

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022

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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.

## 1. Key Test and Trace Messages



## Test and Trace Key Messages

- The key test and trace indicators over the last week are showing a rapid downward trend in demand and positivity relative to the previous week.
- Community referrals have decreased by 40% compared to the previous week with 78,417 community referrals, while GP referrals have decreased by 44% compared to the previous week with 8,829 GP referrals.
- Community positivity has reduced from 55.2% to 48.1%.
- Laboratory tests have decreased by 39% compared to the previous week. 121,019 laboratory PCR tests were undertaken over the last 7 days versus 197,734 in the previous week. Over the last 7 days, 309,724 Antigen Test kits were booked.
- The average number of close contacts has increased slightly at 2.6, in comparison to 2.5 in the previous week.
- Serial testing in nursing homes continues with c23,000 test in this cycle
- We are continuing to plan for further adaptation in public health measures while ensuring a level of resilience in our test and trace service.



## Test and Trace Headlines 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January

### Referrals



**78,417**

Referrals from  
19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January

### Swabs



**82,777**

Swabs completed from  
19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January

### Lab Tests



**121,019**

Laboratory Tests completed  
from 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January

### Contact Tracing



**37,233**

SMS made to Detected  
Cases

### TaT Not Detected



**1.0 Days**

End to End Turnaround  
Time for Not Detected result

### TaT Detected



**1.2 Days**

End to End Turnaround  
Time for Detected result

### Positivity Rate



**48.1%**

Positivity Rate from  
19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January

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



A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. These 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. The entire slide has a dark teal background with a subtle gradient.

## 2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



# Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 19<sup>th</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup> January



## Total Community Referrals

- There were **78,417 community referrals** over the seven-day period (**40% decrease** in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
  - **58,572 self-referrals** (↓ **26%** compared to last week)
  - **8,829 GP referrals** (↓ **44%** compared to last week)



## Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were **82,777** swabs completed.



## Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **121,019** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 33.27% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 48.1%**



## Contact Tracing\*

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 2.6 per person**.
- From 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, a total of 37,233 SMS were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, contact tracing was completed for 95,903 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case

\*Note: The figures above are the first reporting of SMS notifications for detected results and notification of close contacts, as opposed to call volumes. Week on week trends will be reported from w/c 31st January 2022..

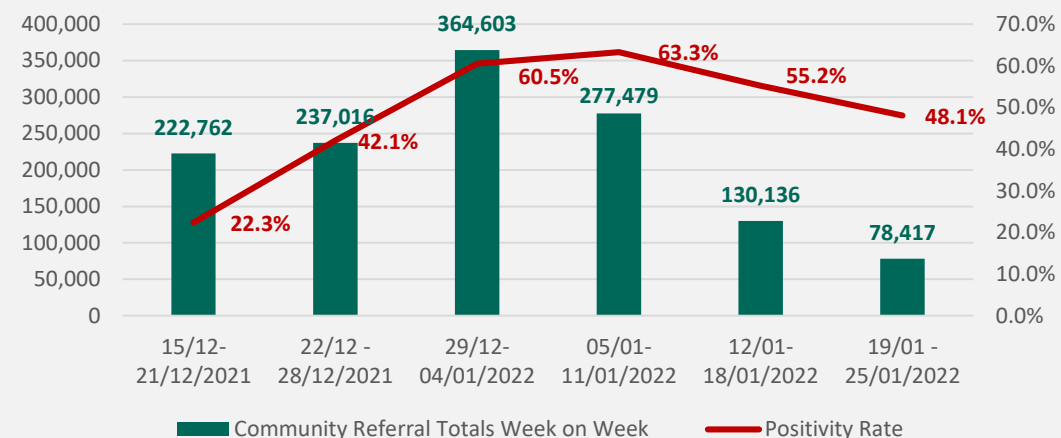
Note: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



