

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

29th of July, 2021

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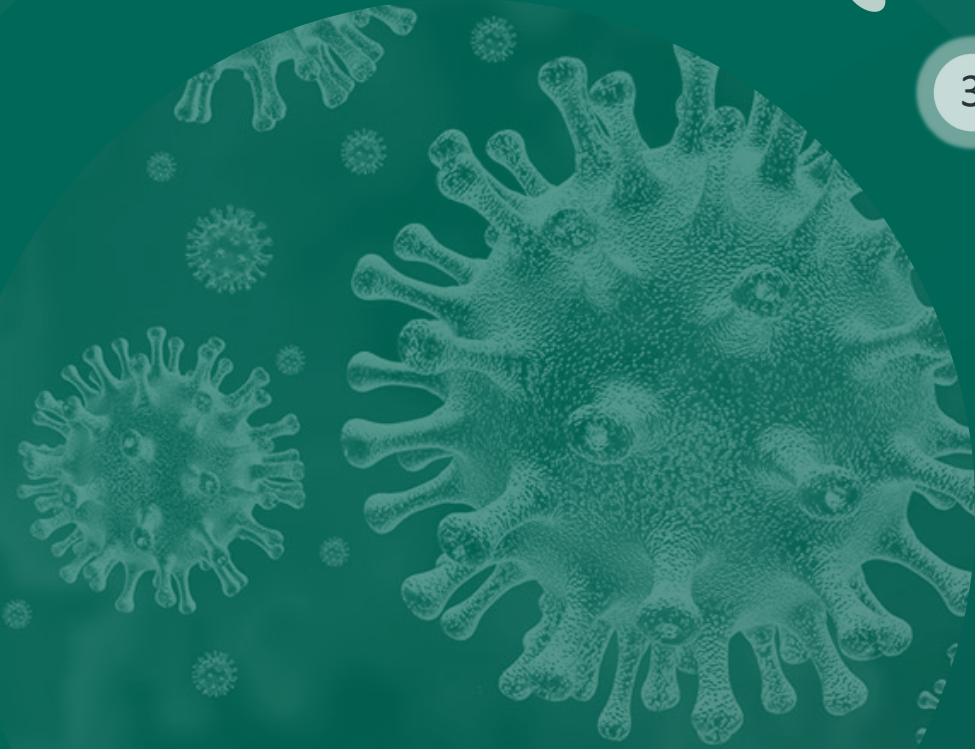
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Test and Trace Headlines



1.1 days

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



2.0 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 119,382

Total number of swabs taken last week



c.132,007

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.20,179

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 21st – 27th of July.



Key messages from Testing and Tracing

1. We are continuing to see a strong demand for testing across the country. Demand, while high, has remained steady in the last week and is within capacity. 94% of people can get a test in less than 24 hours from request.
2. It is really important that when people go for testing and get a positive COVID 19 result, that they then engage with the HSE's Contact Tracing teams.
3. Today we have pop up testing sites in Dublin (Blanchardstown, Tallaght Stadium & Sandyford Business Park), Donegal , Athlone, Laois, Cork. In addition we open one in Dundalk (Louth) and Westport (Mayo) at the weekend.
4. The positivity rate in the community testing for walk ins and self referral is **over 11.7% and rising**. Some test sites exceed 21% positivity. Areas with the highest include Donegal, Louth, Meath and Monaghan. The age group 15-24s have the highest referral volumes and highest positivity in Walk in or Self referral testing – c.14% positivity.
5. Contact tracing workload is up **22% on last week. Over 24,000 people were contacted last week.**
6. While household remains the highest **type or circumstance** of close contact at 45.6% they no longer have the highest **positivity level on test 1**. The highest positivity level is transport (car, bus, train) at 24.2%, followed by household at 19.7% and Social at 17.3%
7. 29.9% of close contacts are fully vaccinated and unless symptomatic are taken out of the testing system. This is a positive increase from 19% in last week's report.
8. New pilot antigen studies have commenced. Self testing has begun among staff and students in those further education institutions which are part of this pilot and self-testing will begin in approximately one week for staff in a number of facilities in the early childhood sector.
9. Work is continuing to plan for the use of antigen testing in close contacts should the demand for PCR testing outstrip swabbing and laboratory capacity
10. We are again urging people not to attend social gatherings, sports training, or attend their place of work if they have symptoms of COVID 19 – stay at home, get a test, you may have COVID 19 and by taking these measures you are preventing the onward spread in your families, workplaces or communities.

