

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

---

22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 2021

# Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

1

2

Test and Trace Trends

3

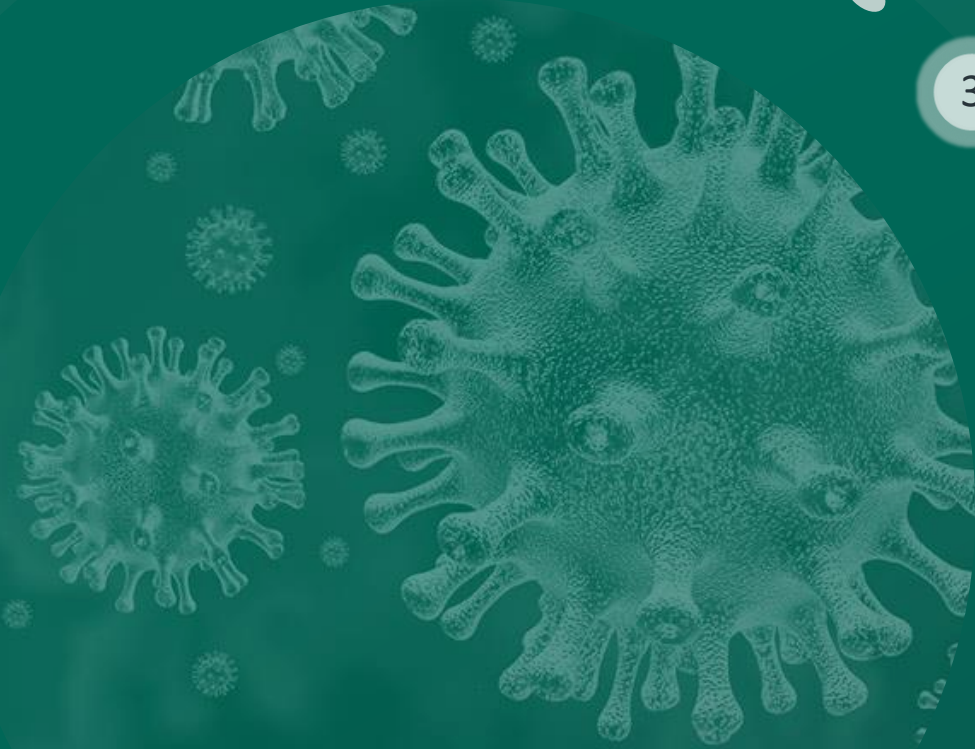
Testing Programmes

4

Education and Childcare

5

Recruitment





## Test and Trace Headlines



1.1 days

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



2.1 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 121,422

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 131,299

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 18,018

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> of July.



## Key messages from Testing and Tracing

---

1. **Testing demand and cases are rising quickly but the testing and tracing system is meeting all demand and turnaround times are not adversely impacted, in fact they have reduced.**
2. **Testing volumes are up 15% on last week**
3. Continuing to come forward for a COVID 19 test, following all the public health advice and engaging quickly with the HSE's contact tracing service is really important to enable us reduce the spread of COVID 19 in our communities
4. The positivity rate in the community testing for walk ins and self referral is **over 10.5%**. Overall testing over the last seven days was **8.8% - and rising**. Some test sites exceed 25% positivity.
5. Testing sites in **Dublin, Donegal, Louth, Galway, Meath** are particularly busy. Additional capacity going into Louth from tomorrow.
6. In the past 14 days, c.75% of detected cases have been in those under the age of 34 years. 32% are under 13.
7. Contact tracing workload is up **88% on last week**.
8. Close contacts are c.3.7 per person. Please share all your contacts with us, we know these will be higher with less social restrictions in place now.
9. 10% of cases come from those with a travel history in the prior 14 days.
10. We are ready to deploy antigen testing, but we do not currently need to use this as we have enough PCR capacity. Current modelling suggests we will continue to have enough until the end of next week. This situation is fluid and depends on disease prevalence.

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 the surface. The background is dark, making the light-colored particles stand out.

## 1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times





## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July.



