

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021

## Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

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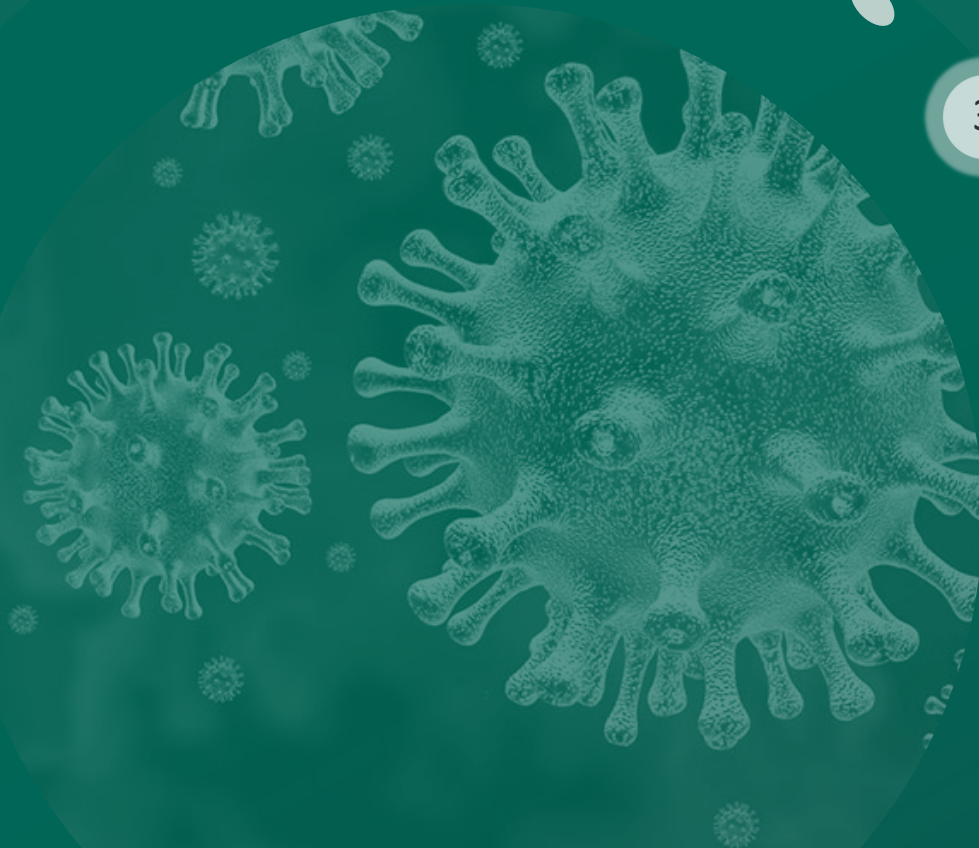
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## Test and Trace Headlines



1.0 day

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



2.1 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 107,038

Total number of community swabs taken last week



c. 139,990

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c.18,948

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October

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



## Test and Trace Key Messages



### Testing Demand

In the last week, demand has increased by 5% in community testing sites

139,990 tests completed in last 7 days

93.6% can get a test in < 24 hrs

### Close Contact Trends

Household close contacts highest at 54.2%

### Testing and Tracing Protocol: Children

Routine testing of asymptomatic close contacts no longer taking place

However, testing of unvaccinated close contacts is being arranged by the HSE for both children and staff.

The HSE is also continuing to arrange testing for staff close contacts across all education and childcare settings

### Antigen Testing in Education Settings

29 facilities involved to date

24 completed 4 wks of testing (5 Further and Higher Education & 19 Childcare)

10 undertaking another 4 wks of the programme (2 Further & Higher Education & 8 Childcare)

5 additional Higher Education sites are also preparing to commence testing.

### Testing Trends by County

7-day positivity rate highest in Counties Kerry and Waterford (16%)

Positivity rate for County Cavan over the last 7 days is at 13.5%



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 protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, slightly blurred background within the circle.

## 1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October



### Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.111,006 community referrals** over the seven-day period.
- This figure includes **416 International travel referrals** (↓**55%** in comparison to last week) and **76,211 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↑**15.5%** in comparison to last week), the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- Overall, this weekly total has **increased** by 6% in comparison to the same time-frame the previous week (29<sup>th</sup> – 05<sup>th</sup> October; c.104,878 total referrals).



### Total Community Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **107,038** swabs were completed.



### Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c. **139,990** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 8.9% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 10.9%**



### Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.4 per person**.
- From 06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October, a total of 10,734 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October, contact tracing was completed for c. 10,655 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 18,948 calls were made to close contacts.

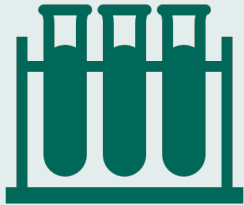
Note: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



# Test and Trace Turnaround Times

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 06th – 12th October.

21 hrs



Combined median time from  
**swab to lab result** in  
community and acute setting

12.9 hrs



Median time taken to  
**complete contact tracing**  
**calls**

1.0 day



Median end to end  
turnaround time for a **not**  
**detected** result

2.1 days



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 hazy background within the circle.

