

HSE COVID-19 Testing and Tracing Briefing

19th of August, 2021

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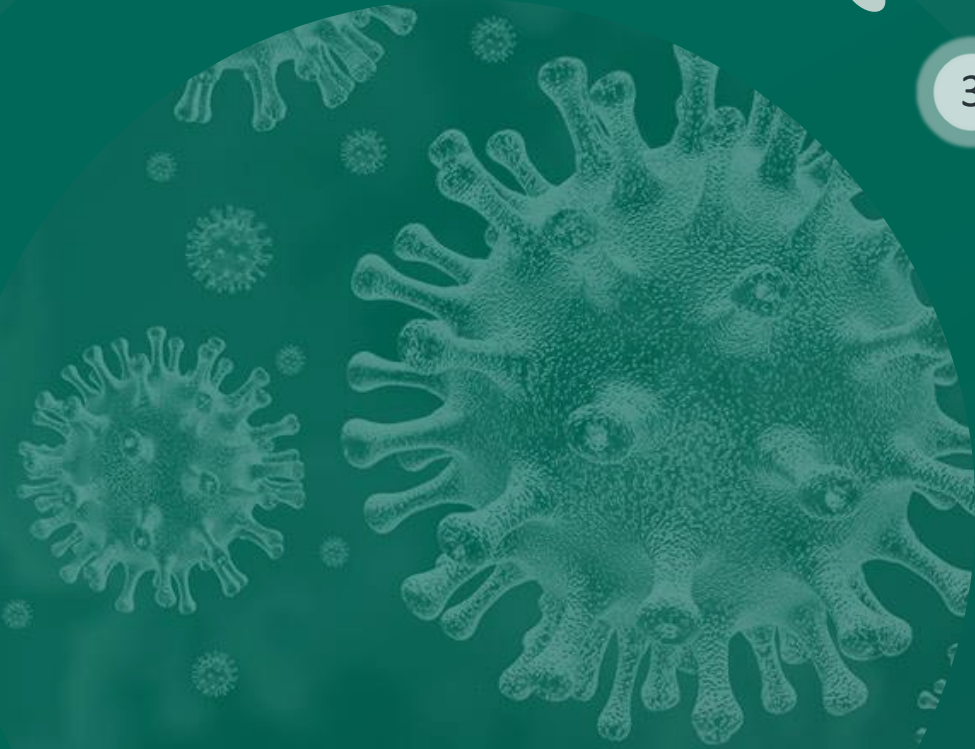
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Testing and Tracing Headlines



1 day

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



2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 134,721

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 137,294

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 22,702

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 10th– 16th August.

Note 2: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



Testing and Tracing Key Messages



Testing Demand

Demand is high, but steady

Most week days swabbing volume stands at c.15,000

103,067 swabs taken in community testing sites this week

92% can get a test in < 24 hrs



Testing Positivity

Community Positivity is >14% and growing

Positivity in 15-24 year olds is c.25%

Highest positivity rates in Dublin, Cavan & Monaghan

Testing is busiest in Cavan, Mayo, Galway and Tralee sites

Pop up sites are now operational in:
Dublin, Donegal, Monaghan



Contact Tracing

We contacted 13,088 detected cases this week – up 16%

We had 31,000 close contacts notified to us – up 9%

We complete all tracing within 11 hours of case notification

There are 996 people working on contact tracing



Close Contact Trends

Overall close contact positivity is 18.9%

Household close contacts highest at **43.8%**

Highest positivity rates in: **Household** (25.1%)

