

HSE COVID-19

**Testing & Contact Tracing Update
11th of February 2021**



1) Test and Trace Weekly Metrics



Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 3,251,871 lab tests completed to date



1.3 days

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



1.9 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



119,520+

Total Swabs last week



121,120+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



8,730+

No. of individuals with contact tracing complete in the last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 3rd-9th February.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 3rd – 9th February.

Swabbing

- **c. 119,520 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **46,006 taken in the community**, **45,552 taken in acute and private acute settings** and **27,965 taken as part of serial testing** of Staff in Food Plants and Residential Care Facilities.
- We have had **35 static testing centres** in operation, with **pop up testing sites in areas of most acute need**.
- Over the past week the Cleary Centre pop up testing centre in Donegal was open.
- Community testing demand has decreased by **4% in the last week**.
- 93% of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **121,123 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 6%**.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is carried out in our centres in Galway, Limerick, Cork and Dublin.
- From 3rd - 9th February, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number close contacts are **3** per person.
- From 3rd - 9th February, contact tracing was completed for c.8,732 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case, and contact tracing is complete.
- In addition, c.12,735 calls were made to close contacts.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 3rd – 9th February.

Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **28 hours**.
- **85.9% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours** and c.**90%** within **48 hours**
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **6 hours** and a **mean of 3.9 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.3 days for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.9 days for detected results**.

2) Testing Programmes



Serial Testing of All Staff in Residential Care Facilities

Cycle 8 of serial testing commenced on 1st of February.

In Cycle 8;



518 facilities have been tested



28,269 tests have been completed



174 detected cases identified
(0.61% detected rate)



Serial Testing of All Staff in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 5 of serial testing in food production facilities commenced on 12th of January and concluded on the 5th of February.

Cycle 6 of Serial testing commenced on 8th of February.

Cycle 5 in total;



82 facilities have been tested



21,494 tests have been completed



441 detected cases identified
(2.05% detected rate).



Monitoring COVID-19 in Schools & Childcare Facilities

School and Childcare Facilities

- We continue to carry out tests in childcare facilities, with last week conducting tests for **35 childcare facilities**.
- Over **420 close contacts** associated with childcare settings were tested.
- Testing in this week resulted in a **11.5% detected rate**.



3) Test and Trace Trends



What can we see from the trends

Decrease in community tests

The number of community tests completed has decreased slightly, 4%, since this time last week.

The community test volumes are likely to increase in the coming weeks with close contacts now being referred for two tests since the 10th of January

This will continue to be monitored.

Continuous high volumes of acute testing

There continues to be consistently high volumes of testing in acute hospitals.

Our acute labs have processed over 30,000 tests over the past four weeks

In addition, serial testing and outbreak testing volumes remain high

Our HSE lab network is operating at high volumes currently, consistently completing over 130,000 tests a week.

Positivity Rate Decreases

Overall positivity rate is continuing to decrease, in the last week positivity rate was c.6%

However this decrease is slowing down in comparison to previous weeks c.1% decrease since this time last week.