### Total Community Referrals

- There were c. 111,262 community referrals over the seven day period.
- This figure includes 28,990 walk-in referrals, 7,760 International travel referrals and 30,583 referrals from the self-referral portal, the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- **International travel referrals have increased by 31%** in comparison to the same timeframe last week.
- Overall, this weekly total has increased by 15% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July; c. 97,009 total referrals).



### Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **121,422** swabs were completed.



### Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**131,299** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 7.6% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 8.8%**



### Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.7 per person.**
- From 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July, a total of 7,373 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July, contact tracing was completed for c. 7,193 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 18,018 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 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 13.7 hours** and a **median of 11.1 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.1 day for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 2.1 days for detected results**.

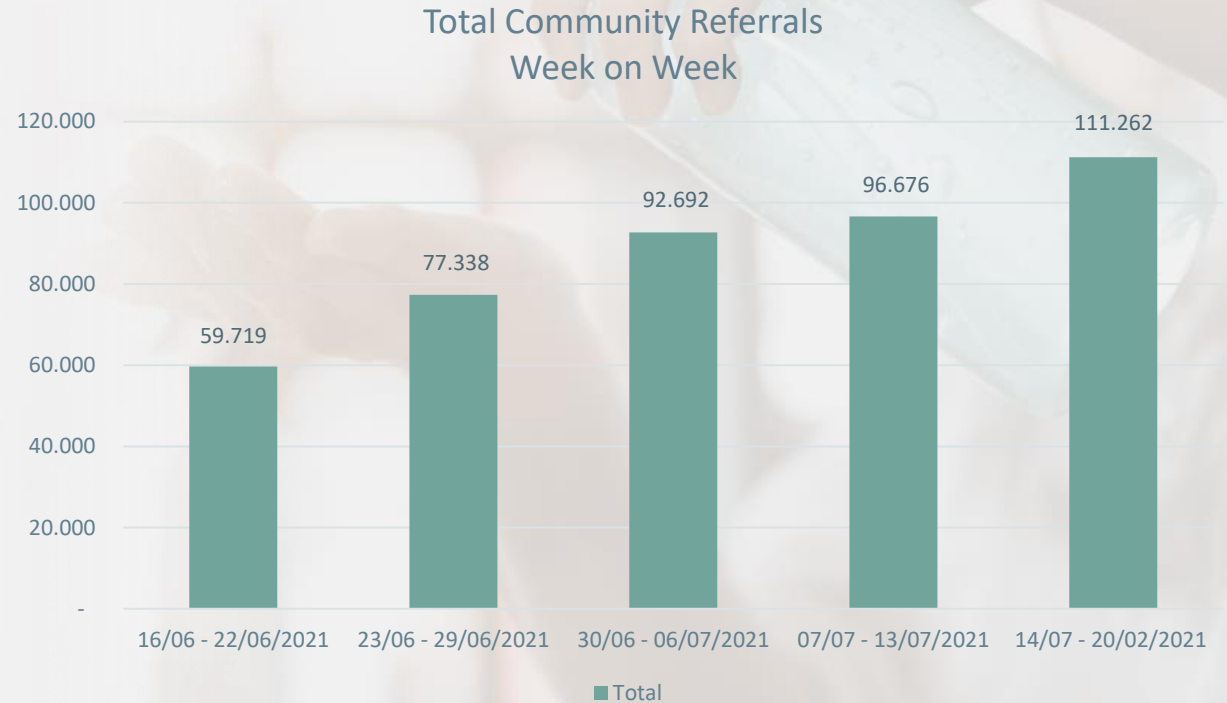
A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, circular background.

## 2. Testing and Trace Trends



# Total Community Referrals

- From the 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July, there were **c. 111,262** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 15%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July; c. 92,692 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 5 weeks.





# Alternative Referral Pathways

From 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July:



Walk-Ins

↑ 6.9% since last week

23.522



Self-Referral

↑ 11% since last week

23.402

- The self-referral online portal has been updated to allow u-16s to book a test through this channel.



