

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

15th of July, 2021

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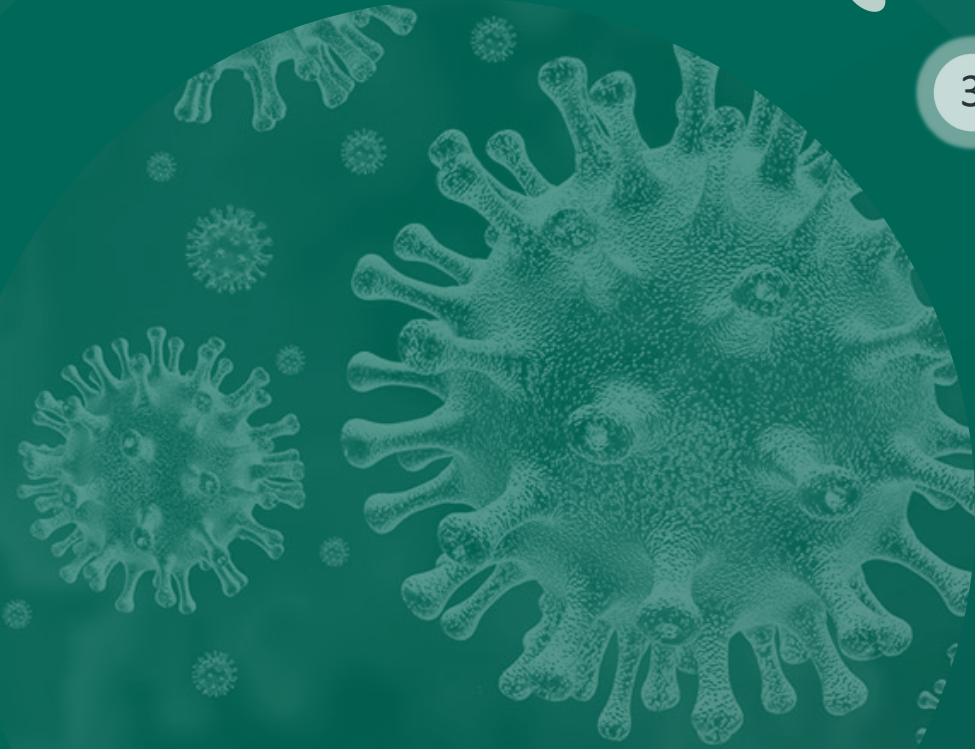
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Test and Trace Headlines



1.4 days

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



2.2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 130,354

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 126,740

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 8,648

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 7th – 13th of July.



Key messages from Testing and Tracing

1. **Testing demand and cases are rising quickly so Testing and Tracing service is now in Surge.**
2. We re-iterate our core message to take our tracers calls and the importance of restricting your movements if you are deemed a close contact. This really matters in reducing the onward spread of the disease.
3. The positivity rate in the community testing over the last seven days was 5.3% - and rising. On some days individual sites have up to 15% positivity of swabs taken
4. Close contacts are c.4 per person. Please share all your contacts with us, we know these will be higher with less social restrictions in place now.
5. Not all contacts are sent for testing, about 15% are fully vaccinated. This demonstrates the young age profile of close contacts
6. We note a strong rise in travel related cases from holiday destinations, Spain, Portugal, UK.
7. As we look forward in Testing and Tracing, there is a projected increase demand for the service. In order to address this demand we are looking at surge capacity across referrals and swabbing, laboratory testing and contact tracing.
8. We have increased PCR capacity to 30,000 per day. In addition we will deploy lateral flow tests further in the coming weeks (antigen)
9. Options that we can leverage for surge capacity include expanding our testing centre hours, utilise additional facilities and resources, target high demand areas using our NAS pop up teams and leverage antigen testing for outbreaks and close contact testing if needed.
10. We will leverage off shore labs as needed and in tracing we will adapt contact tracing call time length, number of calls and increase the use of digital channels.