47% of close contacts are now fully vaccinated



Detail of close contacts

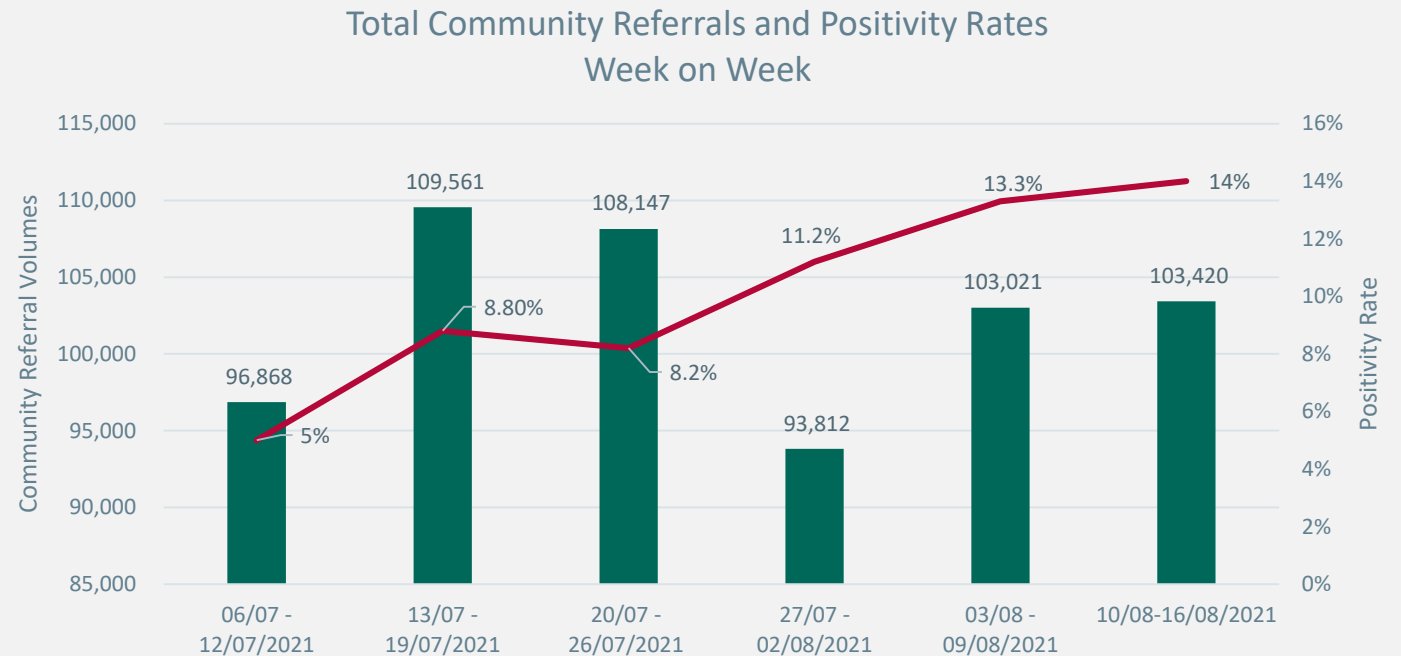
With current levels of community transmission, c.2,000 cases a day, the most important focus from a contact tracing perspective is on forward tracing.

We ask any individual who is positive to identify all close contacts, vaccinated and unvaccinated.

We expect 6-9 per person

Total Community Referrals

- From the 10th – 16th August, there were **c.103,420** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 0.03%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (3rd – 9th August; c.103,021 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 6 weeks.



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



Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test: Pilot Report (Week 1)

- The pilot aims to operationally test a self-managed Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests (RADT) programme in education settings, including early learning and childcare, for asymptomatic adults (Over 18 only) and establish the feasibility of implementation at scale.
- Participants are asked to carry out antigen tests at home on 2 days per week (3 - 4 days apart) for 4 weeks, and report their results to the site.
- There are 5 Education Institutes (EI) and 8 Crèches currently that took part in Week 1 testing stage, with 1 remaining creche due to start on 16th August.
- 4 EIs and 4 Crèches have returned results 13.08.2021. More facilities will join the pilot in coming weeks

Summary of Testing Results – Week 1 (for 4 Education Institutions and 4 Crèches)

Testing		Test Results	
Number of tests completed	279	Not detected	277
Number not tested	17	Invalid	1
		Detected	1
		Positive PCR	1



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 14 (Commenced 19th July);