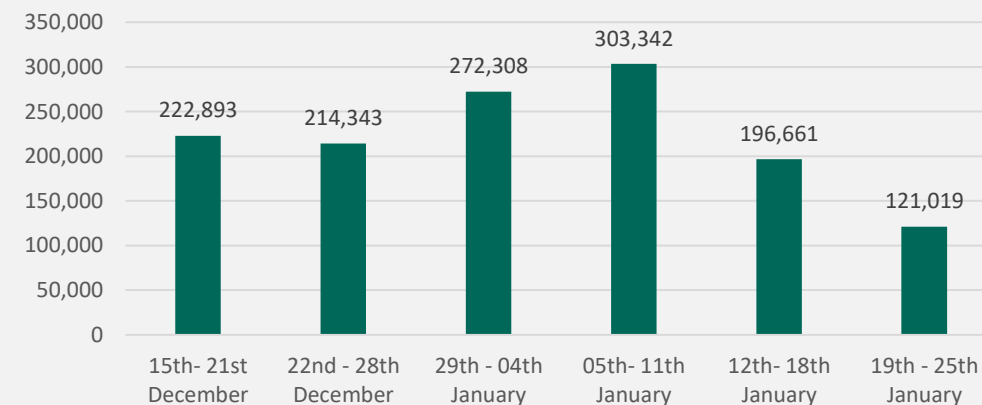
# Testing Trends

- GP referrals weekly total has **decreased by 44%** in comparison to the same time-period last week
- Community referrals weekly total has **decreased by 40%** in comparison to the same time-period last week
- From the 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, there were **121,019 Lab Tests** (including in the community, private and acute labs)
- Seeing some improvement in self referral availability in test centres