Surge Planning

There is a projected demand for Test and Tracing over the next 3 months as a result of the Delta Variant. The Test and Trace system has a number of options to increase capacity and control demand over across the end to end Test and Trace Process. Some of these options include

Referrals and Swabbing

- We have expanded our swabbing capacity to 30,000 per day across Community and Acute hospitals
- We have expanded test centre opening hours.
- We have utilised extra swabbing facilities and resources.
- We will target high demand areas with NAS pop up teams
- We will leverage lateral flow test as we exceed swabbing capacity

Testing

- We have extended our PCR testing capacity to 30,000 per day
- We will leverage additional available onshore and offshore PCR capacity
- We will further deploy the use of rapid testing methods, including lateral flow tests

Contact Tracing

- We have over 900 people fully dedicated to contact tracing activity, in addition to all of our public health departments.
- It is possible to carry out a shorter positive patient assessment, reducing call times and increasing overall capacity.
- We will manage high numbers of contacts with digital methods

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 protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, slightly blurred background within the circle.

1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 7th – 13th July.



Total Community Referrals

- There were c. 96,676 community referrals over the seven day period.
- This figure includes 23,522 walk-in referrals, 8,412 International travel referrals and 23,402 referrals from the self-referral portal, the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- **International travel referrals** have **increased by 31.5%** in comparison to the same timeframe last week.
- Overall, this weekly total has increased by 4.3% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (30th June – 6th July; c. 92,692 total referrals).



Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **130,354** swabs were completed.



Lab Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**126,740** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 5.3%**.



Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.9 per person**.
- From 7th– 13th July, a total of 3,812 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 7th– 13th July, contact tracing was completed for c. 3,518 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 8,648 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 7th – 13th July.



Turnaround Times

- The combined median time from swab to lab result in community and acute settings was **24 hours**.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a **mean of 11.3 hours** and a **median of 8.7 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.4 day for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 2.2 days for detected results**.

A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark, smoky background within the circle. The entire slide has a dark teal background with faint, concentric circular lines.

2. Testing and Trace Trends

Total Community Referrals

- From the 7th – 13th July, there were a total of **c. 96,676** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 4.3%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (30th June – 6th July; c. 92,692 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 5 weeks.





Walk In Referrals and Self Referrals

- In the last week, the number of **Walk in referrals** was **23,522**, this is a **6.9% increase** on the number of walk in referrals over the same time period the previous week.
- In the last week, the number of **Self referrals** was **23,402**, this is a **11% increase** on the number of self referrals over the same time period the previous week.
- The self-referral online portal has been updated to allow u-16s to book a test through this channel.
- Current operational procedures for those u-16 will apply at testing centres upon arrival.



International Travel Referrals

- In the last week, there has been a total of **8,412 referrals from International Travel**.
- This type of referral has **increased by 31.5%** over when compared to the previous 7 day time period.
- We continue to monitor this metric and the volumes of referrals that are associated with International Travel.



Pop-up - Test Centres

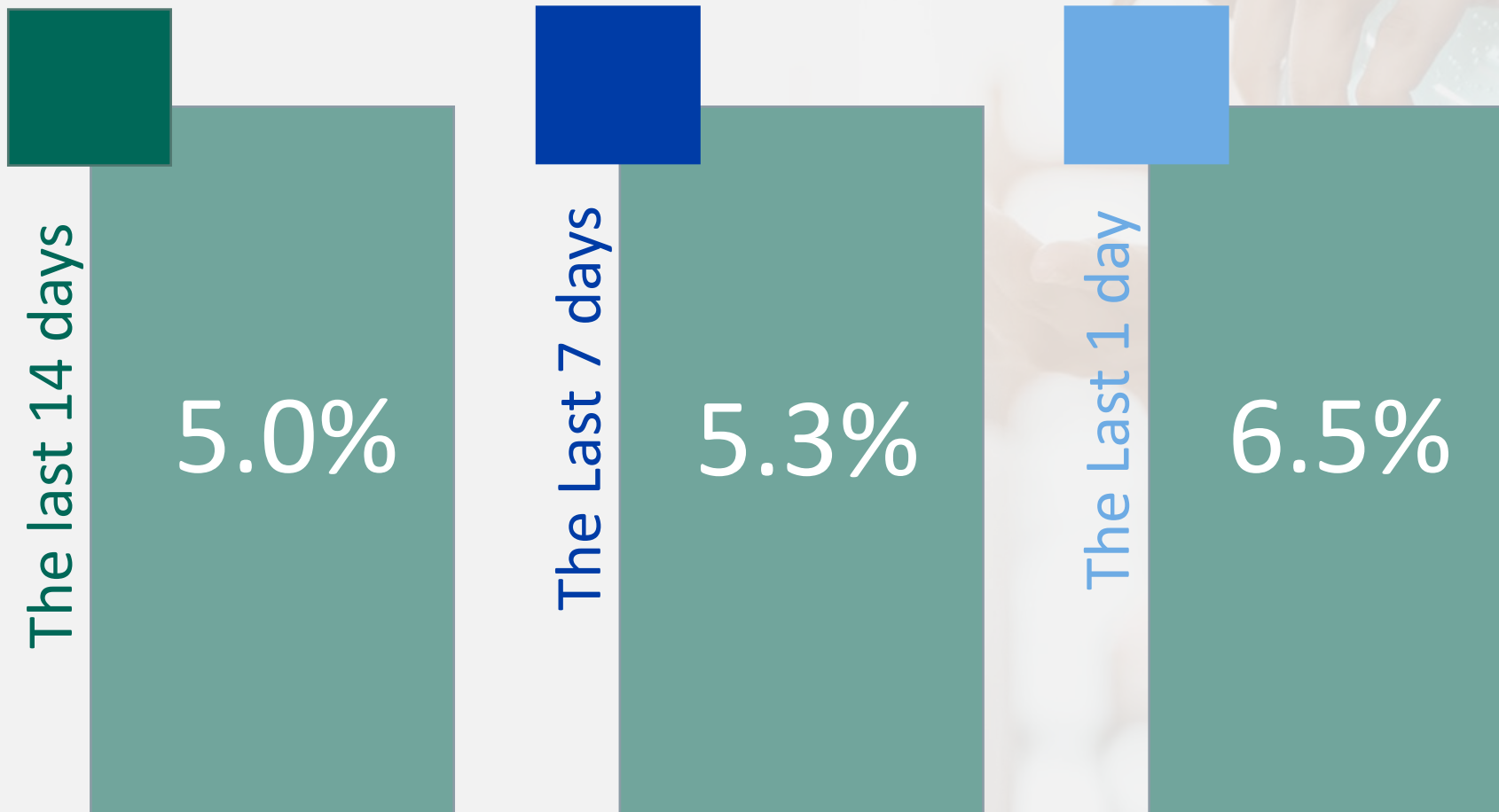
- Our pop up test centres continue to be deployed across areas in order to meet testing demand.
- As of the 14th July, the following pop-ups are operational;
 - Dublin (**Blanchardstown & Tallaght Stadium**)
 - Donegal
 - **Wexford**
 - **Athlone**

Testing at Tallaght Stadium is by appointment only.
The Athlone centre is open 3 days a week.





Community Positivity Trend

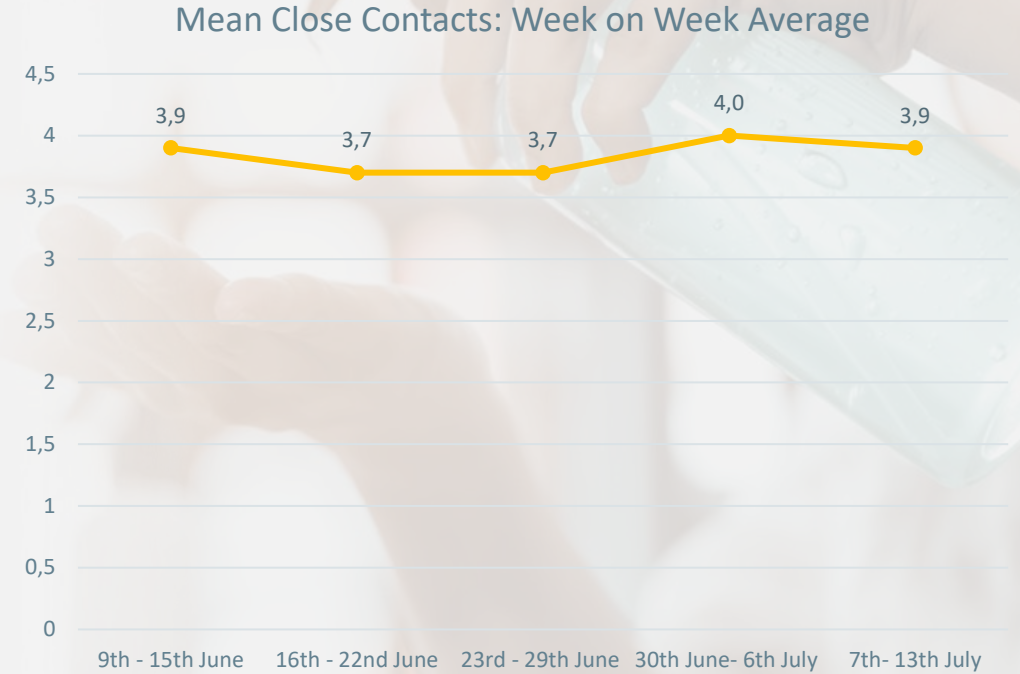




Close Contacts Trend

3.9

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.9**



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 13 (Commenced 21st June);



277 facilities have been tested

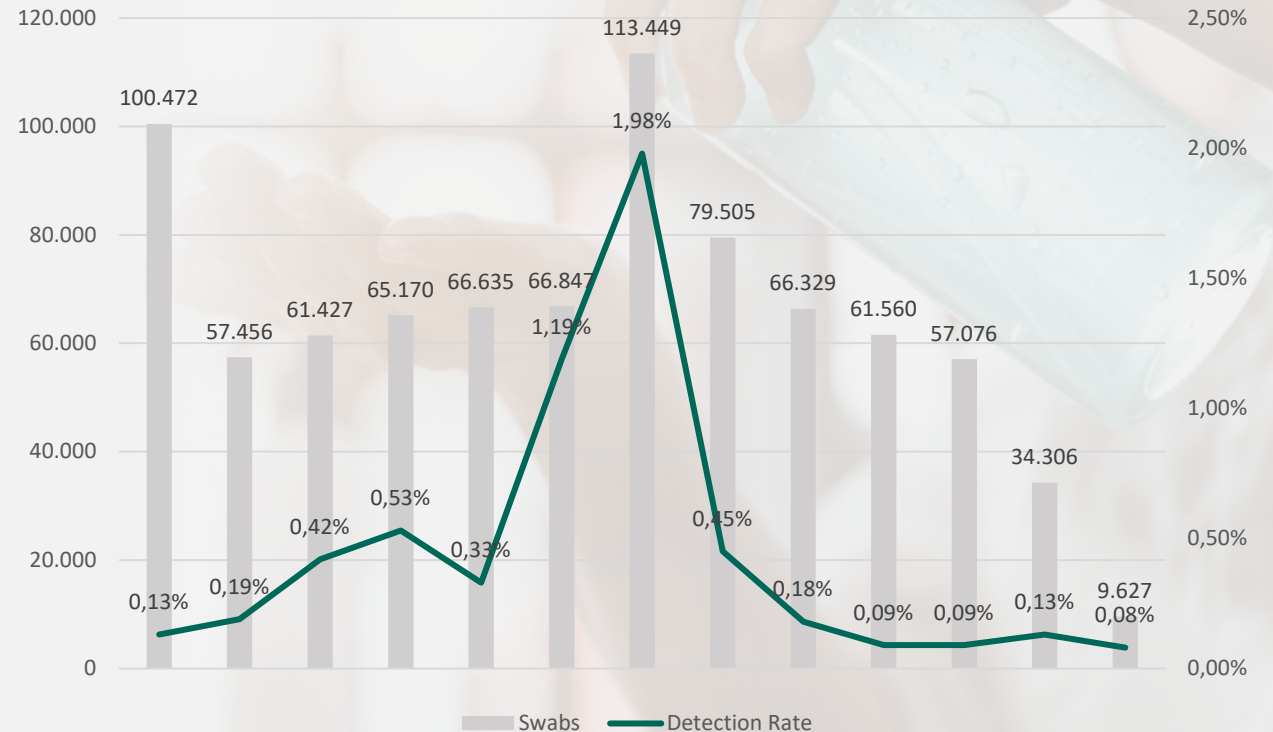


9,627 tests have been completed



8 detected cases identified
(0.08% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 6 (Commenced 21st June);



5 facilities have been tested

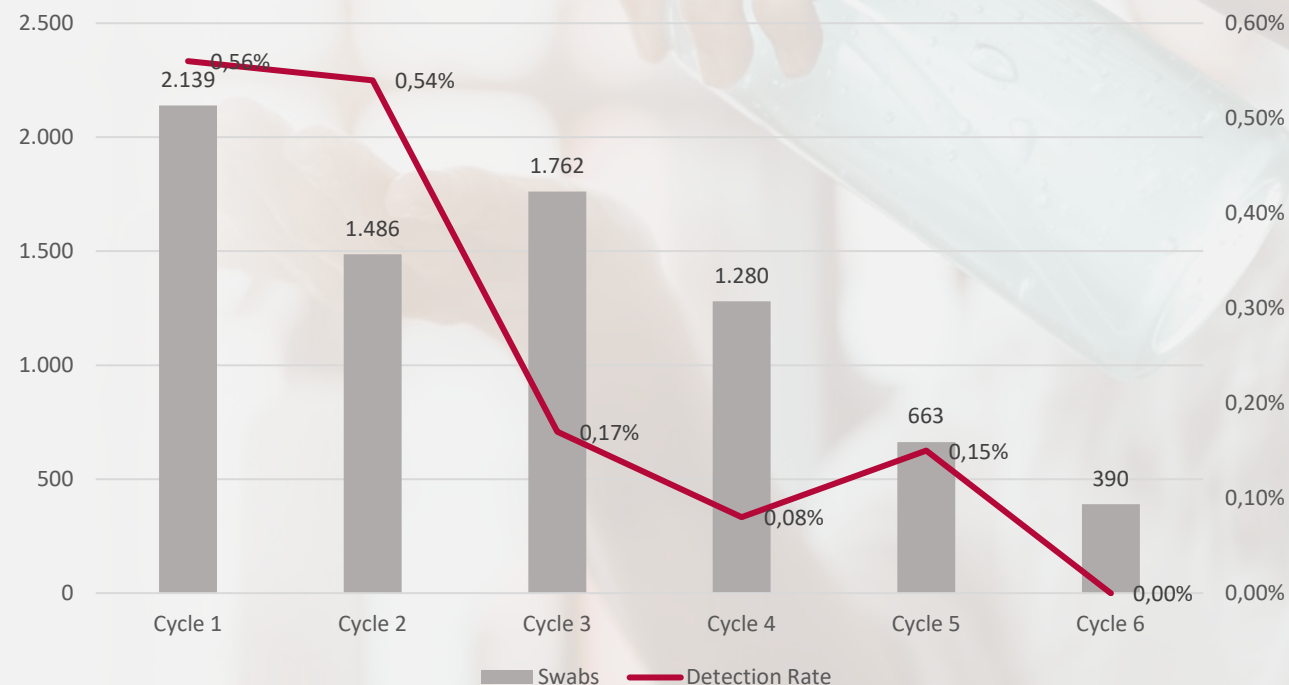


390 tests have been completed



0 detected cases identified
(0.00% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health Facilities





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 11 of serial testing for Food Production Facilities commenced on 28th June.

In Cycle 11 (Commenced 28th June);



