

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

09th of December, 2021

1

Key T&T Messages

2

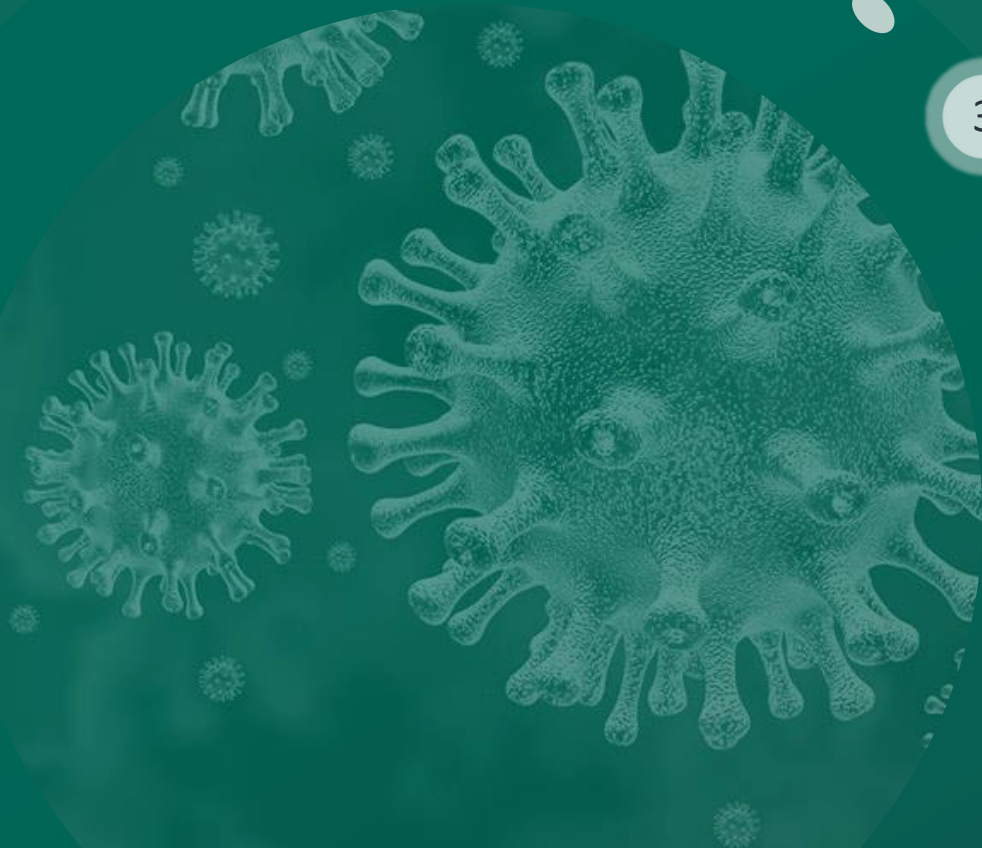
Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

3

Testing Programmes

4

Recruitment



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. The circular inset is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the dark teal background.

1. Key Test and Trace Messages



Testing Capacity has increased significantly since September

Capacity
Per
Week

	End October	End November	End December
	105,000	147,000	224,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The community testing service was established initially to support the delivery of 105,000 per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Additional measures to increase capacity - with support from our community testing teams, the National Ambulance service, the Defence Forces - to 147,000 per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Private providers - 6 new testing sites✓ Recruitment is ongoing for Swabbers✓ Home & Mobile testing increased to 2,400
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Home & Mobile testing increasing✓ 06/12 Commence Residential Care Facility Serial Testing

Key
Stats

10,000

Average more tests per day than 6 weeks ago

c. 200,000

swabs per week at the moment

1 million

people have been tested in past 6 weeks



Test and Trace Key Messages

- Over the last 7 days there were 167,413 appointments offered. Storm Barra had a significant impact on activity on Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning in some areas.
- **November 30th** remains our **busiest day to date** in community testing with **28,709** COVID 19 test appointments offered.
- Last week, 3 new testing centres commenced operation, one each in **Athlone, Leopardstown and Swords**. These are being operated in partnership with private providers and together with the 3 sites opened in the previous weeks at the airports in **Dublin, Cork and Shannon, bring to 6 the total number** of such sites now in operation.
- Additionally, we continue to add further capacity to our testing service through the establishment of **pop-up testing centres** in various locations across the country. In the last week we have operated pop-up testing sites in, **Youghal, Carlow, Ballinalsoe, Dundalk, Wicklow town, and Kildare** increasing capacity in areas of significant demand.
- While demand continues to be extremely high, we continually monitor the availability of testing appointments across each of our centres and appointments often do become available later in the day. We remind people again of the importance of cancelling their test appointment in advance if they are unable to attend; this will enable us to provide the appointment slot to someone else.
- Antigen test public health programs continue with a total of 126,756 kits (5 tests) dispatched to Close Contacts and a total of 40,312 kits (5 tests) dispatched to primary school pods.