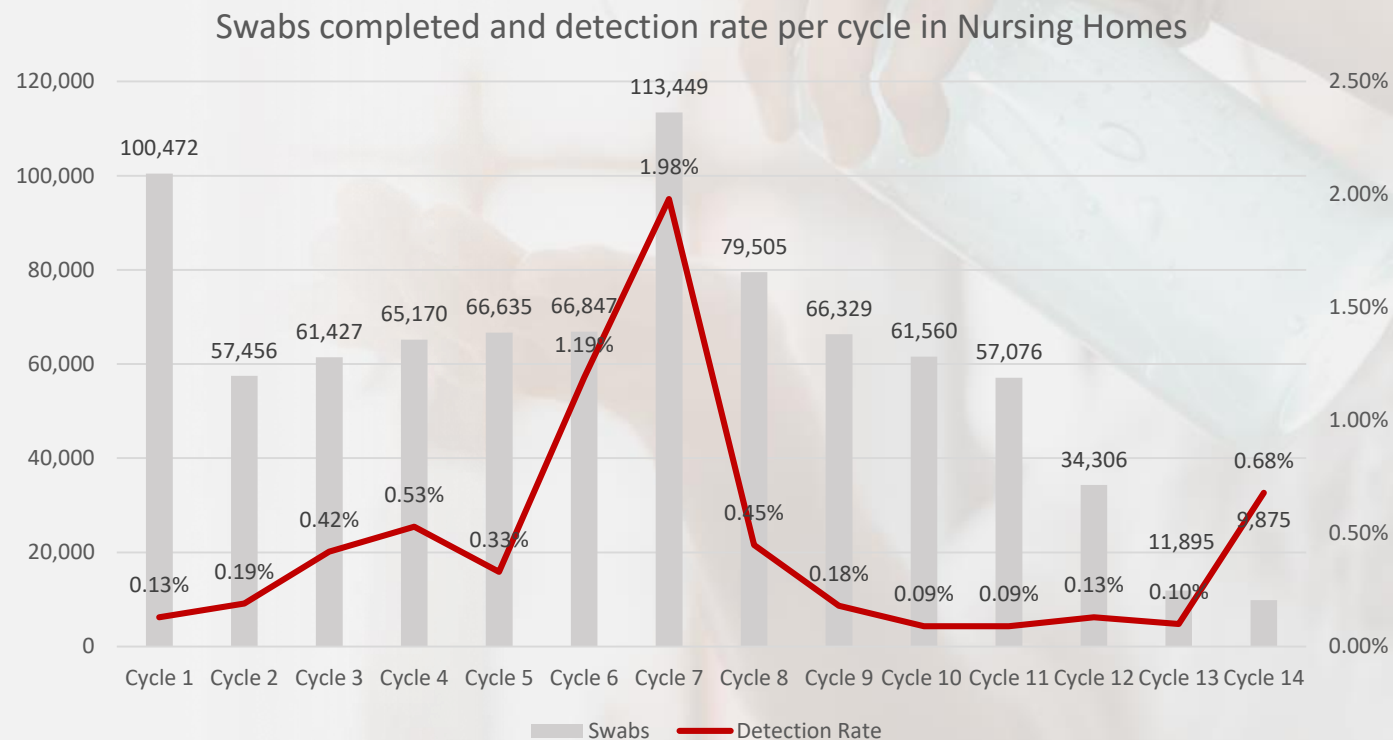
230 facilities have been tested



9,875 tests have been completed



67 detected cases identified
(0.68% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 7 (Commenced 23rd July);