Total Community Referrals and Positivity Rates  
Week on Week



Lab Activity Week on Week



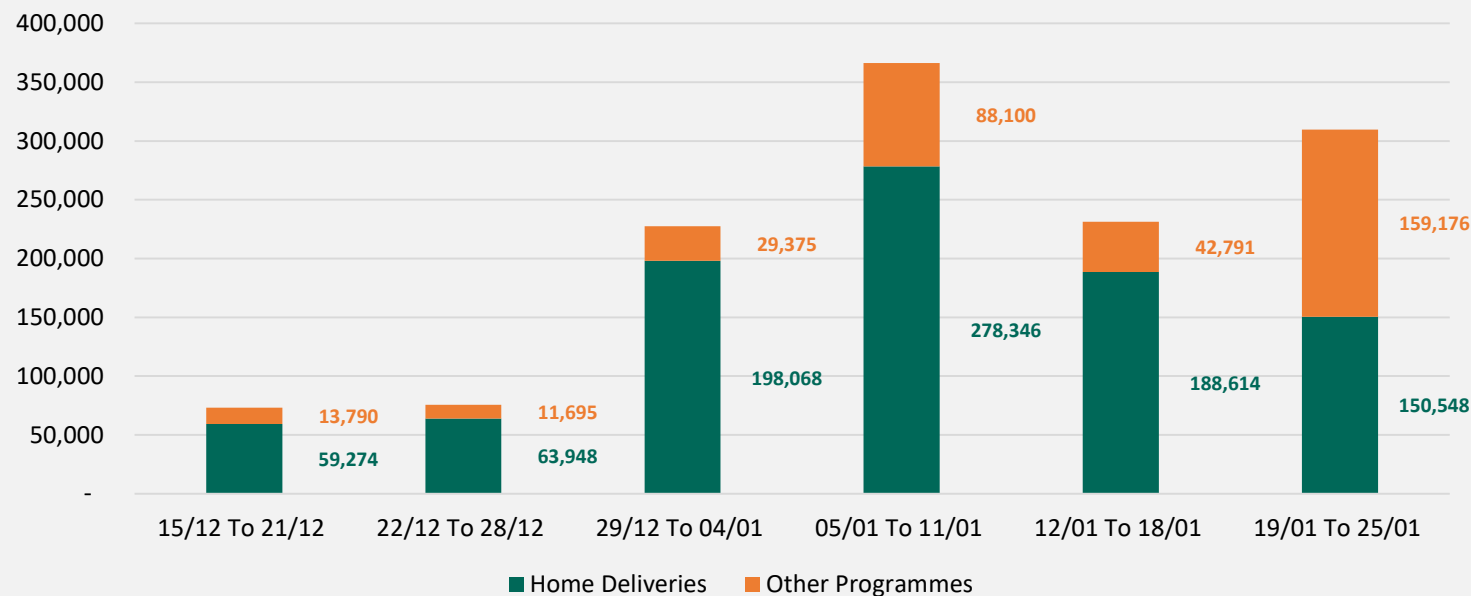




# Antigen Test Trends

- From the 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, there were **c. 309,724 Antigen Test Kits** dispatched across the different testing programmes
- These programmes include primary schools and early years, symptomatic aged 4-39 and close contacts
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown over the past 6 weeks

Antigen Kits Dispatched - Past 6 weeks

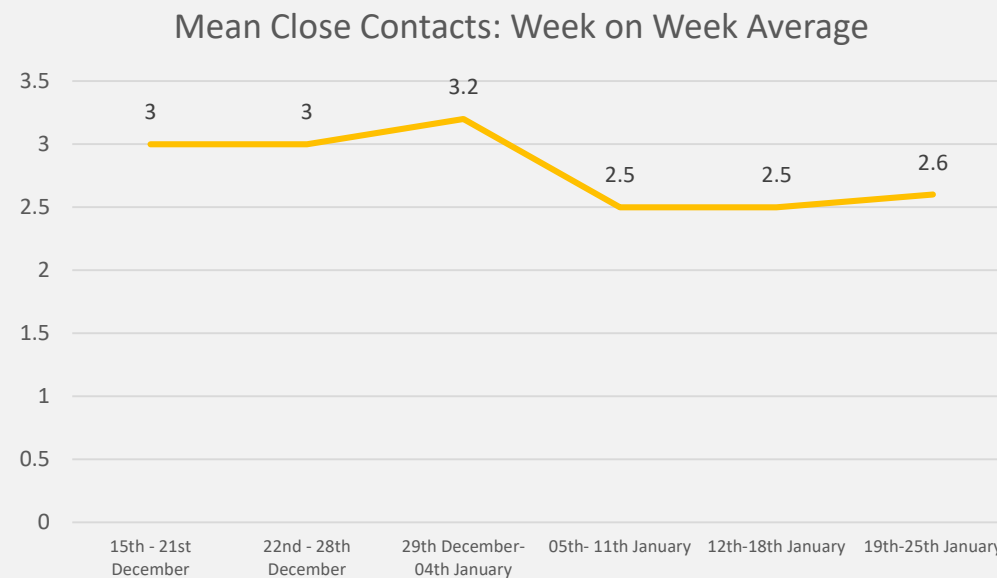




# Close Contacts Trend

2.6

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **2.6**



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 fluid environment. The entire image is framed within a circular area on a dark teal background.

