

HSE COVID-19

**Testing & Contact Tracing Update
25th Of November 2020**



1) Performance of the testing infrastructure



Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – Over 1,889,089 tests completed to date



1.4 days
(Not Detected)
2.1 days
(Detected)
Medium end to end
turnaround time in community
settings



1.1 days
Median Swab Taken to lab
result



80,900+
Total Swabs



77,600+
Total number of laboratory
tests completed this week



11,460+
Total number of Contact
Tracing calls made this
week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from Tuesday 16th – 22nd of November.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 16th – 22nd of November.

Swabbing

- c.80,906 **swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately 37,085 taken in the community, 22,893 taken in hospitals and 20,928 taken as part of serial testing of staff in food plants and healthcare workers in nursing homes.
- In the last week, we have had 33 static testing centres in operation, with 3 pop up testing sites also in operation.
- Pop up centres are in operation in Carlow town, Donegal town and Charlestown in Finglas.
- Community testing demand have decreased by **50%** over the last 6 weeks. There has been an increase in community demand of **7% in the last week**.
- **92% of GP referrals result in swabs being taken the same day or next day.**

Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **77,605 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 3%**, this is a decrease of 1% since from last week.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is carried out in Galway (HSE), Limerick (HSE and Revenue), Cork (HSE), Dublin (Sandyford), Dublin (UCD), Parkgate street/ Merion Lane and Kells (HSE).
- Our Contact Tracing teams across Public Health and CTCs completed over **11,468 phone calls** in the last week.
- Close contacts average at 3.8 per person.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 16th – 22nd of November.

Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **1.1 days**.
- All calls are completed within **0.8 days (median), 1.1 days on average** – including all complex cases.
- In the last seven days, **we have delivered a median of 1.4 days for a not detected case and 2.1 days for a detected case**
- **For detected cases**
- In the last 7 days, 3% of all tests were detected COVID-19 and approximately 97% of tests had a not detected result.

2) Testing Programmes



Serial Testing of All Staff in Nursing Homes

Cycle 5 of serial testing has commenced on 11th of November and will run for four weeks.

Cycle 5 to date;



527 facilities have been tested



30,090 tests have been completed



132 detected cases identified (0.44% detected rate).



Serial Testing of All Staff in food production facilities

Cycle 3 of serial food production facilities has commenced on 9th of November and will run across four weeks.

Cycle 3 to date;



48 facilities have been tested



10,004 tests have been completed



73 detected cases identified (0.73% detected rate).



Monitoring COVID-19 in schools

School and Childcare Facilities

- As of November 24th, testing is currently ongoing or has been completed in **1,022 facilities**. This includes schools and childcare facilities.
- **c.26,400 tests** have been carried out as part of this mass testing programme.
- Of these, **716 detected cases** have been identified. This is a detected rate of 2.7%.

Note: The mechanism by which results are matched to referrals in the system has been improved to avoid duplicate results being reported, where multiple referrals exist for an individual. This has resulted in a reduction of the overall number of detected results reported associated with mass testing in schools and/or childcare facilities. Taking this improvement into account, as of November 24th, the total number of detected cases associated with mass testing in a school setting and/or childcare facility is 716.