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 (glycoprotein spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly grainy background, suggesting a fluid environment.

2. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Headlines



1.2 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.175,061

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c.220,796

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.29,800

Calls made to detected cases

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 01st – 07th December

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



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 01st – 07th December



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.196,959 community referrals** over the seven-day period (6.9% decrease in comparison to last week).
- This referral figure includes
 - **31 international travel portal referrals** (↓ **70%** compared to last week)
 - **102,394 self-referrals** (↓ **5%** compared to last week)
 - **32,521 GP referrals** (↓ **23%** compared to last week)



Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **175,061** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **220,796** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 16.1% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 18.6%**

Contact Tracing

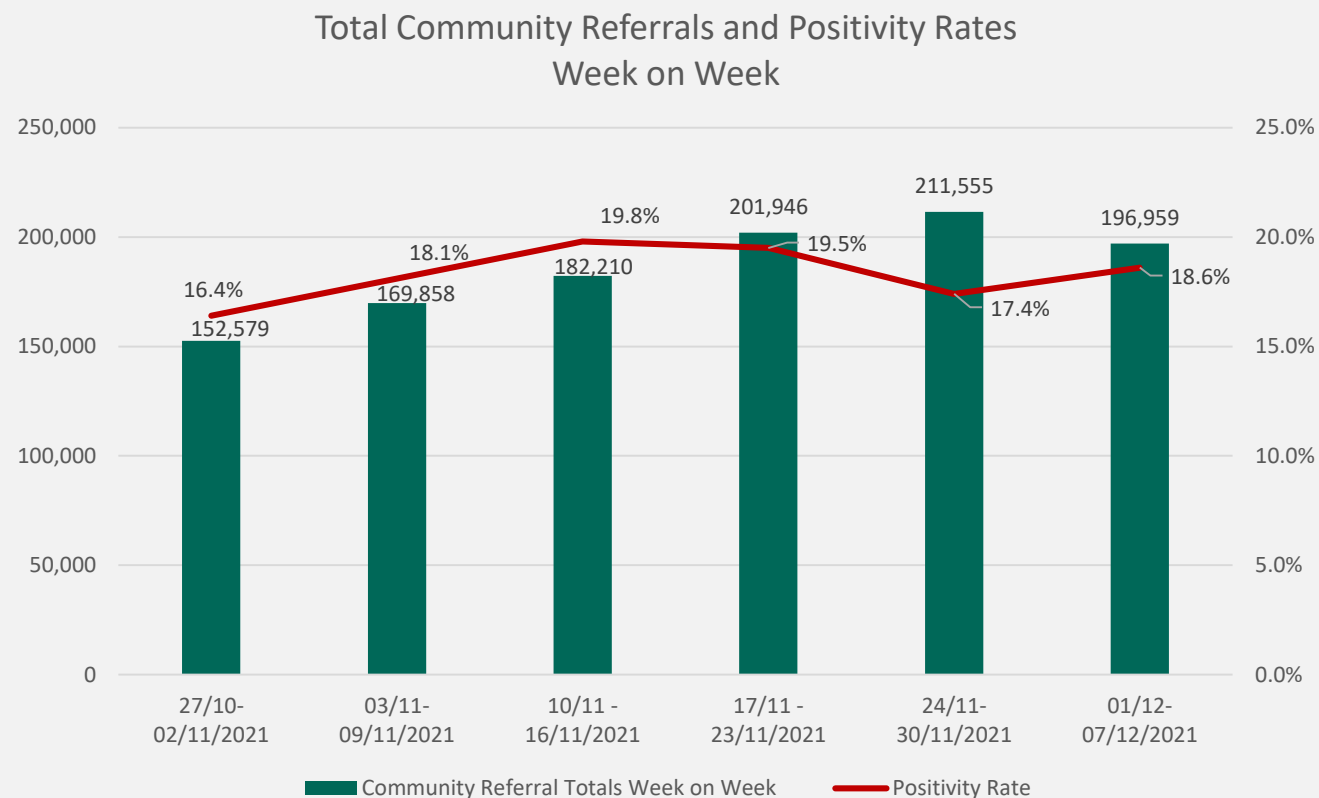
- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.1 per person.**
- From 01st – 07th December, a total of 29,800 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 01st – 07th December, contact tracing was completed for c. 29,591 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 3,953 calls were made to close contacts.