## 3. Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

**In Cycle 20 (Commenced 3<sup>rd</sup> January)**



**388 facilities** have been tested

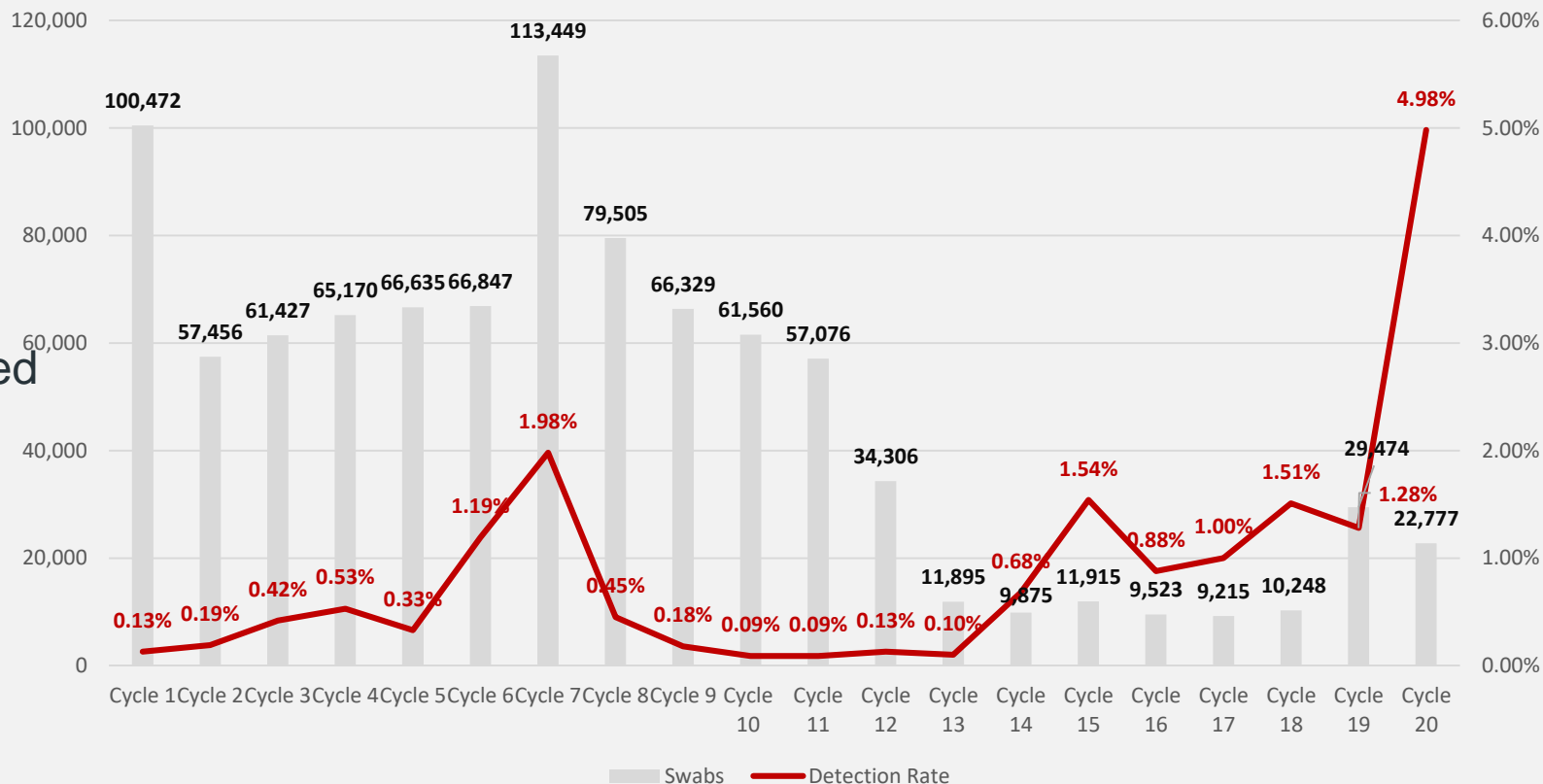


**22,777** tests have been completed



**1,134 detected cases** identified  
(4.98% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detected rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 13 (Commenced 05<sup>th</sup> January)