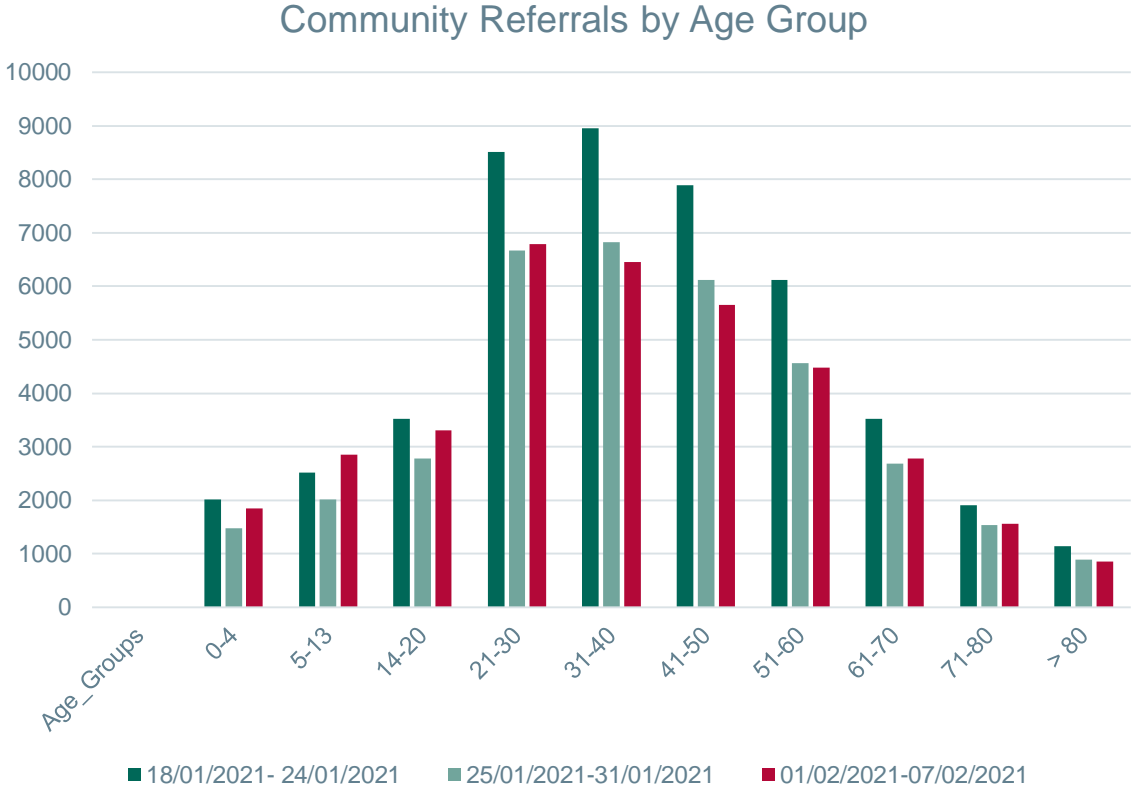
Positivity rates in community testing sites alone is c.16% over the past seven days and over 20% in certain counties.

The overall % is lower due to the inclusion of testing in acute settings and serial testing programmes.

Community Referrals by Age Group

Referrals by Age Groups

- In the last week, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the 21-30 age group.
- The 21-30 age group made up 18.6% of all referrals.
- The detected rate of this age group was c.16%.



Community Demand for Testing over the past 6 weeks

4%

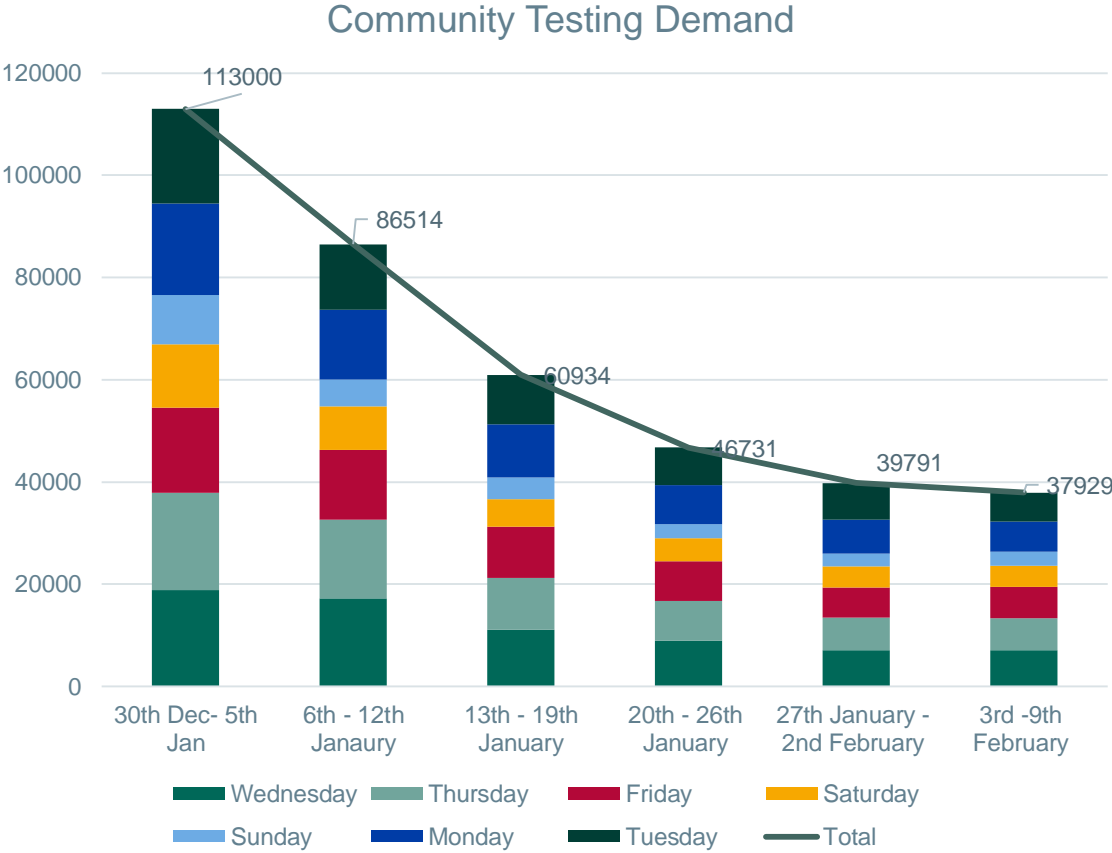


Last week saw a **4% decrease** week on week in community tests completed.

66%



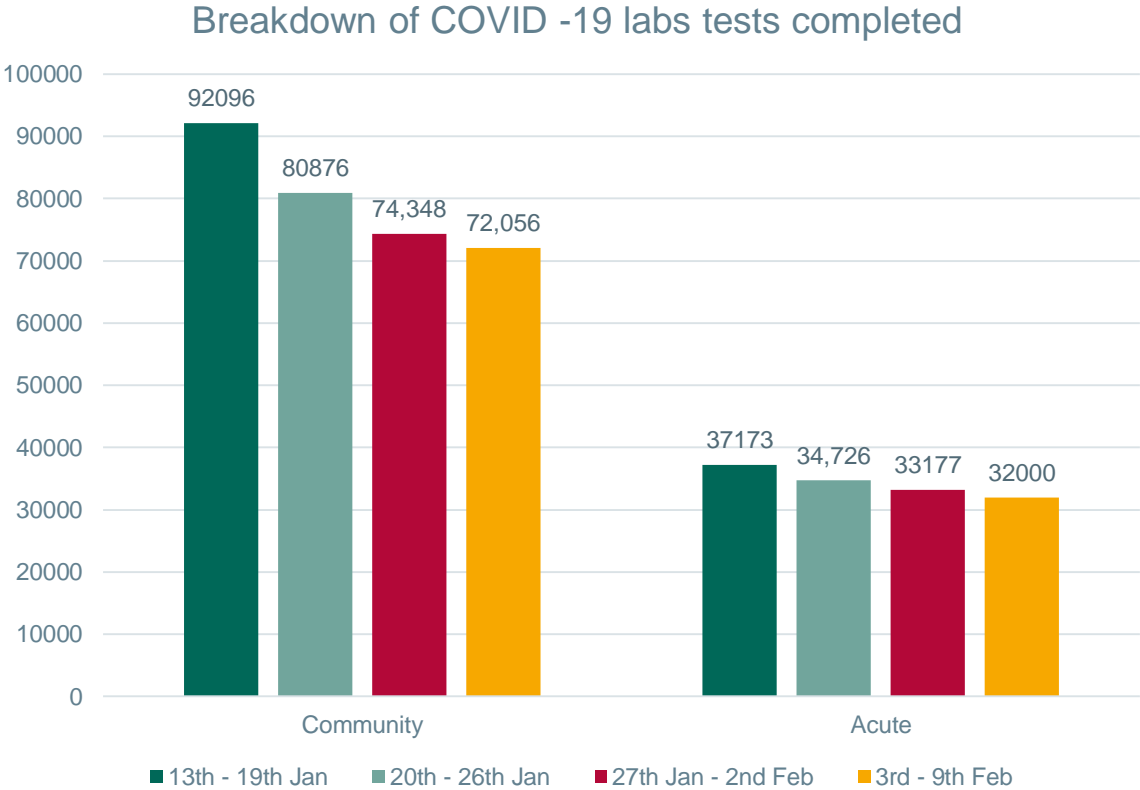
Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 66%** since the most recent peak in demand for community testing from 30th December – 5th of January.