Travel

↑ 31.5% since last week

8.412



# Pop-up - Test Centres

- Our pop up test centres continue to be deployed across areas in order to meet testing demand.
- As of the 20<sup>th</sup> July, the following pop-ups are operational;
  - **Dublin** (Blanchardstown & Sandyford Business Park)
  - **Donegal**
  - **Athlone**
  - **Cork**
  - **Louth** (Drogheda site opens 21 July)

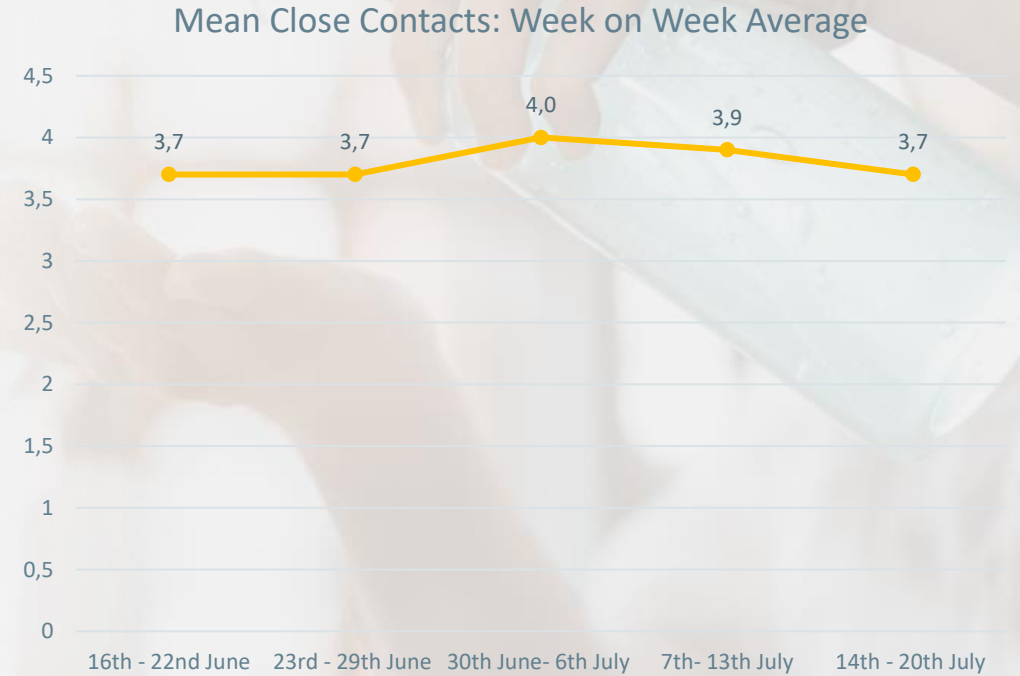




# Close Contacts Trend

3.7

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.7**



A circular inset image showing 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, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