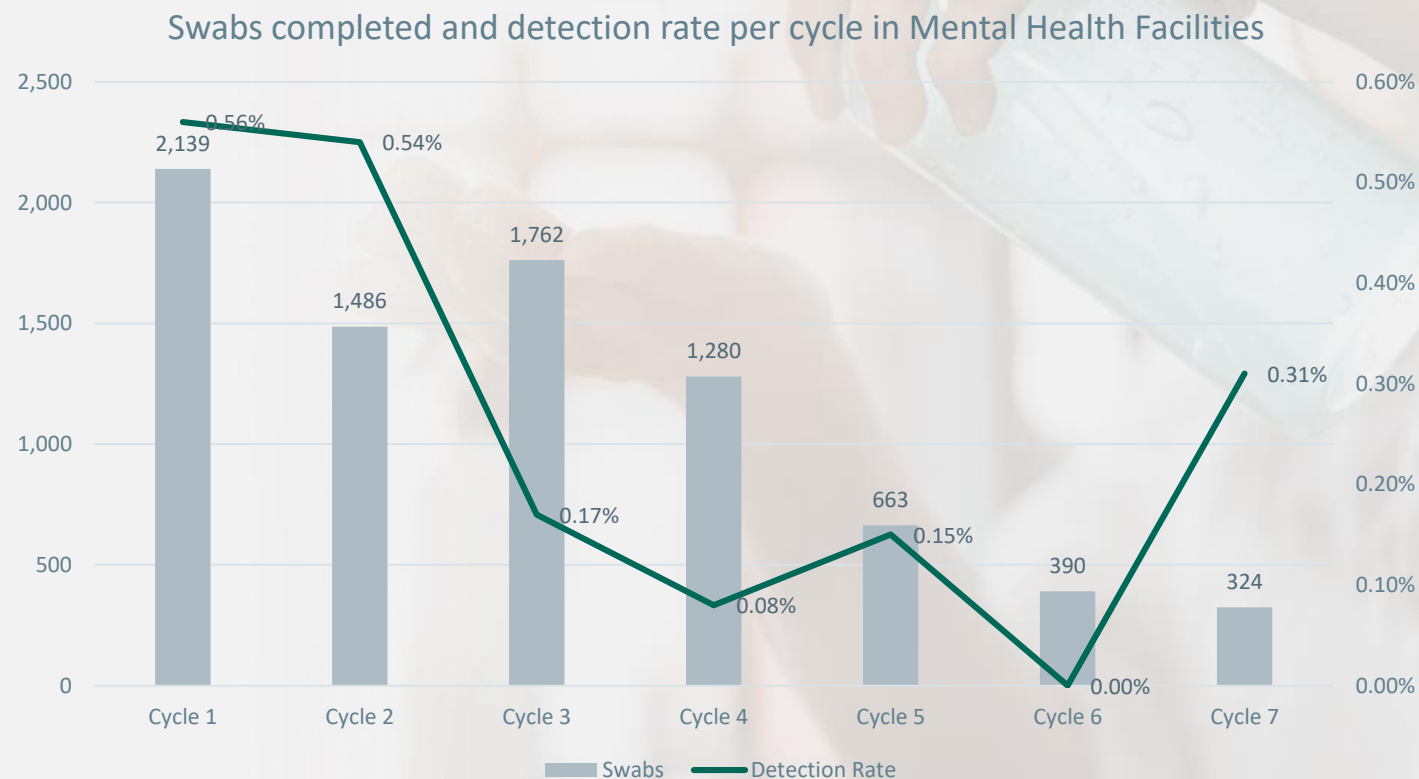
4 facilities have been tested



324 tests have been completed



1 detected case identified
(0.31% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 12 (Commenced 26th July);