The source of the community testing demand graph is the daily community testing file

Tests completed in the community and Acute settings

- Over the past four weeks the number of tests completed by community labs has slightly decreased week on week
- However, as visible from the graph, the number of tests completed in our acute settings have remained steady, over 30,000 tests a week over the past four weeks.
- This provides an insight into the volume of COVID-19 tests being completed by our Acute settings.

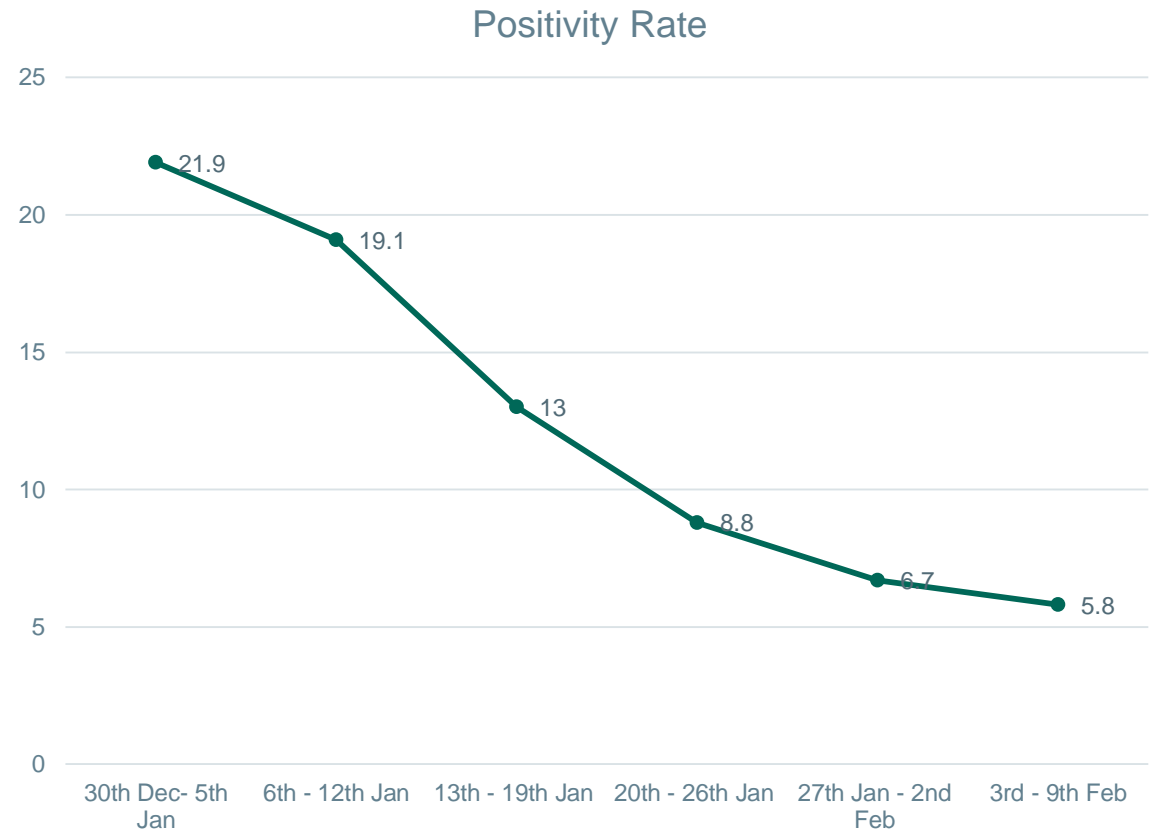


The source this graph is lab detail from the COVID-19 logistics daily lab activity report.