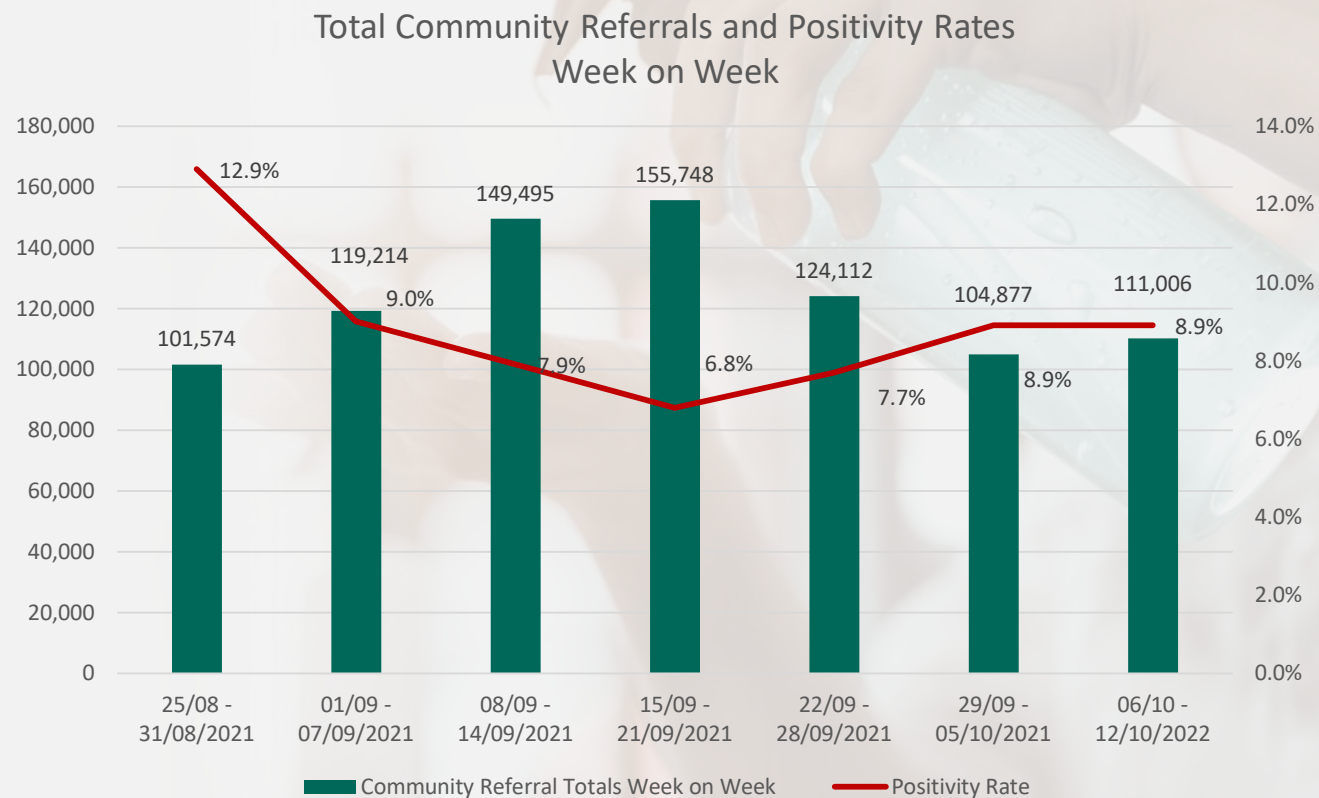
## 2. Testing and Trace Trends





# Total Community Referrals

- From the 06th – 12th October, there were c.111,006 Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self-referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 6%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (29th – 05th October; c.104,877 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown of total community referrals over the past 7 weeks.