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 protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, smoky background within the circular frame.

1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 21st – 27th July.



Total Community Referrals

- There were c. 107,972 community referrals over the seven day period.
- This figure includes 24,914 walk-in referrals, 5,839 International travel referrals and 33,184 referrals from the self-referral portal, the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- **International travel Day 5 referrals** have **decreased by 25%** in comparison to the same timeframe last week. This is due to changes in the policy around PCR testing on return from travel to EU countries
- Overall, this weekly total has decreased by 3% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (14th – 20th July; c.111,653 total referrals).



Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **119,382** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**132,007** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 8.5% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 10.2%**



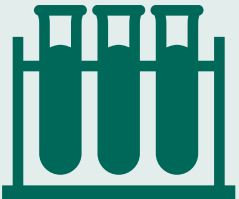

Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.7 per person**.
- From 21st – 27th July, a total of 8,089 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 21st – 27th July, contact tracing was completed for c. 7,808 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 20,197 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 21st – 27th July.

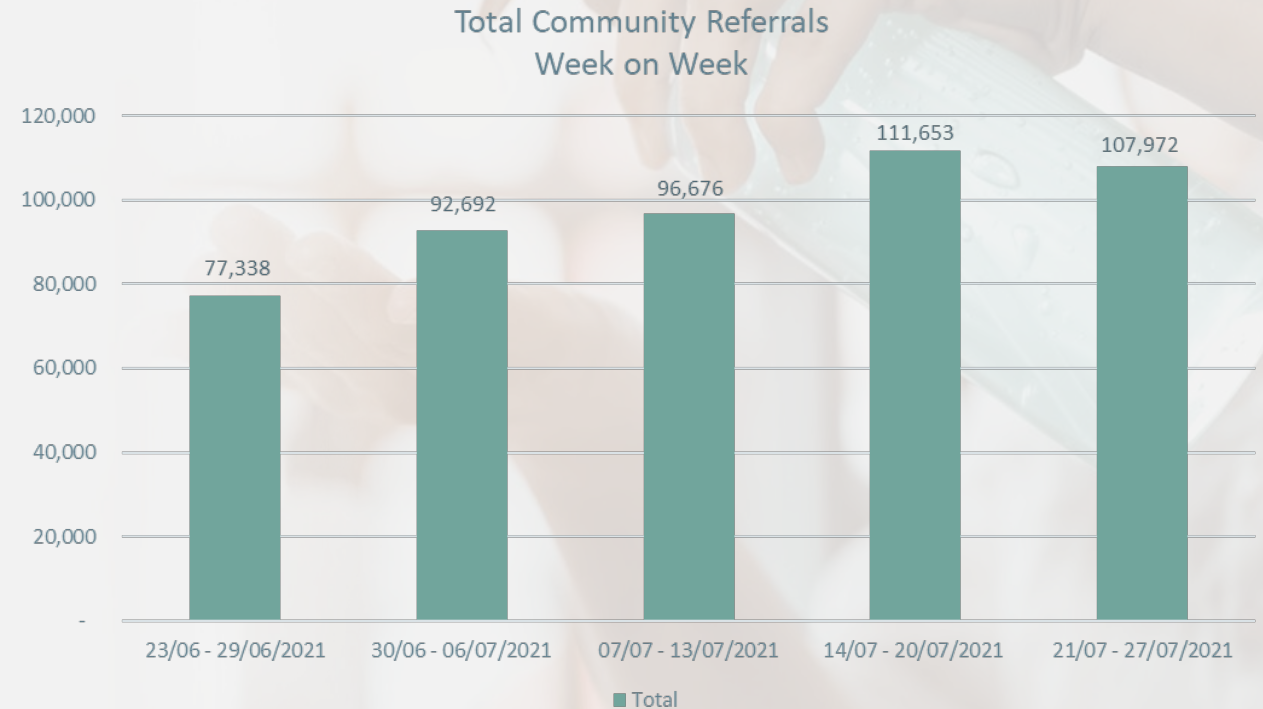
24 hrs	10.1 hrs	1.1 days	2.0 days
			
Combined median time from swab to lab result in community and acute setting	Median time taken to complete contact tracing calls	Median end to end turnaround time for a not detected result	Median end to end turnaround time for a detected result

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

Total Community Referrals

- From the 21st – 27th July, there were **c. 107,972** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **decreased by 3%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (14th – 20th July; c.111,653 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 5 weeks.





Alternative Referral Pathways

From 21st – 27th July:



Walk-Ins

↓ 14% since last week

24,914



Self-Referral

↑ 9% since last week

33,184

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



Travel

↓ 8% since last week **5,839**



Pop-up - Test Centres

- Our pop up test centres continue to be deployed across areas in order to meet testing demand.
- As of the 28th July, the following pop-ups are operational;
 - **Dublin** (Blanchardstown, Tallaght Stadium & Sandyford Business Park)
 - **Donegal**
 - **Athlone**
 - **Laois**
 - **Cork**
 - **Dundalk (opens next weekend)**
 - **Westport (opens next weekend)**