Positivity Trend



- The positivity rate for the past seven days is c.6%
- The positivity rate has decreased significantly since the peak from 30th Dec – 5th Jan
- However, in the last week the positivity rate is decreasing at a slower rate, c.1%.



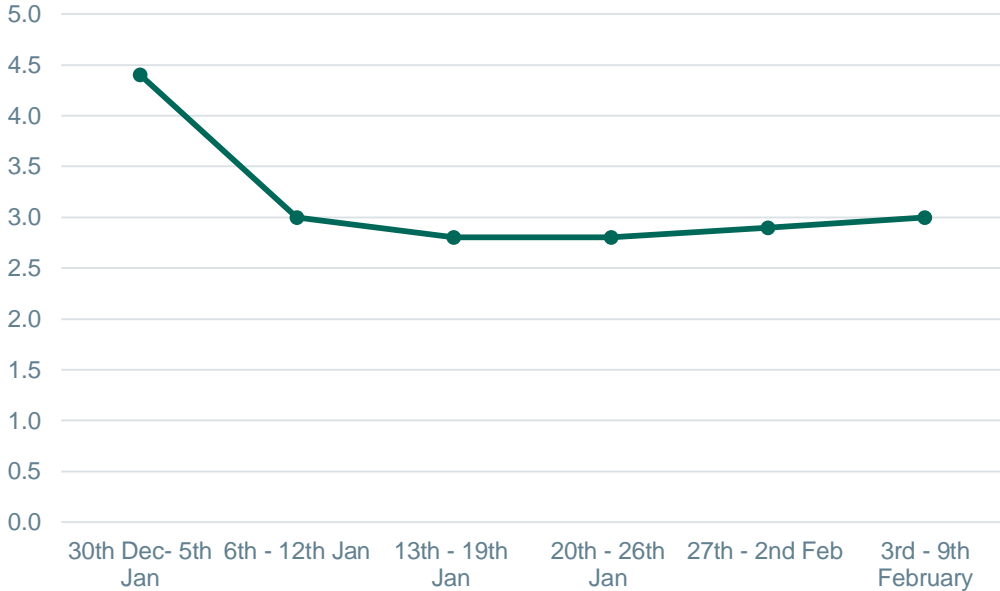
Close Contacts Trend

3

Number of close contacts remains steady over the past 5 weeks, with no significant decrease.

Of those who recorded at least 1 close contact, the average number of close contacts per person, over the past 7 days was 3.

Average number of close contacts



4) Updates to Test and Trace



Policy Change to the testing of close contacts

- From Wednesday 10th of February, Close contacts of a confirmed case will be rereferred for two tests.
 - The first of these tests will occur on day
 - The second of these tests will occur on day 10, 10 days from an individual's last exposure to the confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Close contacts may end the period of restricted movements on receipt of a not detected test, conducted on day 10, so long as so they remain symptomatic.
- This increased testing of close contacts will also result in an increased level of demand across the test and trace programme.



Recruitment

Recruitment

The HSE continues to focus efforts on increasing resources across our test and trace system

Swabbing

- As of the 8th of February, there is a total of 742 community swabbers have been hired and on-boarded

Contact Tracing

- As of 8th of February, there is a total of 891 staff supporting contact tracing
- Of these 891 staff, 823 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function
- The remaining 68 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles.



Conclusion



Our median end to end turnaround time is **1.9 days for detected cases** and **1.3 days for not detected cases**.



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 66%**, since the most recent peak in demand for community testing, from 30th December – 5th of January.



As of 10th of February, there are **over 3,250,000 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.