### 3. Testing Programmes





# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

**In Cycle 14 (Commenced 19<sup>th</sup> July);**



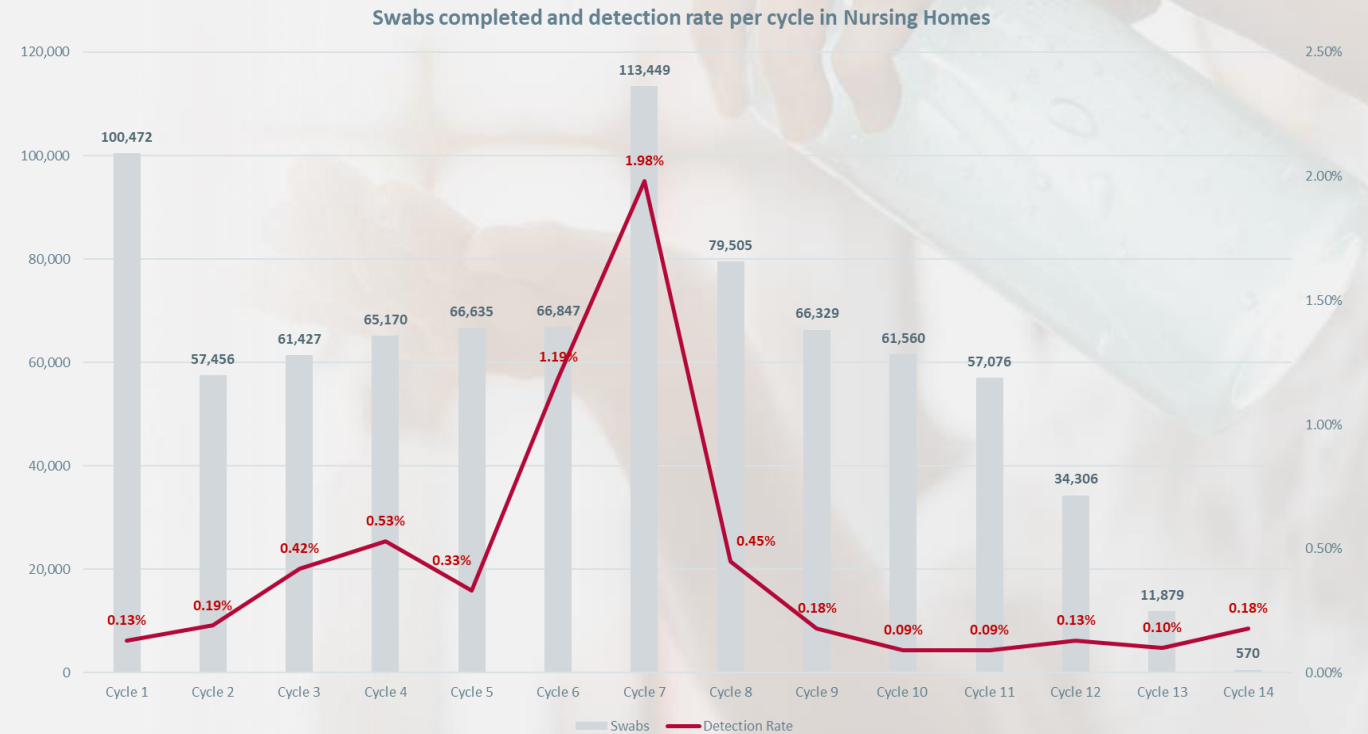
**26 facilities** have been tested



**570 tests** have been completed



**1 detected cases** identified  
(0.18% detected rate)





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

**In Cycle 6 (Commenced 21<sup>st</sup> June);**



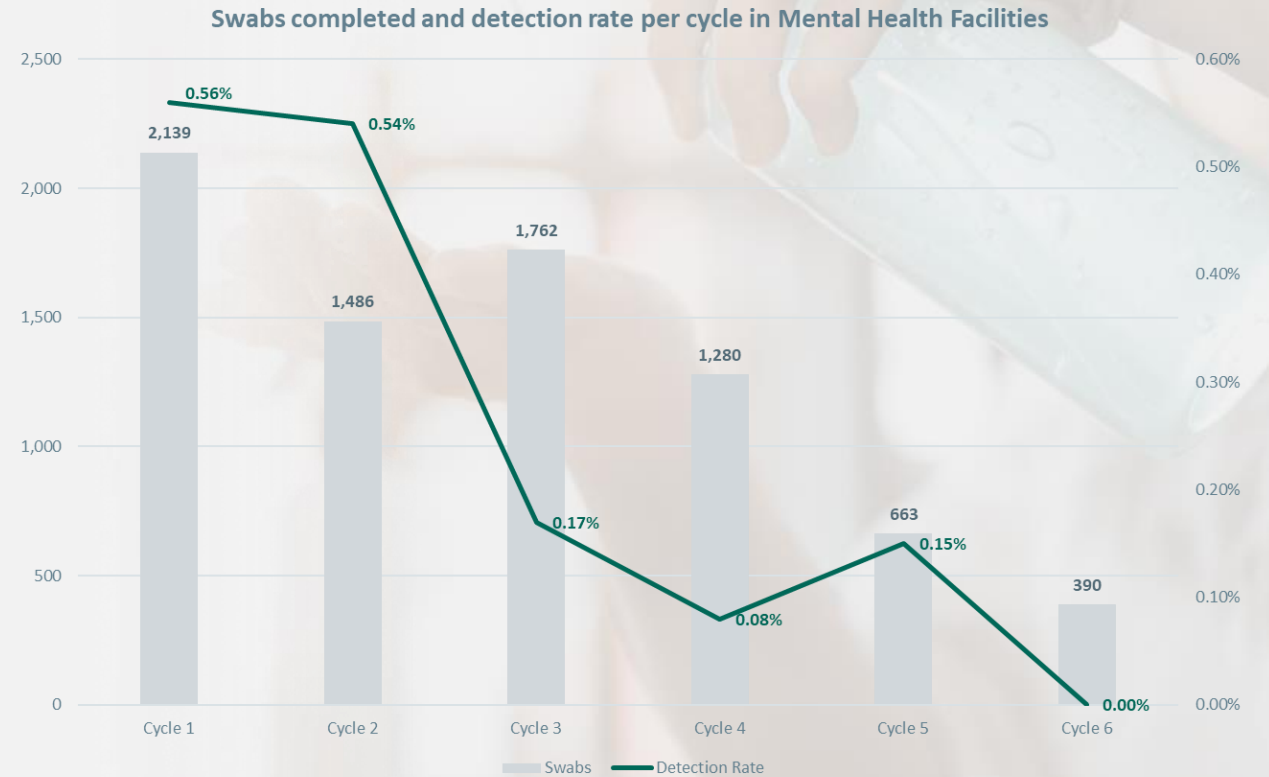
**5 facilities** have been tested



**390 tests** have been completed



**0 detected cases** identified  
(0.00% detected rate)





# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

**In Cycle 11 (Commenced 28<sup>th</sup> June);**



**72 facilities** have been tested



**12,297** tests have been completed



**17 detected cases** identified  
(0.14% 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>:

### Hotel Staff

**5,588** swabs complete

### Quarantine Residents

**13,805** swabs complete

### Detected Cases To Date

**414**



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, showing their characteristic spherical shape and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from their surface. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a subtle gradient.