***Please note that Tallaght Stadium and Sandyford Business Park are by appointment only*

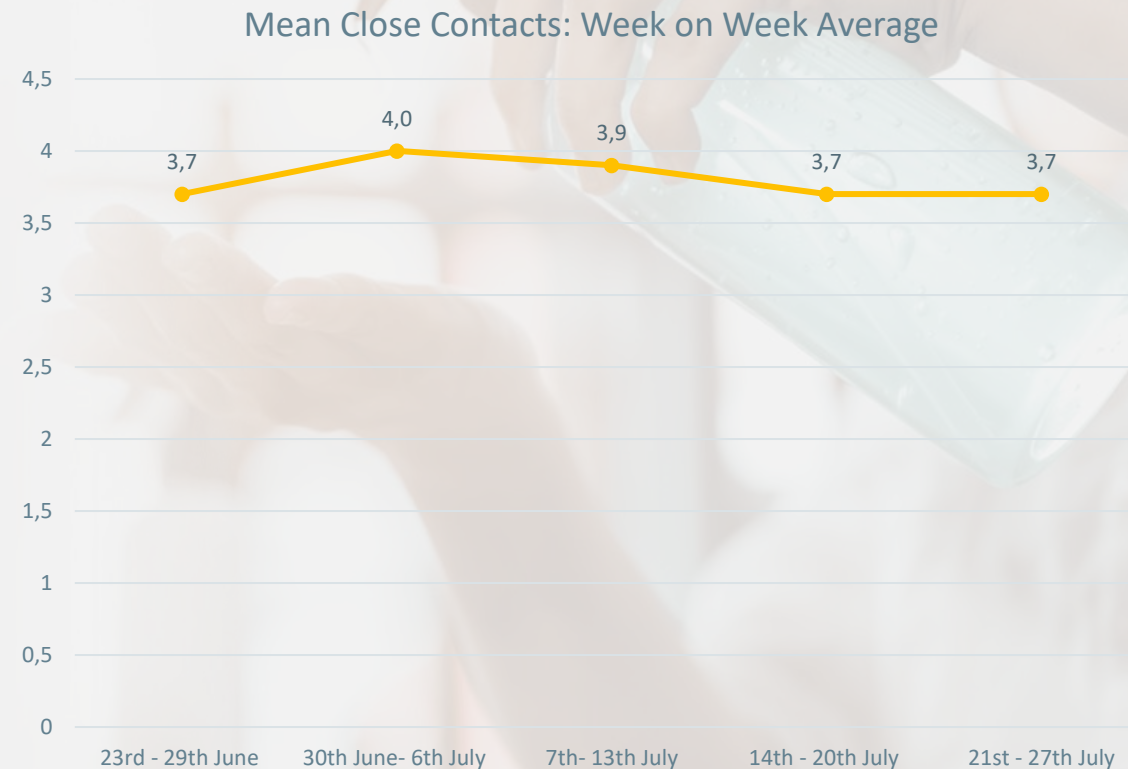




Close Contacts Trend

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**



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3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 