Total Community Referrals

- From the 01st – 07th December, there were c.**196,959 Community Referrals** (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **decreased by 6.9%** in comparison to the same time-period last week.
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown of total community referrals over the past 6 weeks and corresponding positivity rate.



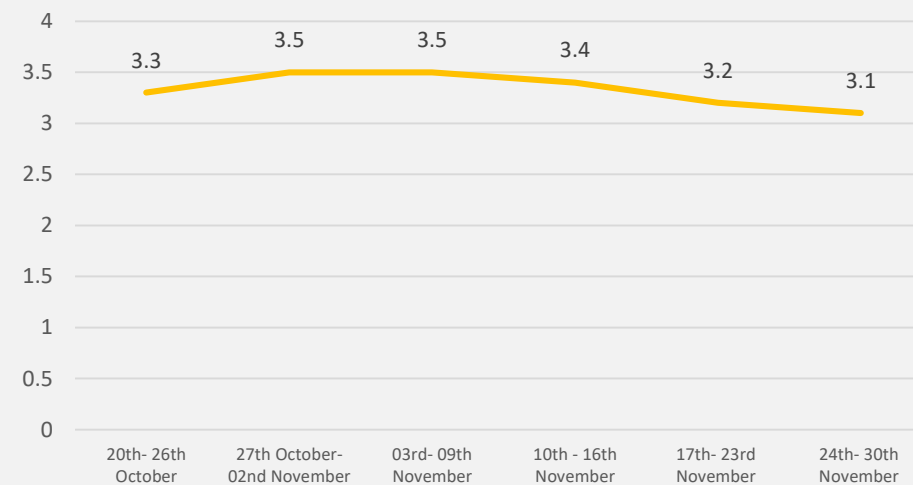


Close Contacts Trend

3.1

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.1**

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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 grainy background within the circle.

3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

In Cycle 19 (Commenced 6th December);



