

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020



# Test and Trace Briefing



Testing Volumes and  
Turnaround Times



Testing Programmes

- Serial Testing in RCFs
- Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities
- Testing in Education and Childcare Facilities



Test and Trace Trends

- Referrals
- Community Testing Demand
- Lab Demand
- Positivity Rate
- Average Close contact trend



Service  
Improvements and  
Updates

- Recruitment
- Testing Centres Update



## Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



## Test and Trace Headlines

Over 3,575,835  
Lab Tests Completed to Date



1.5 days

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



2.0 days

Community - median end to  
end for a detected result



108,600+

Total Swabs last week



113,490+

Total number of laboratory  
tests last week



3,550+

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 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.



## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Swabbing

- **c. 108,600 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **40,631 taken in the community**, **47,252 taken in acute and private acute settings** and **20,717 taken as part of serial testing** of Staff in Food Plants and Residential Care Facilities.
- We have had **34 static testing centres** in operation, with pop up testing sites in areas of most acute need.
- Over the past week, pop-up testing centres were open in Donegal (Cleary Centre) and Limerick (University of Limerick).
- Community testing demand has decreased by **7.4% in the last week**.
- **92.4%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.
- Attendance at Day 0 testing is **84%** and **74%** at Day 10 testing

### Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **113,495 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 4.2%**.

### Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, positivity in close contact testing is 24.9%, it is highest in household close contacts where it is 32.6%
- From 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number close contacts are 3.3 per person. From 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> of March a total of 4,308 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result.
- From 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, contact tracing was completed for c.3,555 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c.5,119 calls were made to close contacts.



## Test and Trace Turnaround Times

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The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 24<sup>th</sup> of February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March.



### Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **23 hours**.
- **77% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours** and **94%** within **48 hours** within the community.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **6.2 hours** and a **mean of 4.1 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.5 days for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 2 days for detected results**.



## Testing Programmes





# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes Cycle 8

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**591**

Facilities Tested



**79,384**

Tests Completed



**358 detected cases**

(0.45% detected rate)





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities Cycle 2

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5

Facilities Tested



66

Tests Completed



0 detected cases





# Serial Testing in Disability Facilities Cycle 1

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**82**  
Facilities Tested



**5,038**  
Tests Completed



**25 detected cases**

(0.50% detected rate)





# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities Cycle 8

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**73**  
Facilities Tested



**20,944**  
Tests Completed



**128 detected cases**

(0.61% detected rate)





# Testing in Education and Childcare Facilities Last Week

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- The recommencement of children attending school settings in the coming weeks, is likely to drive an increase in volumes of testing associated with education and childcare facilities.



**1.2 days**

from swab to  
communication of  
result

**73**

Facilities Tested

**383 individuals**  
associated with **38**  
**childcare settings** were  
tested

Testing resulted in a  
**14.4%** positivity rate

**41 individuals**  
associated with **4 special**  
**education settings** were  
tested

Testing resulted in a  
**2.4%** Positivity Rate



## Testing and Trace Trends





# What can we see from the trends



## **Referrals and Age Group**

The 21-30 age group has the highest level of referrals in the last week



## **Community Demand**

Community Demand for Testing continues to decrease week on week



## **Acute lab levels**

The level of testing completed by our Acute labs remains high between 29,000-32,000 each week, over the past for weeks



## **Positivity Rate**

Positivity rate in the community in general is decreasing



## **Close Contacts**

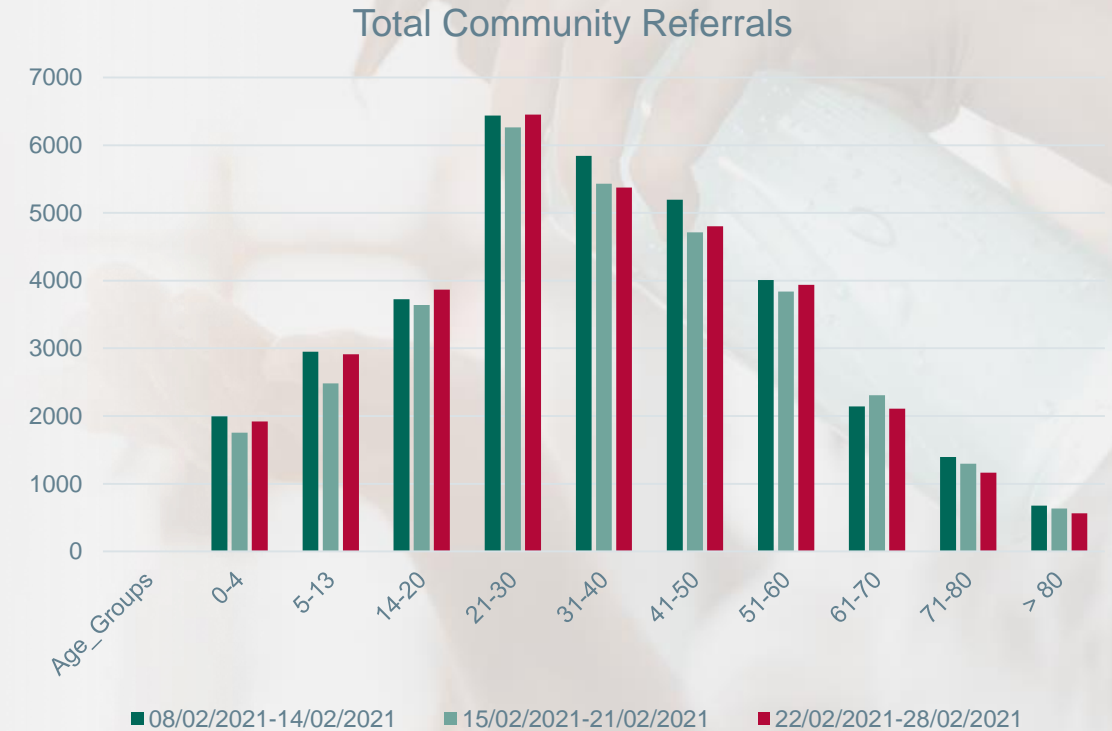
Close Contact Trends remain steady. For those who reported close contacts, close contacts are c.3 individuals per person



# 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 19.5% of all referrals.
- The detected rate of this age group was c.13.2%.





# Community Demand For Testing

7.4%



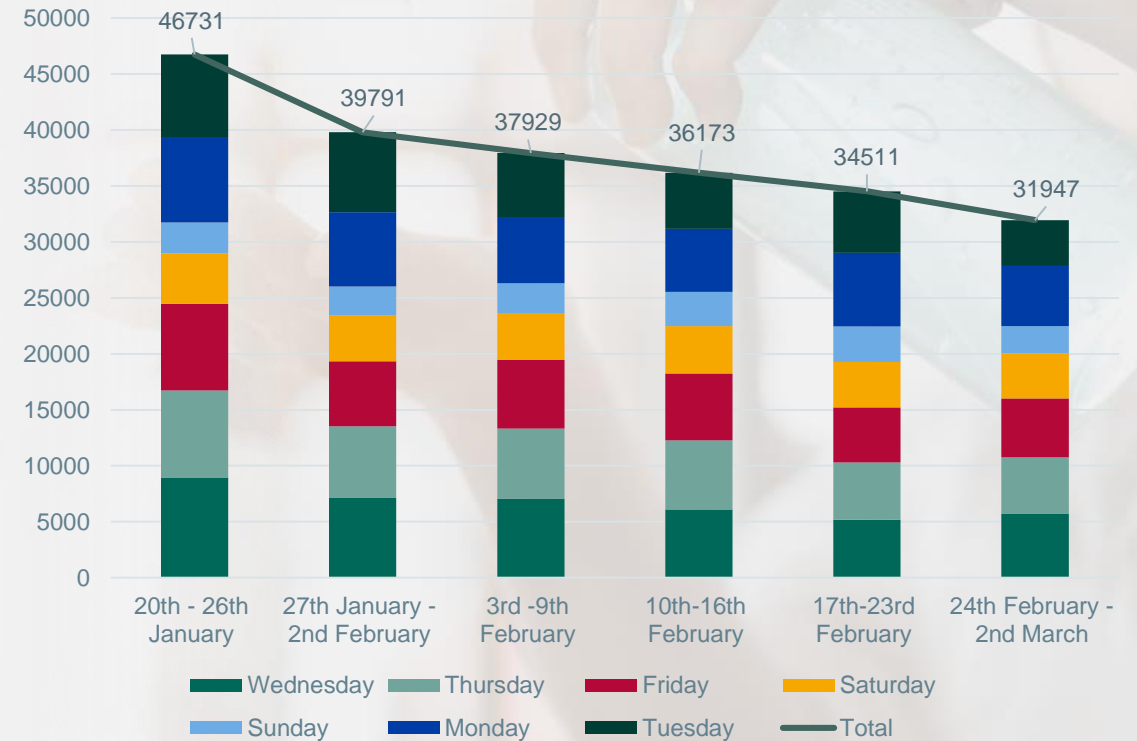
Last week saw a **7.4% decrease** week on week in community tests completed.

31.6%



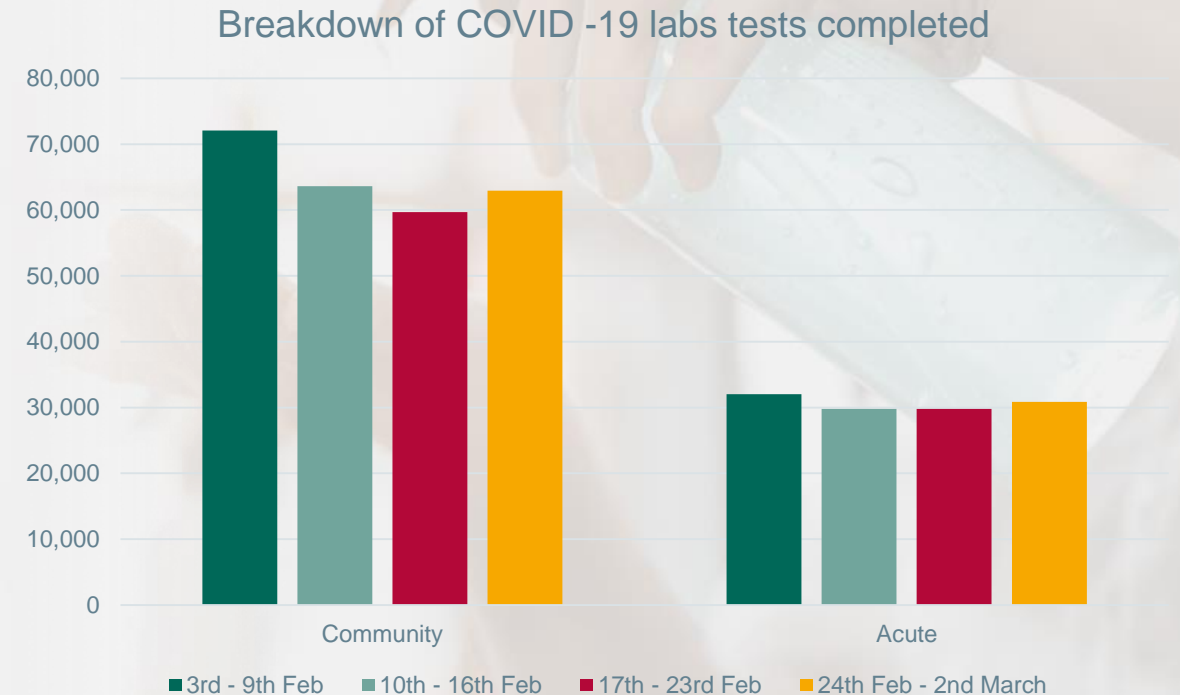
Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 31.6%** in the last 6 weeks

Community Testing Demand



# Tests Completed in our Community and Acute Labs

- The number of tests completed in our acute settings has remained steady, with over 29,000 – 32,000 tests a week, over the past four weeks.
- This provides a comparison into the volume of COVID-19 tests being completed in our community and Acute settings.