**4 facilities** have been tested

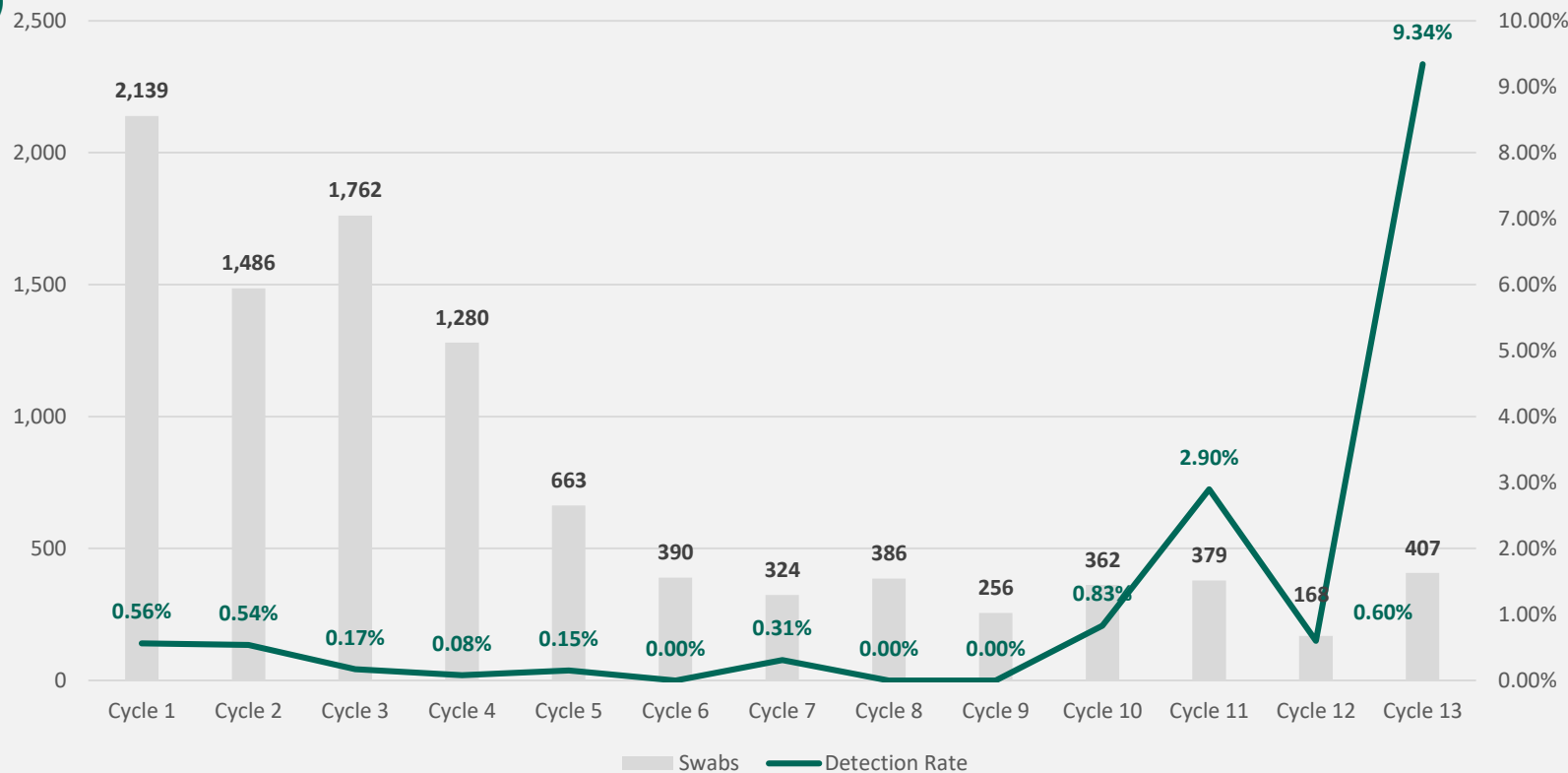


**407** tests have been completed



**38 detected cases** identified  
(9.34% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detected rate per cycle in Mental Health Facilities



# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities (Paused)

In Cycle 16 (Commenced 15<sup>th</sup> November)