94 facilities have been tested

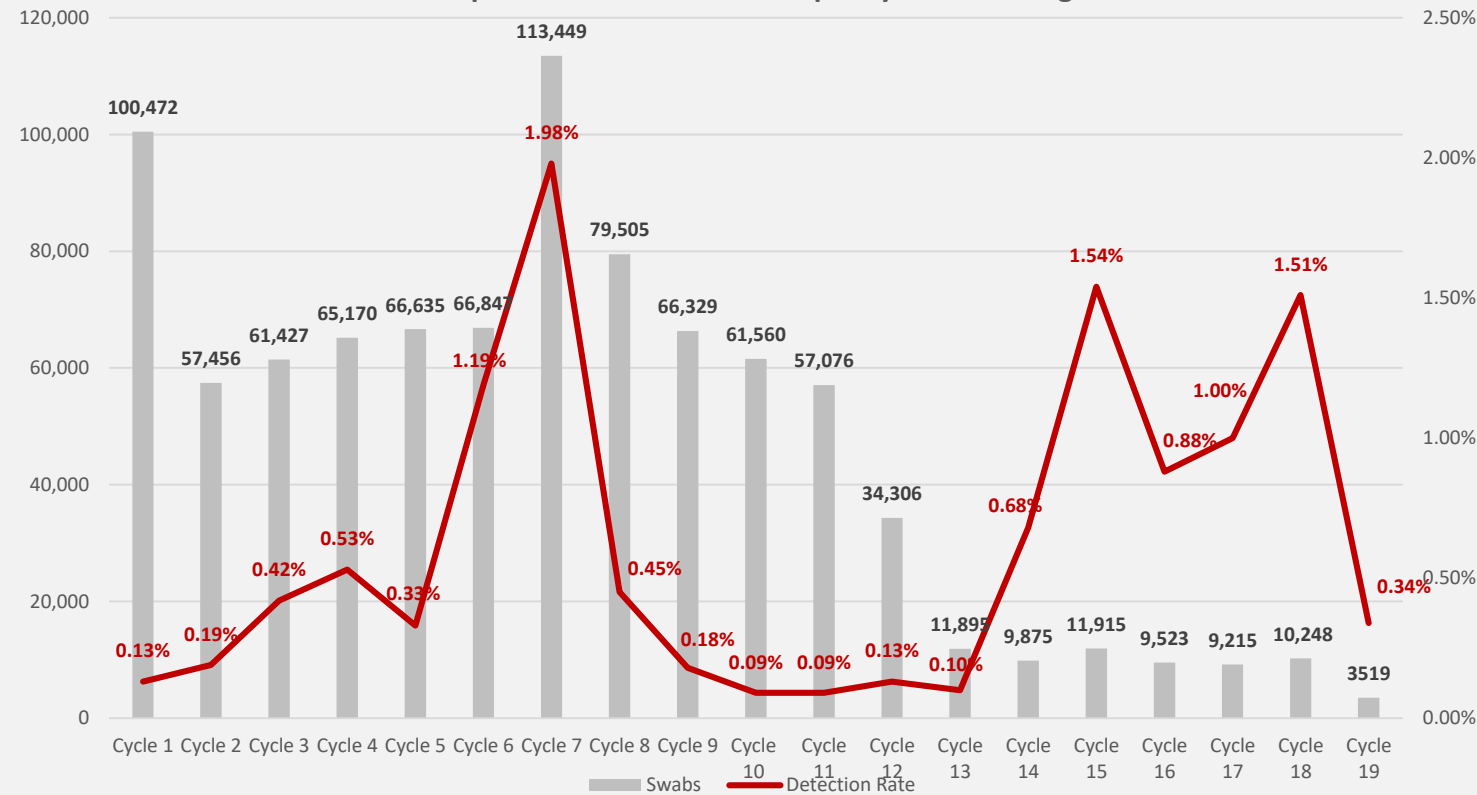


3,519 tests have been completed



12 detected cases identified
(0.34% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 11 (Commenced 11th October);



3 facilities have been tested

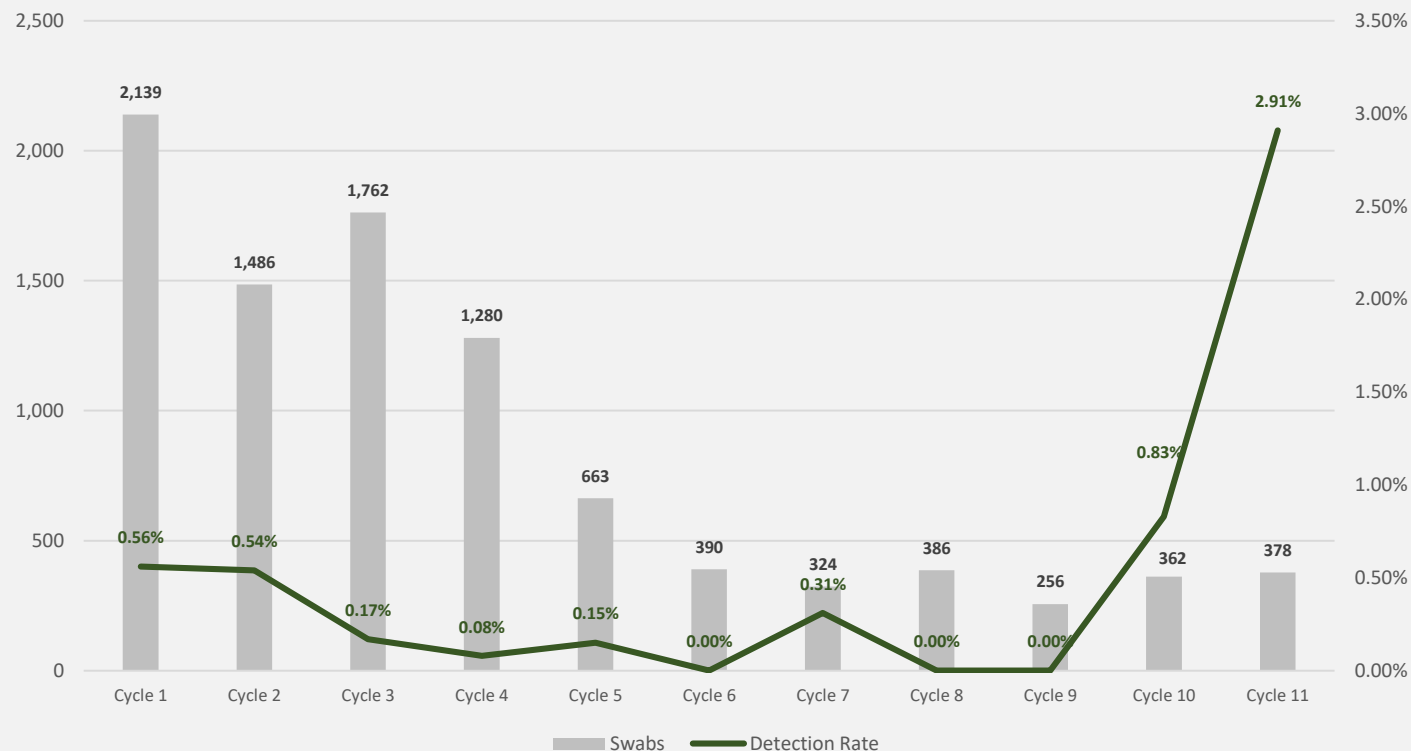


378 tests have been completed



11 detected cases identified
(2.91% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health facilities