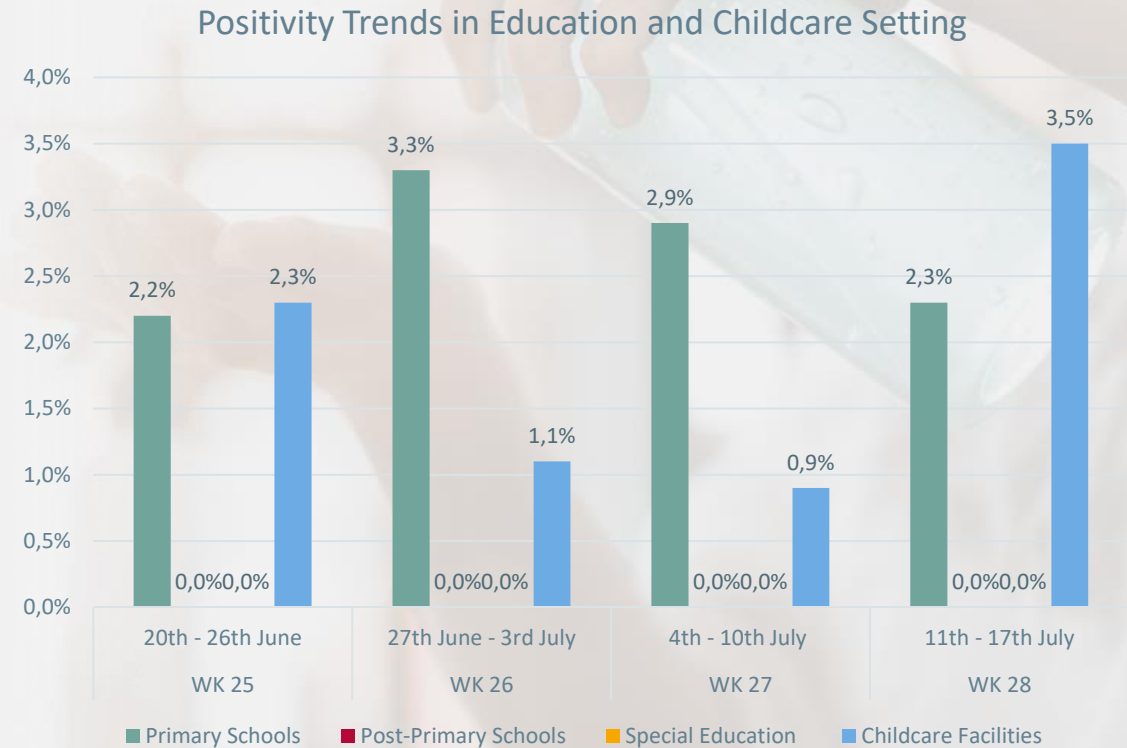
## 4. Education and Childcare



# HE Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July;

- 132 tests were completed in 22 **Primary Schools** resulting in a **2.3%** positivity rate.
- 0 tests were completed in 0 **Post-primary Schools** resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 12 tests were completed in 2 **Special Education** settings resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 345 tests were completed in 39 **Childcare Facilities** resulting in a **3.5%** positivity rate.



A circular inset image showing 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, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

## 5. Recruitment



# Recruitment as of 19<sup>th</sup> July

861

Community Swabbers

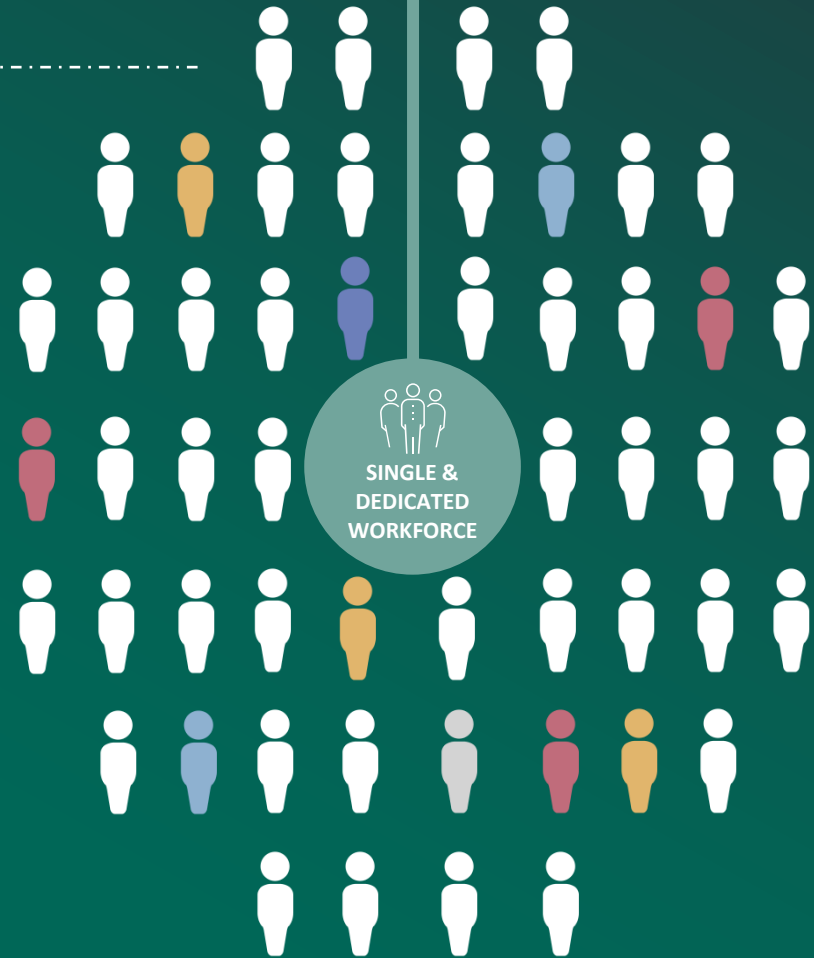
Recruited and Onboarded

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



Over the past seven days, the **positivity rate** in the community **is 8.8%**.



Our median end to end turnaround time is **2.1 days for detected cases and 1.1 days for not detected cases**.



**Total Community Referral Volumes** have **increased by 15%** in comparison to the same time-period last week.