44 facilities have been tested

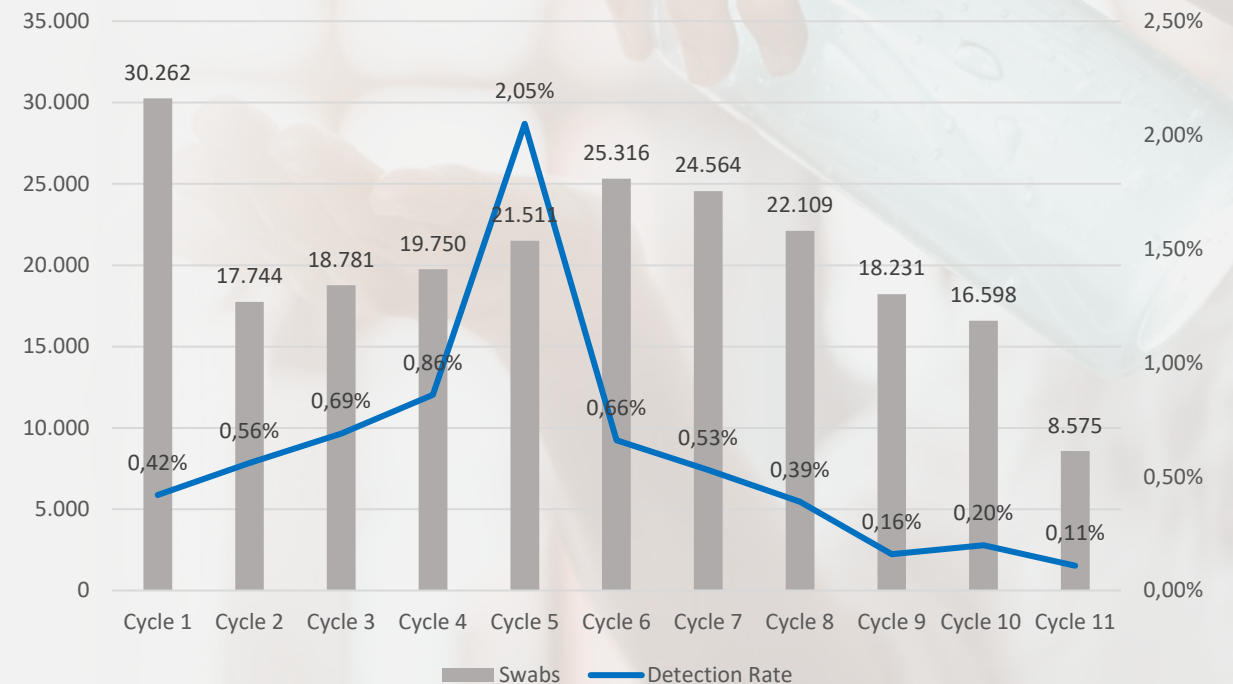


8,575 tests have been completed



9 detected cases identified
(0.11% 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 July 13th:

Hotel Staff

5,067 swabs complete

Quarantine Residents

13,011 swabs complete

Detected Cases To Date

392



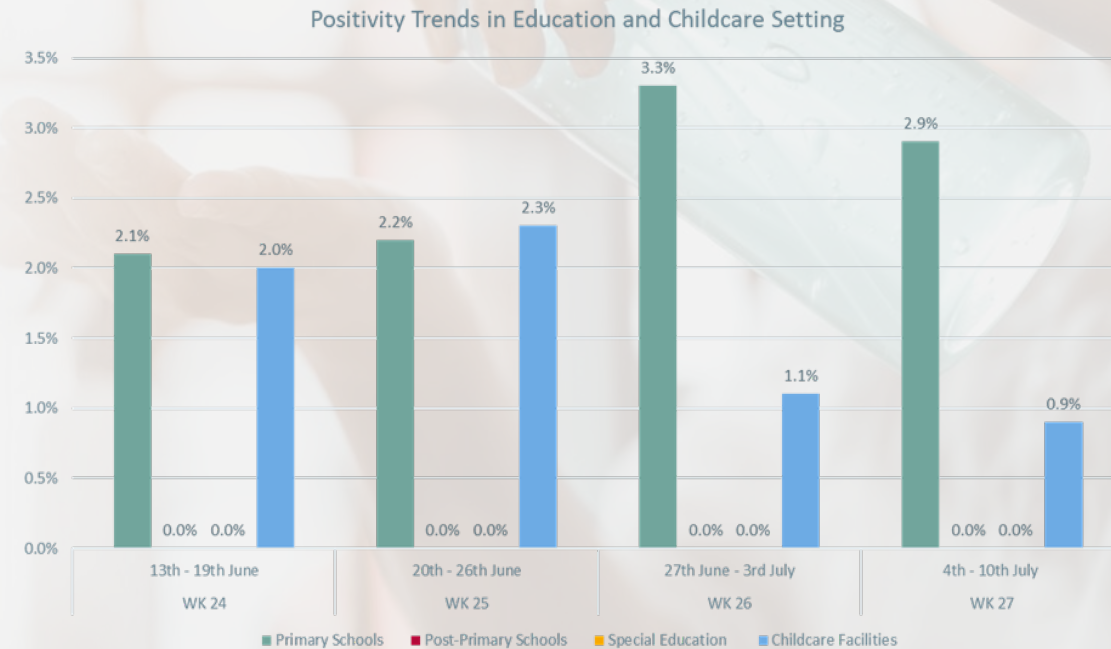
A large, semi-circular graphic on the left side of the slide. It contains a detailed, light-colored illustration of several coronavirus particles, showing their characteristic spherical shape and numerous spike-like projections (resembling a crown or 'corona'). The background within this circle is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white, suggesting a microscopic or ethereal environment. The entire slide has a dark teal background with subtle concentric circular patterns.