14 (Commenced 19th July);



121 facilities have been tested

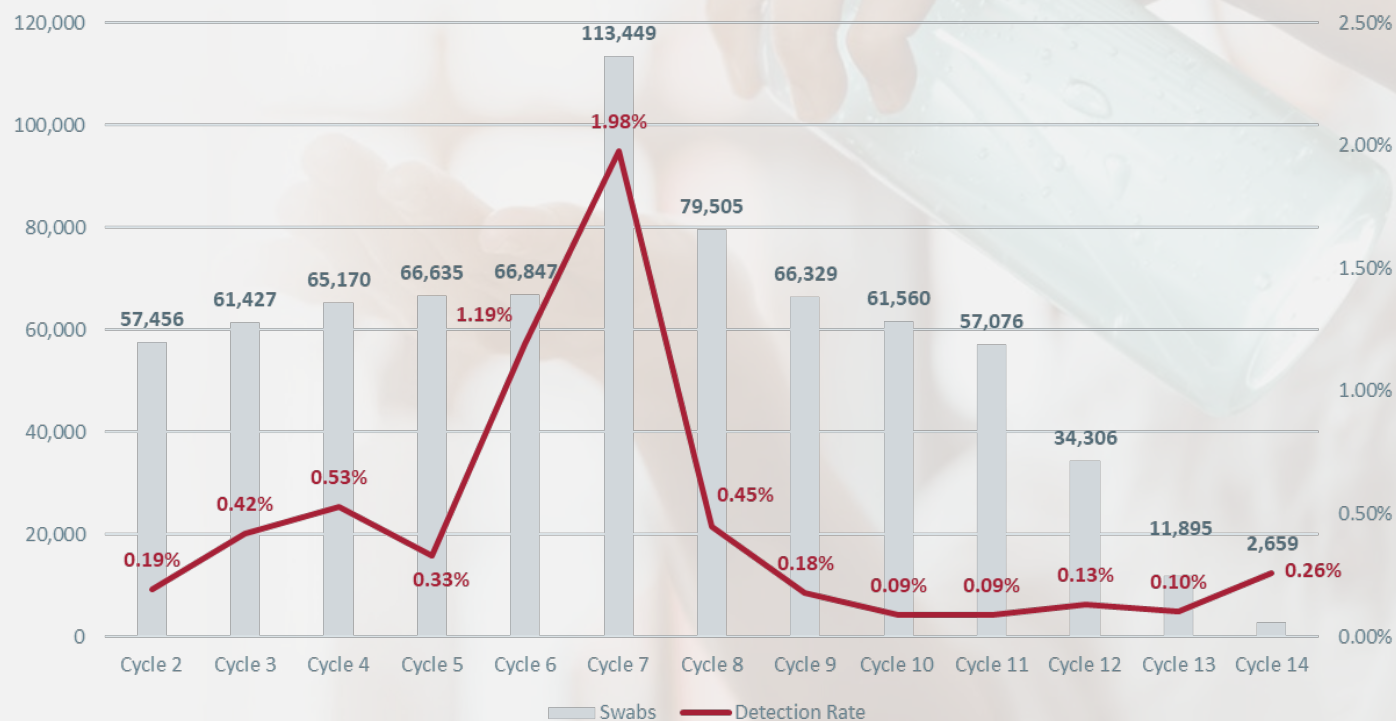


2,659 tests have been completed



7 detected cases identified
(0.26% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 7 (Commenced 23rd July);