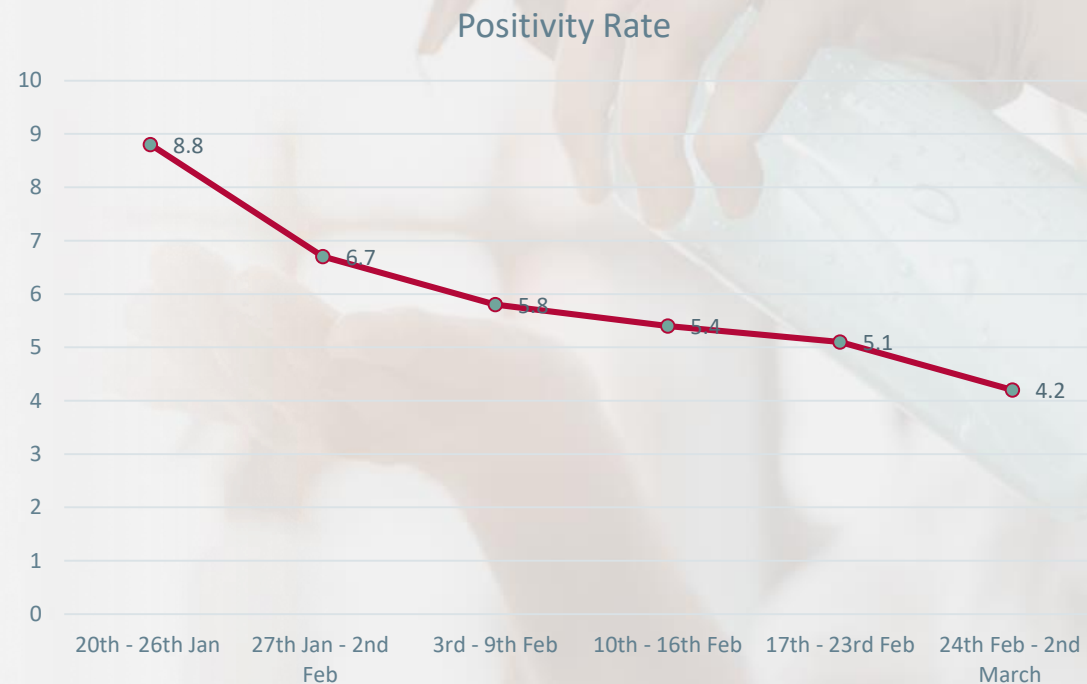




# Overall Positivity Trend

↓ c.4.2%

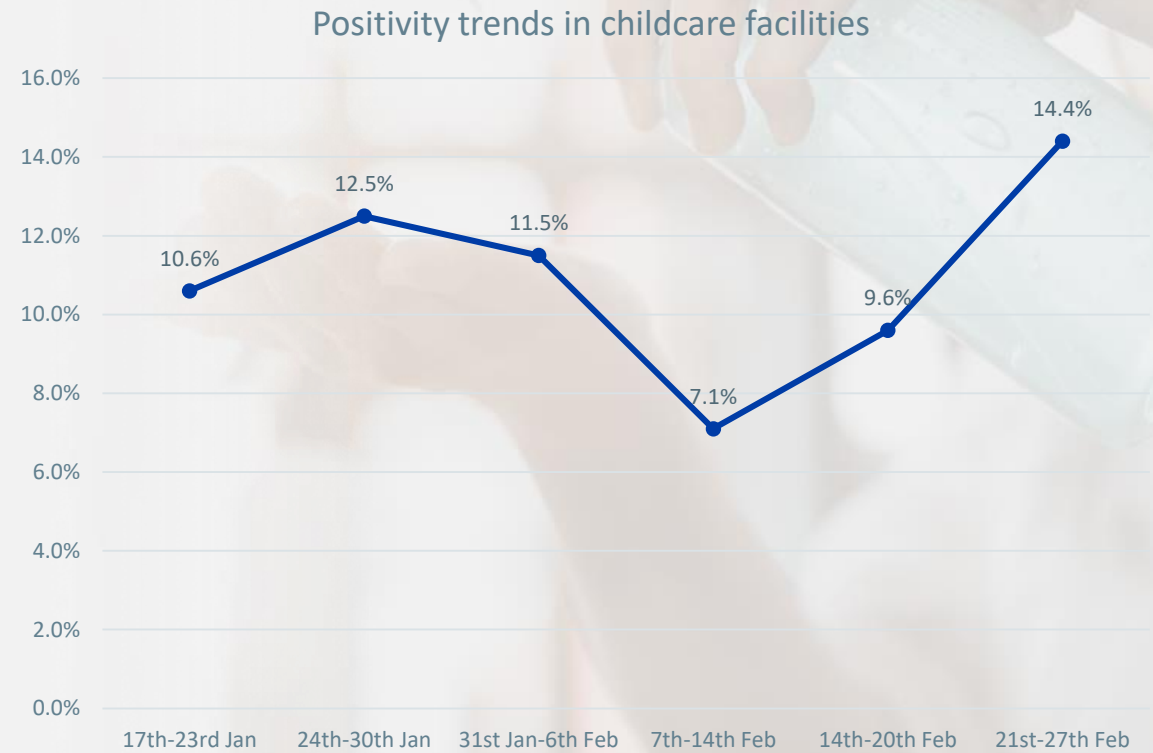
- The positivity rate for the past seven days is c.4.2%
- The positivity rate has decreased significantly in the past six weeks.
- However, in the last two weeks the positivity rate is decreasing at a slower rate, c.1%.





# Positivity Trend in Educational and Childcare Facilities

- We continue to monitor weekly positivity rate in Childcare settings
- The graph shows weekly positivity rate for the last 6 weeks.
- In the last week, testing in childcare facilities resulted in a **14.4%** positivity rate