73 facilities have been tested

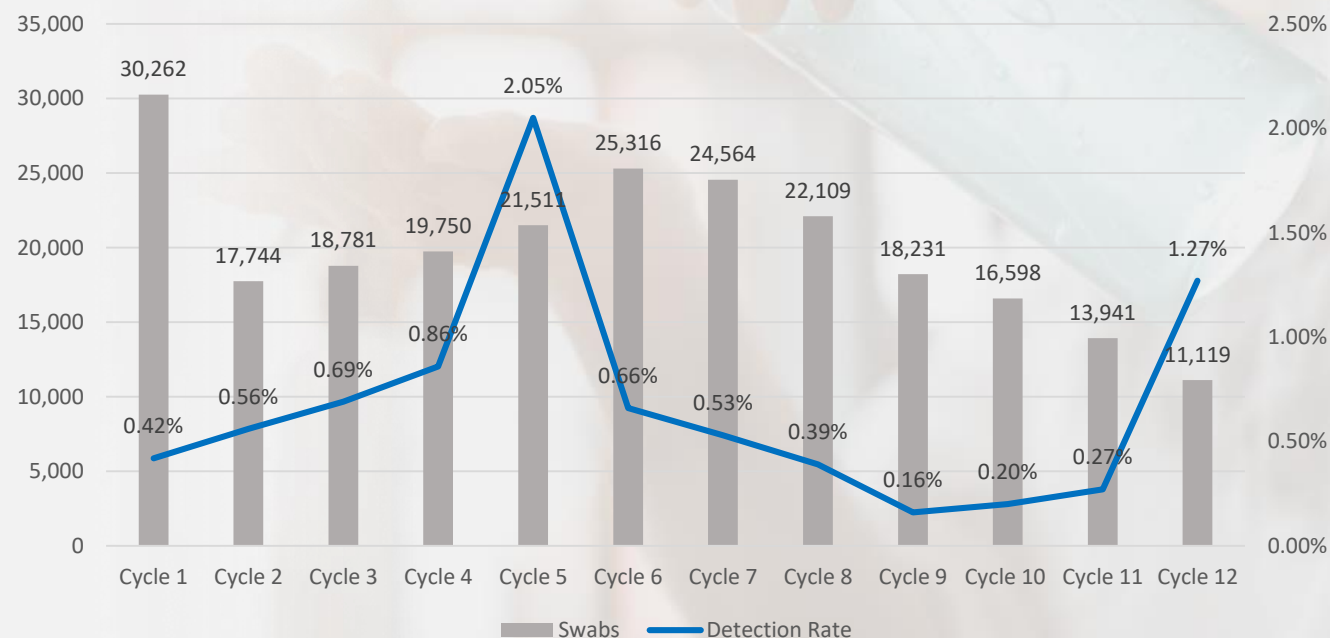


11,119 tests have been completed



141 detected cases identified
(1.27% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production Facilities

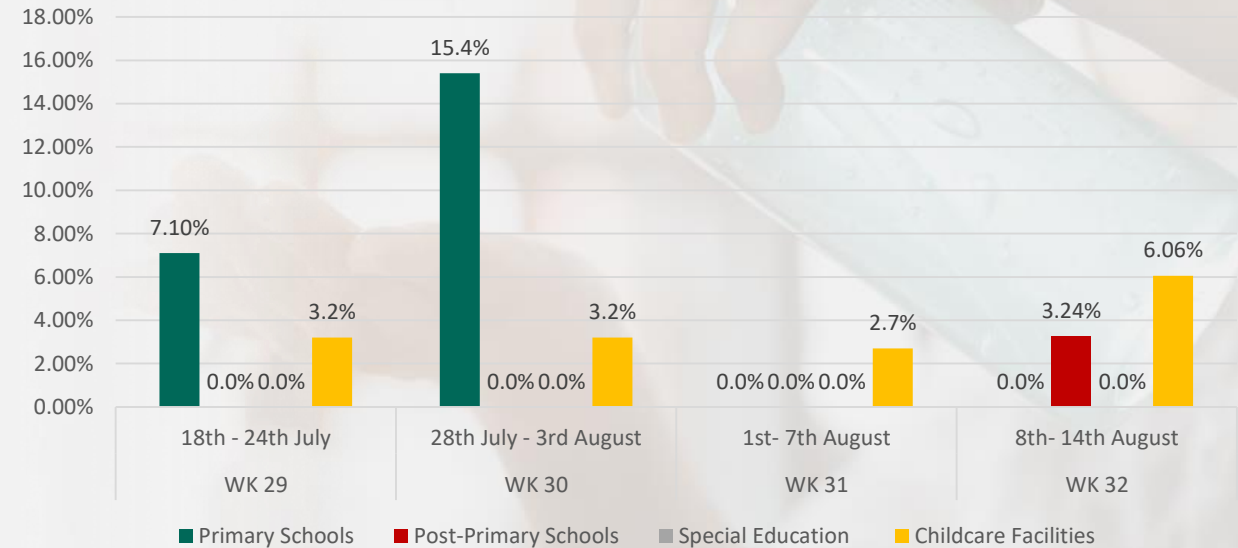


Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 8th – 14th August;

- There were no tests conducted in **special education or primary school** settings
- **231** tests were completed in **33 childcare facilities** (**6.06%** positivity rate)
- **340** tests were completed in **2 post-primary** facilities (**3.24%** positivity rate)

Positivity Trends in Education and Childcare Setting





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
17th:**

Hotel Staff

7,818 swabs complete

Quarantine Residents

16,754 swabs complete

Detected Cases To Date

474



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.