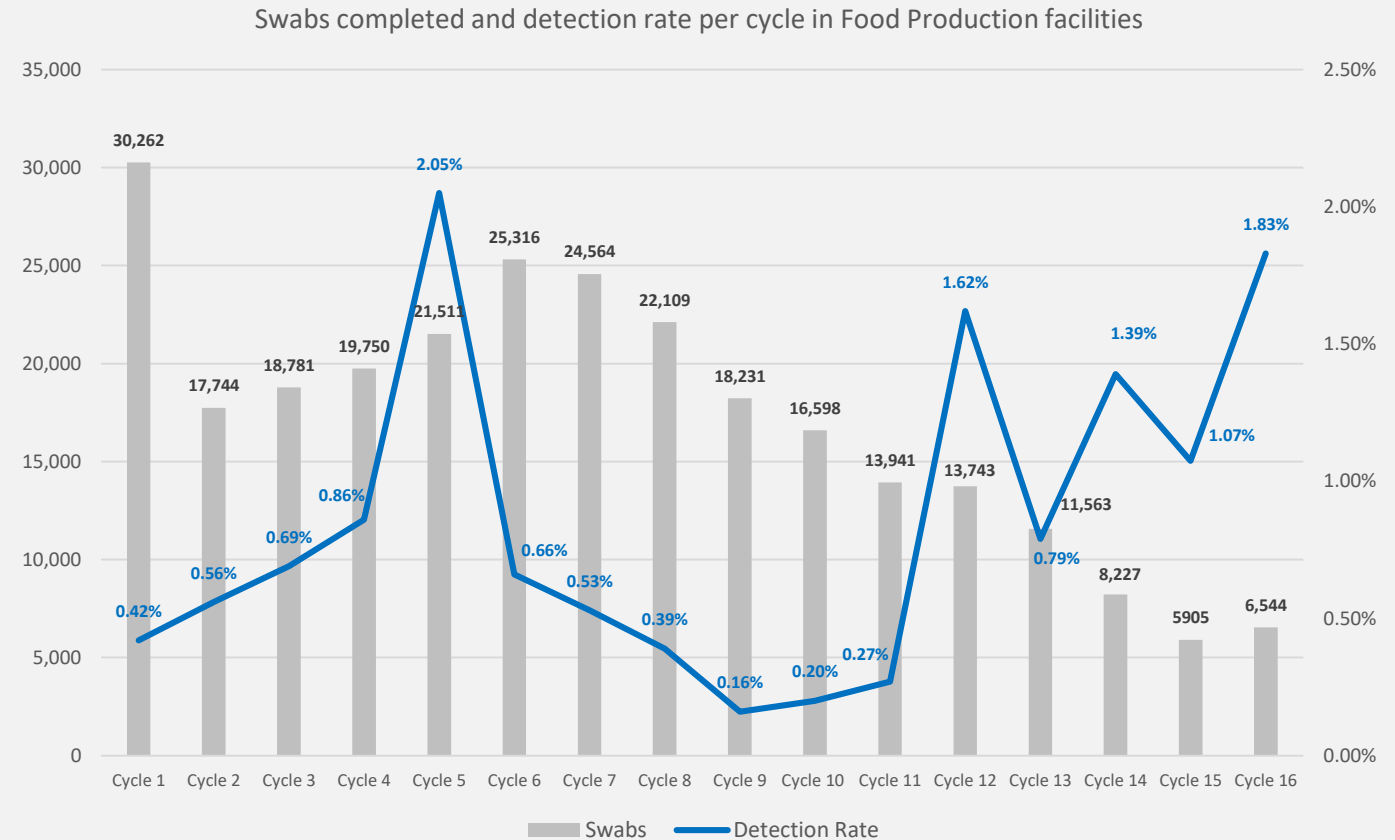
**65 facilities** have been tested



**6,544** tests have been completed



**120 detected cases** identified  
(1.83% detected rate)



*Note: Food serial testing has now been paused indefinitely due to community testing demand.*



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 26<sup>th</sup> January

812

## Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 812 staff;  
**718** of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining **94** staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles