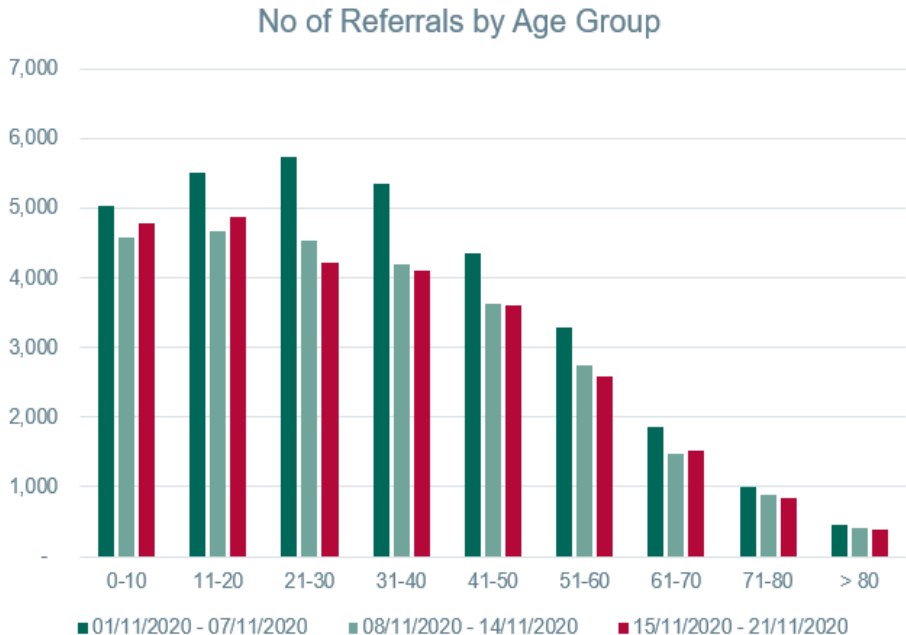
3) Test and Trace Trends



Total count of referrals by age group

Referrals by Age Group

- The graph shows referrals by age group over the past three weeks.
- This graph gives an insight into the demand for testing of symptomatic individuals and their age profile.
- In the last week, the age groups with the highest percentage of referrals were;
 - the **0-10 age group**, which made up **17.7%** of all referrals. The detected rate of this age group was 3.5%.
 - the **11-20 age group** which made up **18.1%** of all referrals. The detected rate of this age group was 7.8%.



Community demand over the past 6 weeks

7%



Last week saw a c.7% increase from the previous week in demand for testing.

50%



Demand for testing in the community has decreased by 50% in the last six weeks.

In parallel the following testing programmes are ongoing which are not presented in the graph;

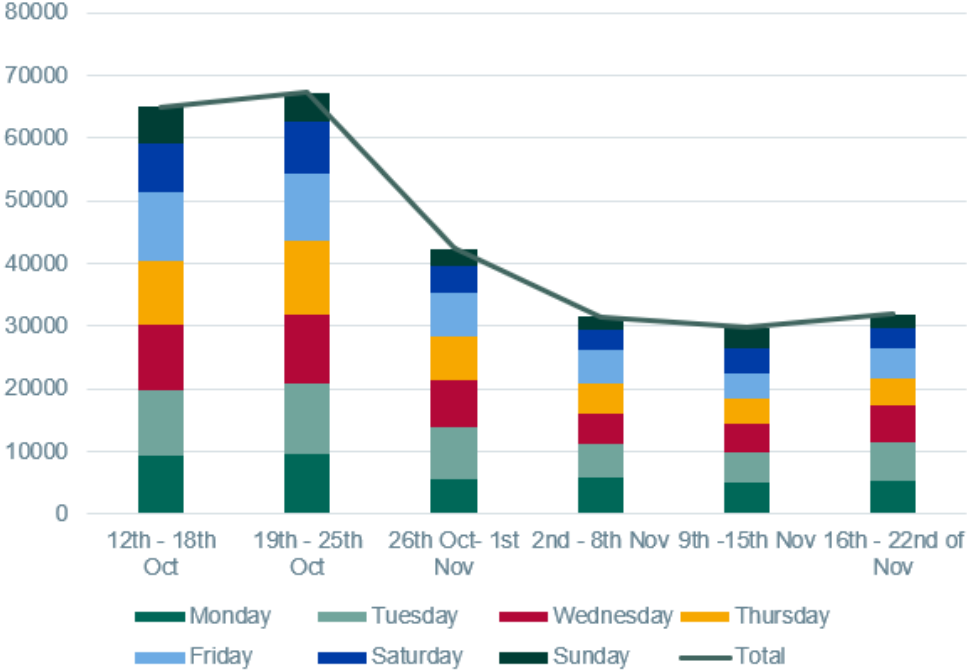


Tested staff in Nursing Homes (tested over 15,842 staff from 16th – 22nd of November).



Tested staff at food plants (tested over 5,086 food plant facility staff from 16th – 22nd of November).

Community Testing Demand



Contact tracing volumes over the past 6 weeks



5%

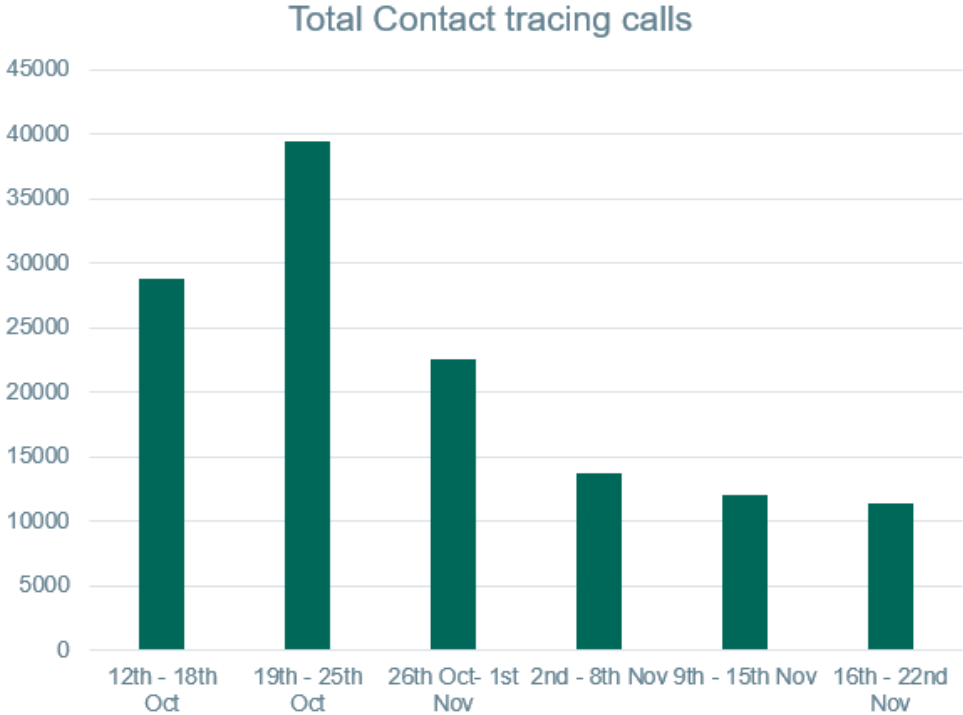


The volume of calls has decreased by 5% in the last week.

60%



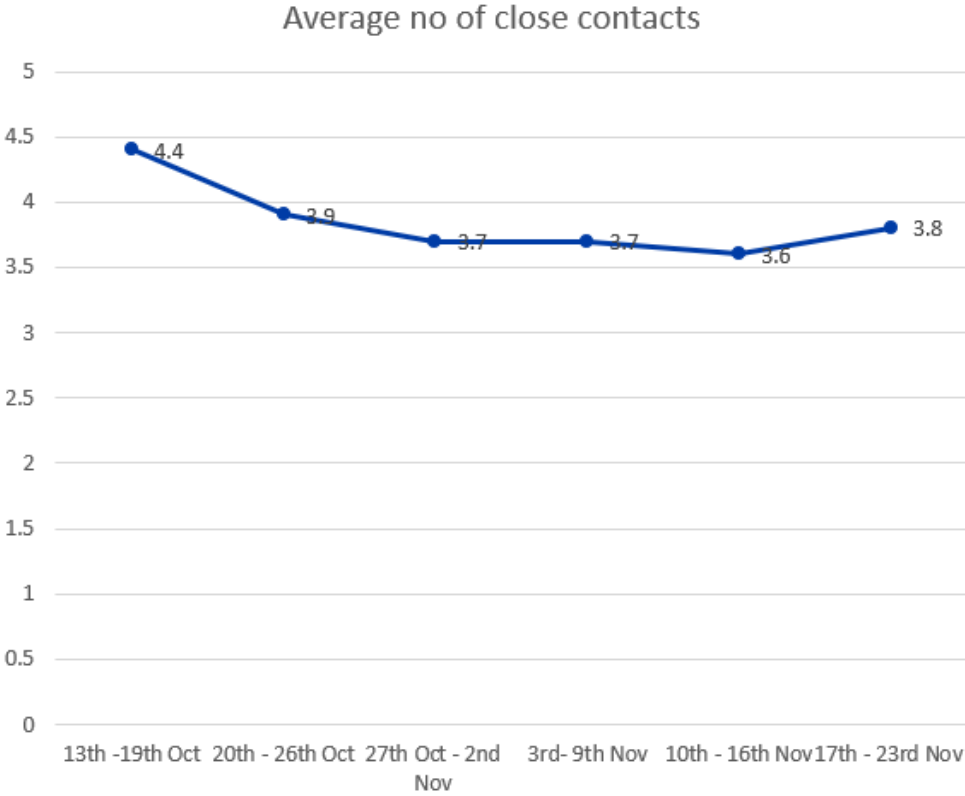
The last six weeks saw a c.60% decrease in the number of contact tracing calls made.



Close contacts Trend

Average number of close contacts trend

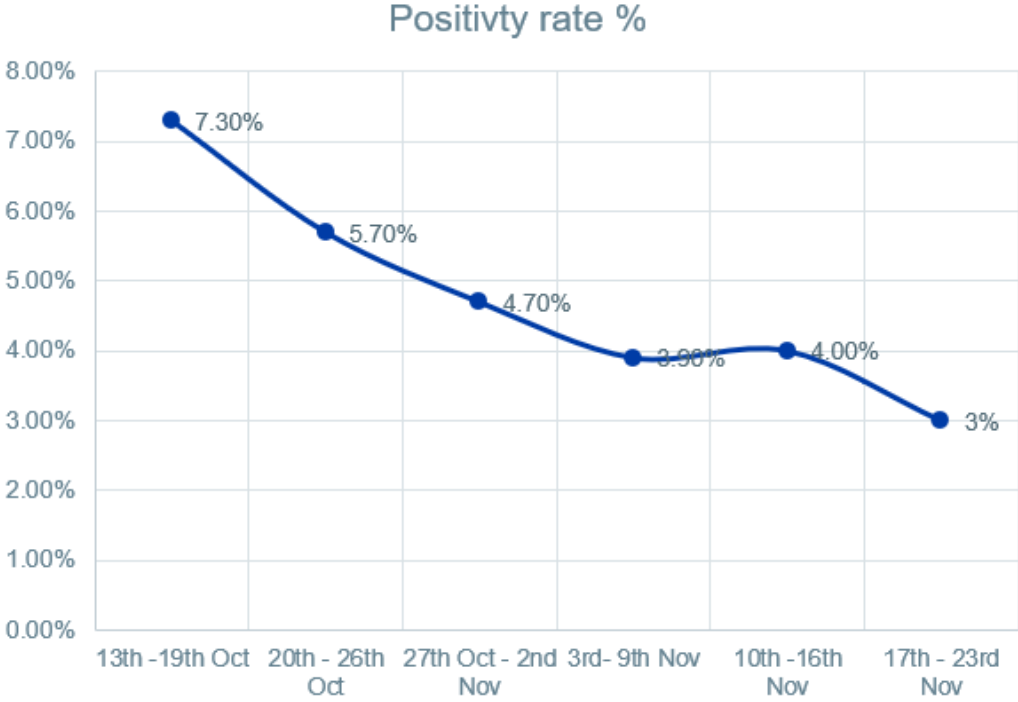
- Six weeks ago, the average number of close contacts was 4.4 close contacts.
- This week the average number of **close contacts per person is 3.8**, this is a slight increase from last week, where close contacts were 3.6 per person.



Positivity Trend

Positivity rate

- The positivity rate in week ending 19th of October was 7.3%.
- This week **the positivity rate has fallen to 3%**, a decrease from the previous week, where the positivity rate was 4%.