2. Testing and Trace Trends



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 10th– 16th August.



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.103,420 community referrals** over the seven day period. Acutes estimated at **31, 654**.
- This figure includes **2,576 International travel referrals** (↓**18.4%** in comparison to last week) and **37,654 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↑ **6.4%** in comparison to last week), the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- Overall, this weekly total has **increased** by **0.03%** in comparison to the same time-frame the previous week (3rd– 9th August; c.103,021 total referrals).



Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **103,067 community** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**137,294** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 10.9% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 14%**



Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.4 per person**.
- From 10th – 16th August, a total of 11,430 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 10th – 16th August, contact tracing was completed for c. 10,689 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 22,702 calls were made to close contacts.

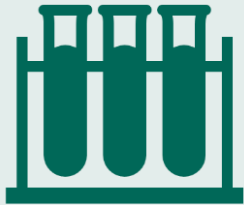
Note: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



Test and Trace Turnaround Times

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 10th – 16th August.

22 hrs



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

11.1 hrs



Median time taken to
complete contact tracing
calls

1 day



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

2 days



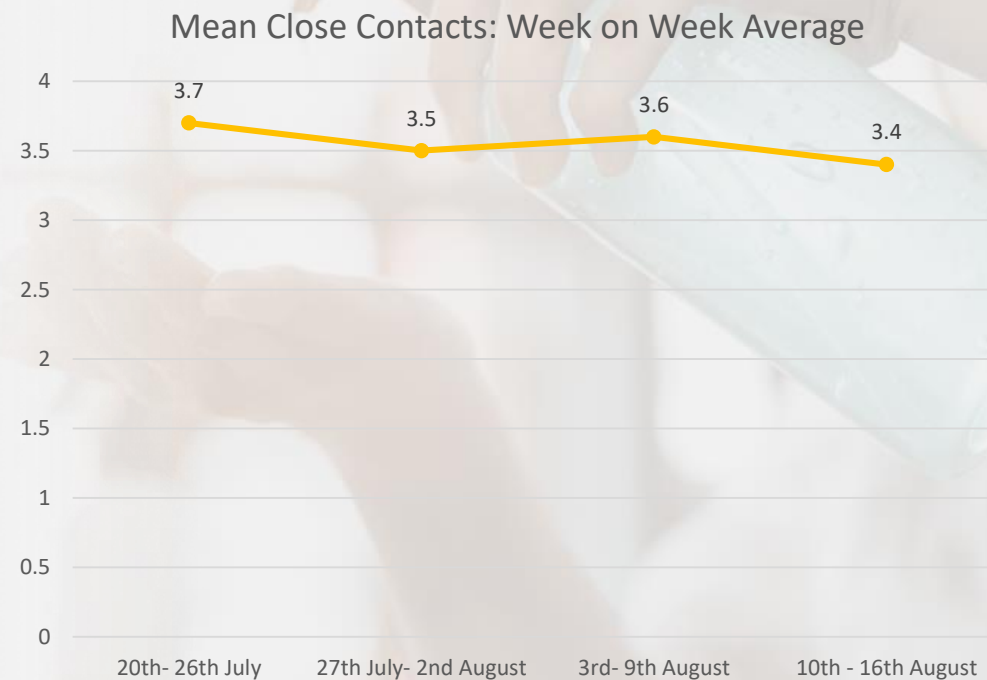
Median end to end
turnaround time for a
detected result



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**



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.

5. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 16th August

889

Community
Swabbers

Recruited and Onboarded

996

Staff supporting
Contact Tracing

Of these 996 staff;
865 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining 131 staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