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 16 (Commenced 15th November);



55 facilities have been tested

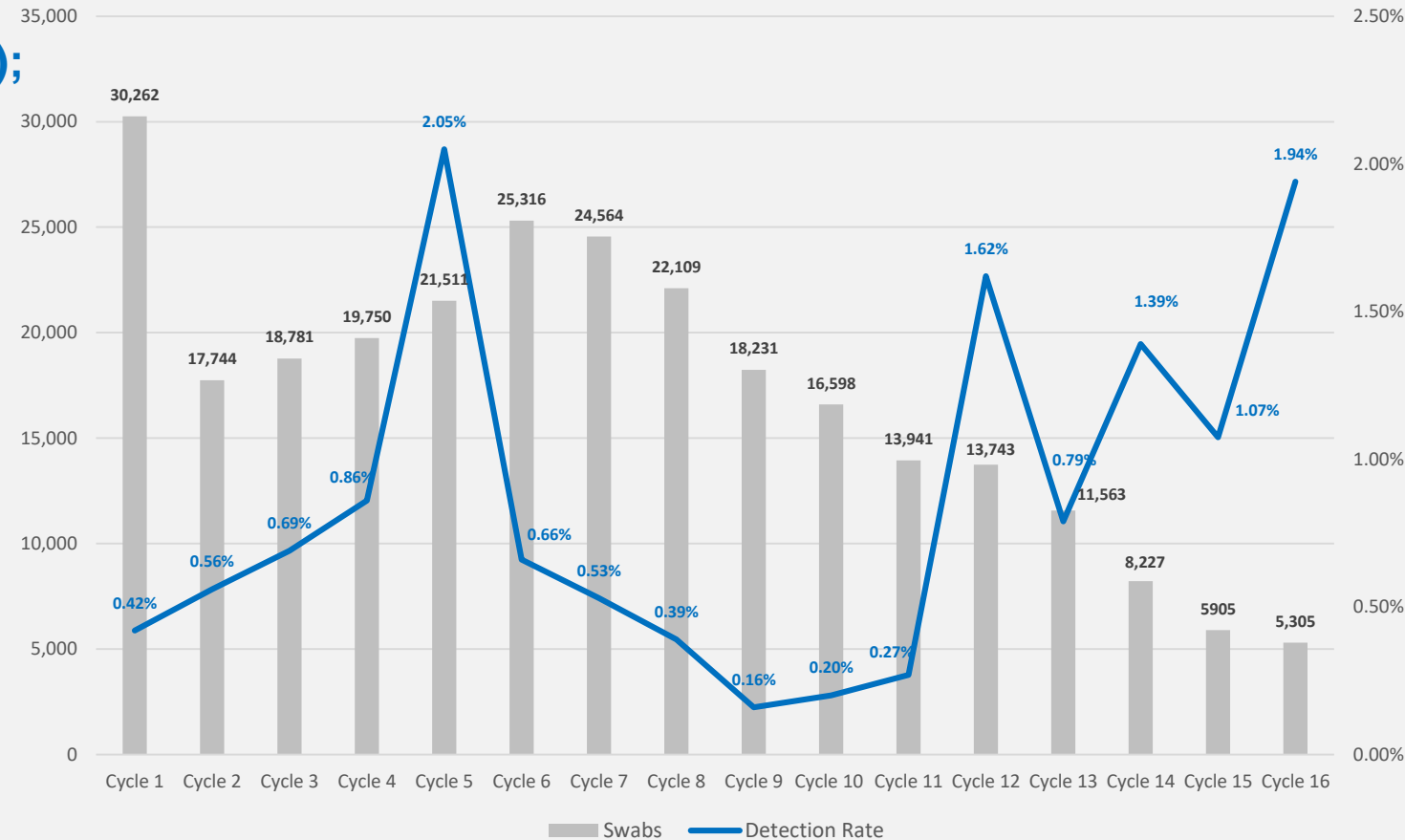


5,305 tests have been completed



103 detected cases identified
(1.94% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



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 08th December

803

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 803 staff;
720 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining **83** staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