4. Education and Childcare

Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 4th – 10th July;

- 1,669 tests were completed in 97 **Primary Schools** resulting in a **2.9%** positivity rate.
- 0 tests were completed in 0 **Post-primary Schools** resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 32 tests were completed in 5 **Special Education** settings resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 643 tests were completed in 52 **Childcare Facilities** resulting in a **0.9%** positivity rate.



A large, semi-transparent circular graphic on the left side of the slide. Inside the circle is a detailed, light-colored illustration of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like projections (resembling the Greek letter beta, β) extending from their perimeters. They are arranged in a way that suggests a microscopic view, with some particles appearing larger and more prominent than others.

5. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 12th July

860

Community
Swabbers

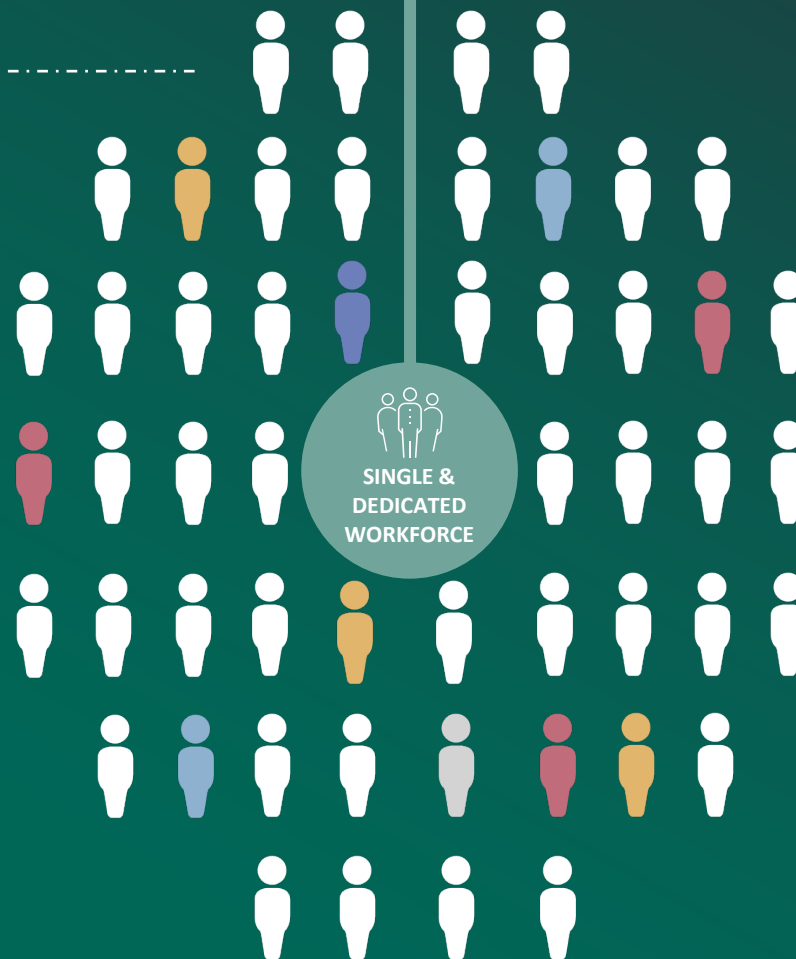
Recruited and Onboarded

923

Staff supporting
Contact Tracing

Of these 923 staff;
883 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining 40 staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles





Conclusion

1

Over the past seven days, the **positivity rate** in the community is **5.3%**.

2

Our median end to end turnaround time is **2.2 days for detected cases and 1.4 days for not detected cases**.

3

Total Community Referral Volumes have **increased by 4.3%** in comparison to the same time-period last week.