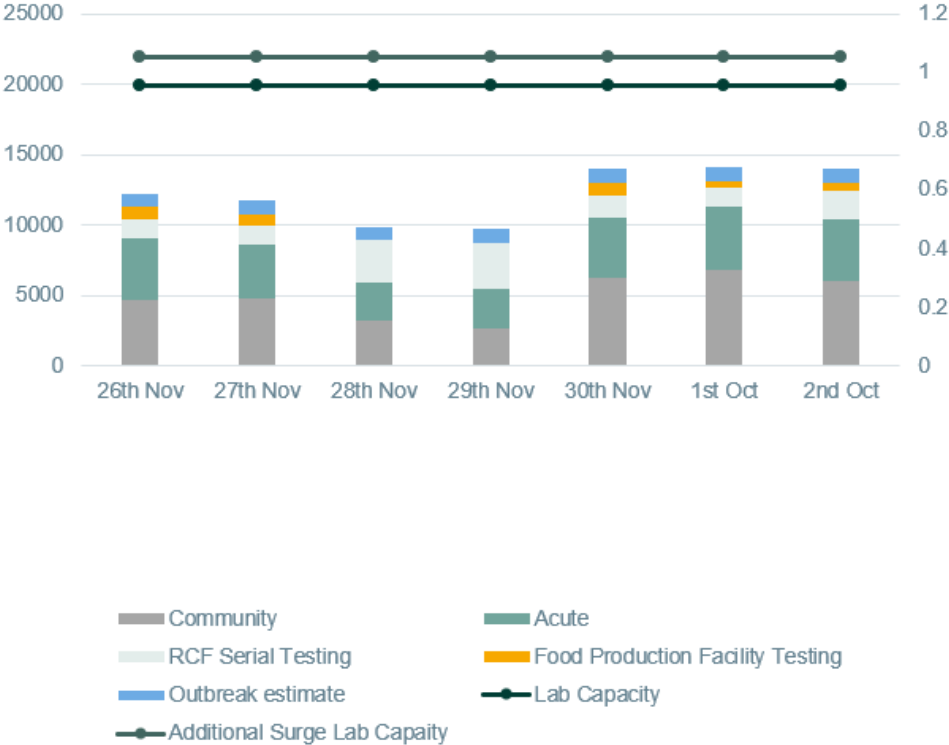
Forecast Lab Demand

We are continuously monitoring forecasted testing demand, which changes hourly, and implementing all possible mitigations to ensure end to end turnaround time remains within our target of <3 days.

For the purpose of this projection a number of assumptions have been made;

- Community samples increase week on week by 10%.
- Nursing homes serial testing will have an uptake of 76%.
- Food Production serial testing will have an uptake of 75%.
- Acute lab demand is estimated based on an average of the previous three week actual figures.

Forecasted Lab Demand



4) Enhancements to the test and trace system



Recruitment across contact tracing and swabbing

Recruitment

The HSE is focusing efforts and increasing resources across our test and trace system, in both swabbing and contact tracing.

Swabbing

As of November 24th, an additional 440 people have been onboarded to carry out swabbing activities.

Contact Tracing

As of November 24th, 520 contact tracers have been onboarded.

A further 80-90 contact tracers are expected to be onboarded by the 29th of November and an additional 70 onboarded week ending 6th of December.

GP Enhanced Testing Pathway

The HSE, in recognising the critical role of the GP practice, has developed a testing pathway for symptomatic GPs and their practice colleagues to minimise the time from the point of referral to communication of result.

The aim of which is to support efforts to reduce any interruptions to the delivery of GP services to the public.

This enhanced testing pathway went live on the 23rd of November, 2020.



Family Referrals

The HSE has developed for members of the same family group who have valid referrals for COVID-19 tests to attend a test appointment centre in their family group.

If a family group have allocated appointments;

- over the course of a single calendar day, we can accommodate all of these at a single visit, it is recommended that the family arrive for the earliest appointment time.
- over 2 calendar days, we can accommodate the family group at a single visit if the family attend on the earlier appointment day.
- at different testing centres on a single calendar day, we can accommodate all of these at a single visit to one test centre. It is recommended that the family arrive to the test centre to which most persons have been allocated.



Conclusion



In the last week, we have seen a slight increase in demand for community testing, by approximately **7%** from this time last week.



As of 24th of November, there are over **1,889,089** lab results completed to date.



We continue to build agility in our test and trace system, examples of this include a nationwide recruitment campaign for swabbers and contact tracers, standing up temporary swabbing sites and making process improvements to our end to end test and trace system.