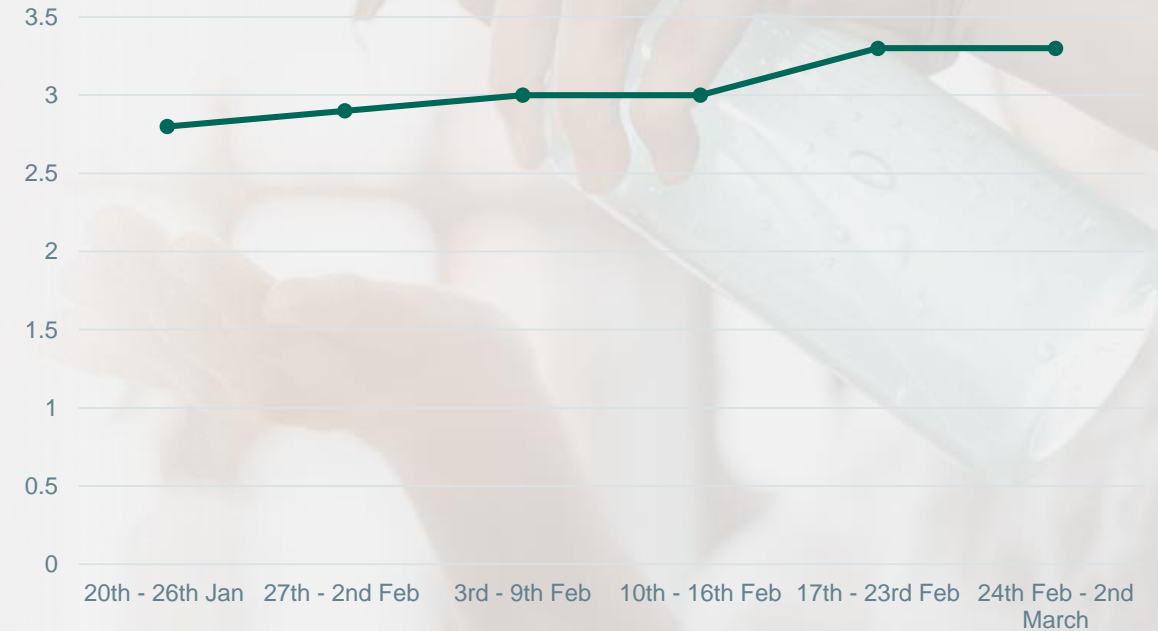
# Close Contacts Trend

3.3

Number of close contacts remains steady over the past 6 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 3.3.

Average number of close contacts





## Service Improvements and Updates





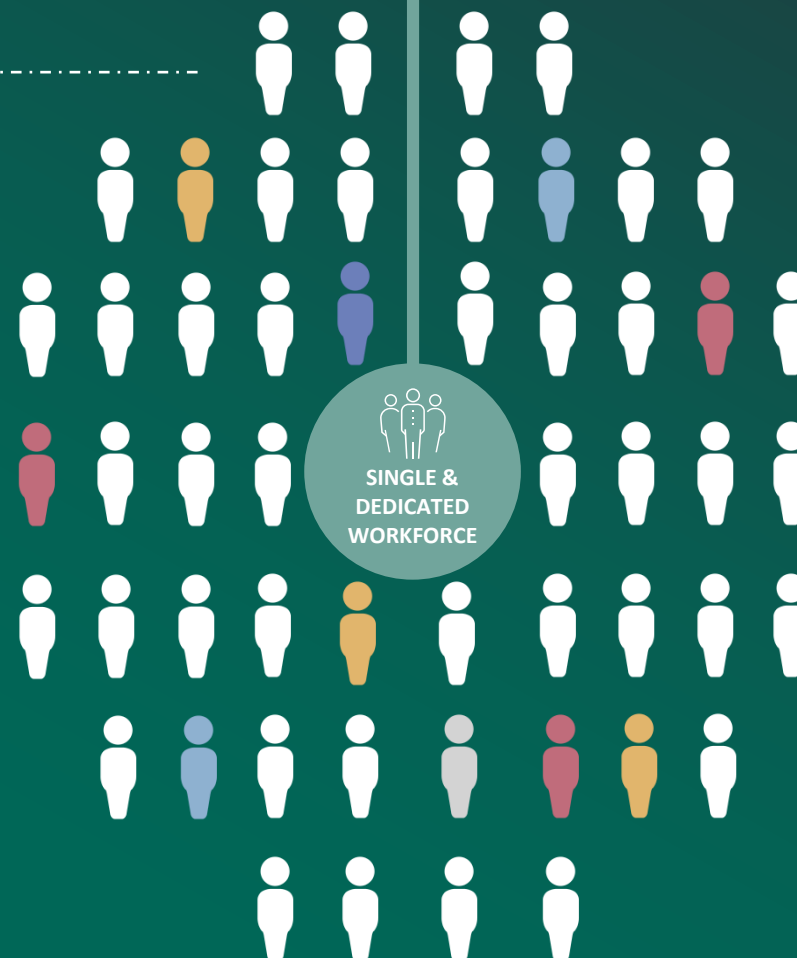
**754**  
**Community  
Swabbers**

Recruited and Onboarded

**893**  
**Staff supporting  
Contact Tracing**

Of these 893 staff;  
821 of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining 72 staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles





# Thank you- Testing Centres

- The National Test and Trace Team would like to extend their thanks to the **Irish Defence Forces** as they wind down the AVIVA testing centre.
- Individuals living in this area who require a Covid-19 test will be scheduled to attend test centres in the **RDS** or **Citywest** going forward.
- The AVIVA will re-open as a Vaccination roll-out centre





# Conclusion

1

Our median end to end turnaround time is **2.0 days for detected cases** and **1.5 days for not detected cases**.

2

Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 31.6%**, in the last 6 weeks

3

As of 16th of February, there are **over 3,357,830 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.