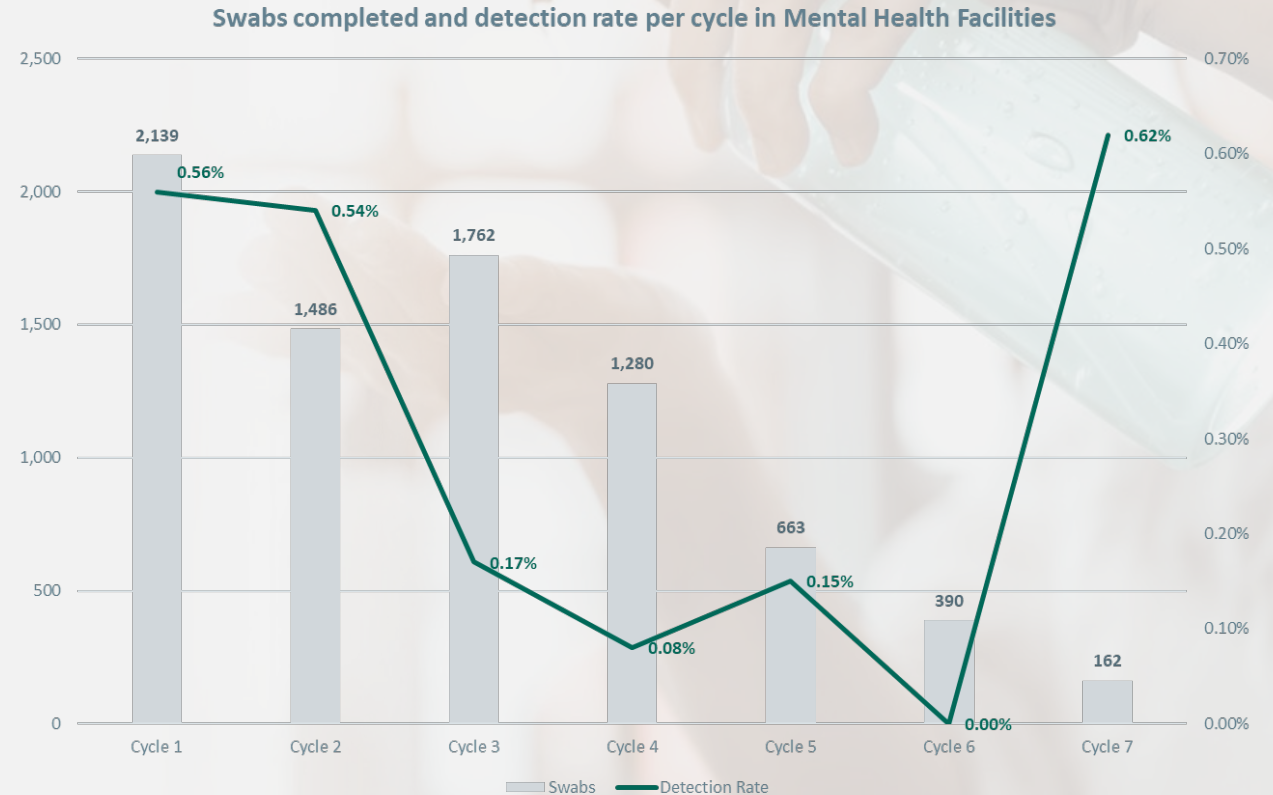
2 facilities have been tested



162 tests have been completed



1 detected cases identified
(0.62% detected rate)





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 12 (Commenced 26th July);



9 facilities have been tested



1,422 tests have been completed



6 detected cases identified
(0.42% 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 27th:

Hotel Staff

6,275 swabs complete

Quarantine Residents

15,081 swabs complete

Detected Cases To Date

429



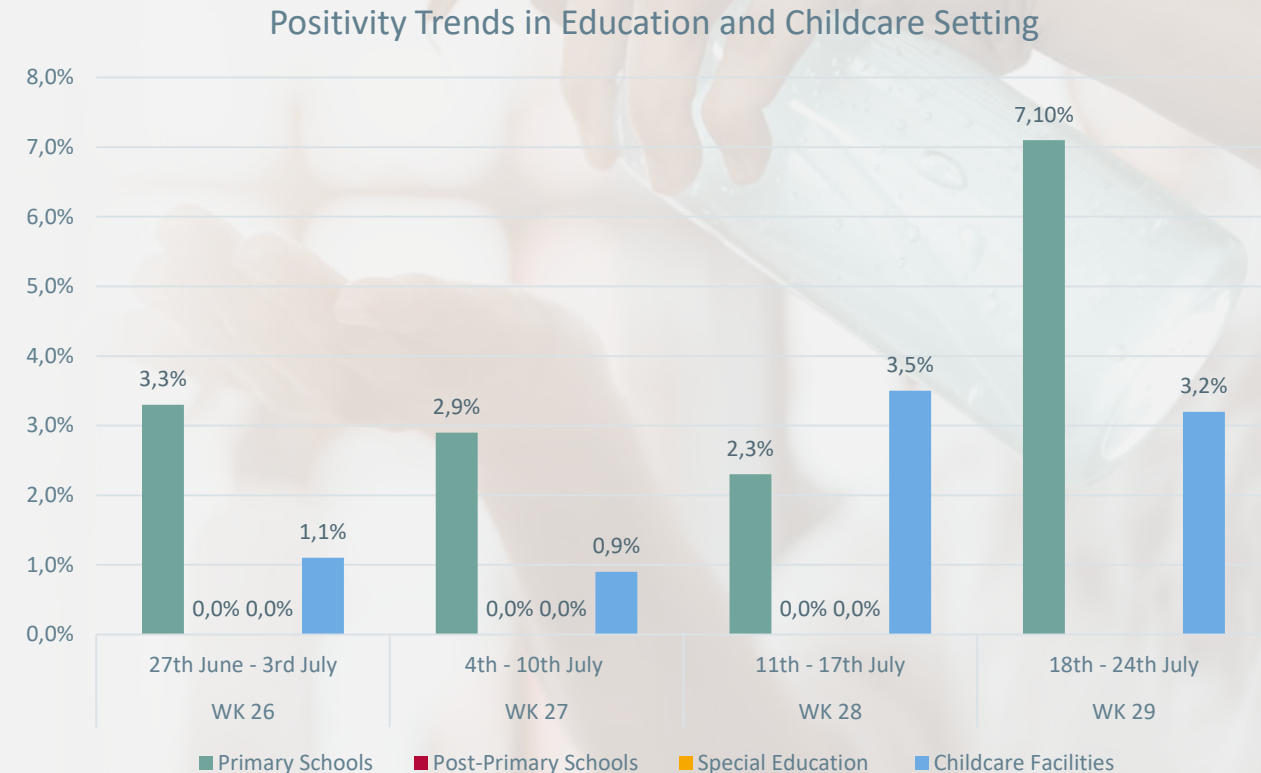
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4. Education and Childcare

Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 18th – 24th July;

- 28 tests were completed in <5 **primary schools** (7.1% positivity rate)
- 495 tests were completed in 46 **childcare facilities** (3.2% positivity rate)
- There were no tests conducted in **special education** or **post-primary school** settings



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 projections (spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly blurred background within the circle. The entire slide has a dark teal background with a large, faint circular graphic element behind the inset.

5. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 26th July

Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

870

Community
Swabbers

Recruited and Onboarded

913

Staff supporting
Contact Tracing

Of these 913 staff;
873 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

