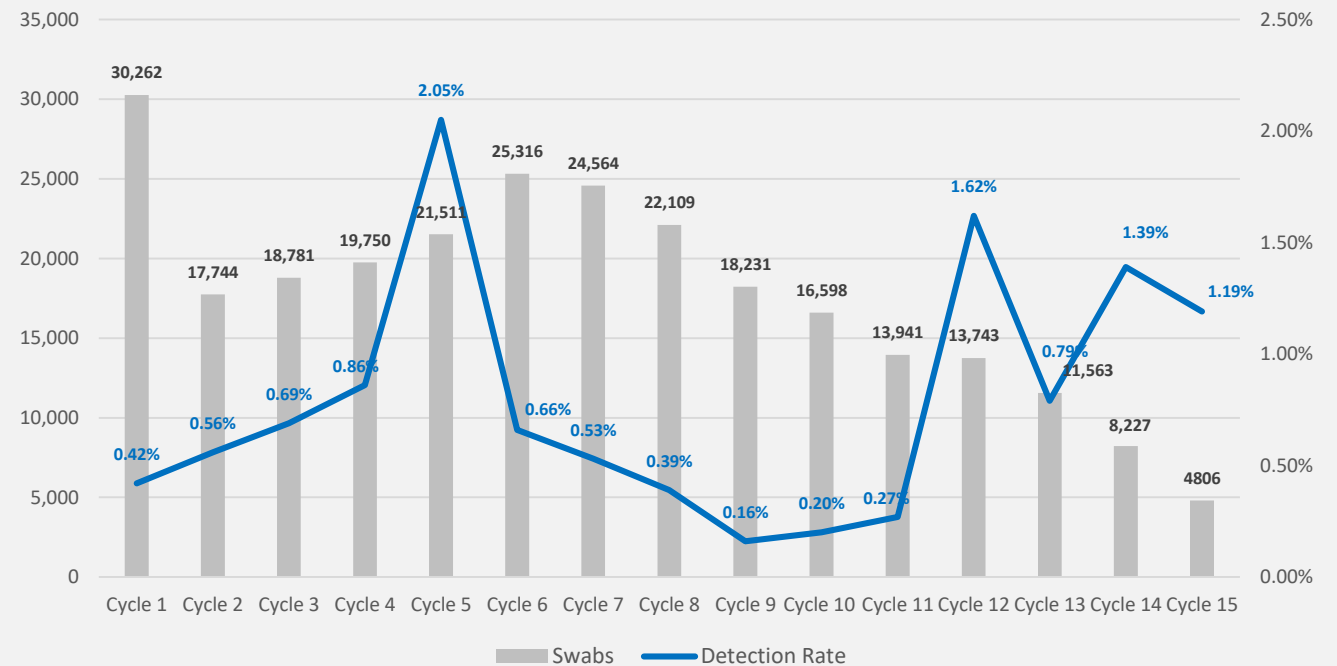


4,806 tests have been completed



57 detected cases identified
(1.19% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



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 hazy background within the circle.

4. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 08th November

791

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

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

The remaining 67 staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