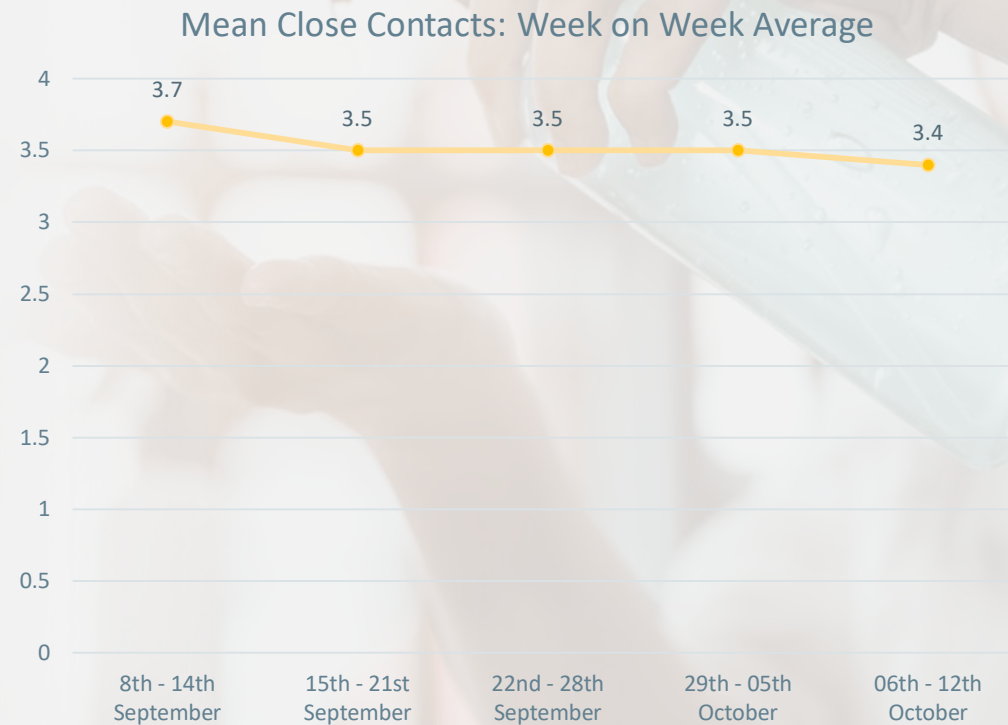




# Close Contacts Trend

3.4

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.4**



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 (glycoprotein spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark, slightly hazy background within the circle.

## 3. Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

**In Cycle 16 (Commenced 13<sup>th</sup> September);**



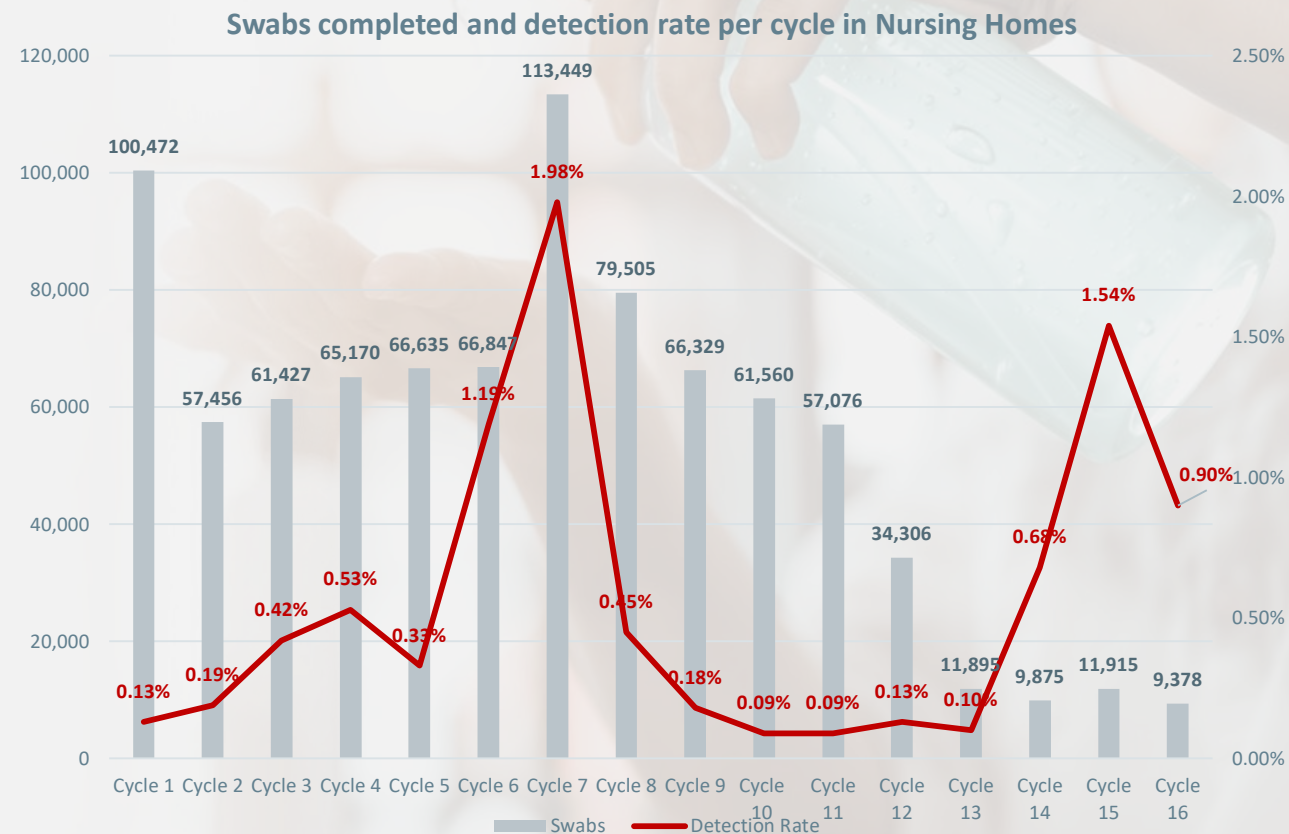
**200 facilities** have been tested



**9,378 tests** have been completed



**84 detected cases** identified  
(0.90% detected rate)







# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

**In Cycle 10 (Commenced 11<sup>th</sup> October);**



**1 facilities** have been tested

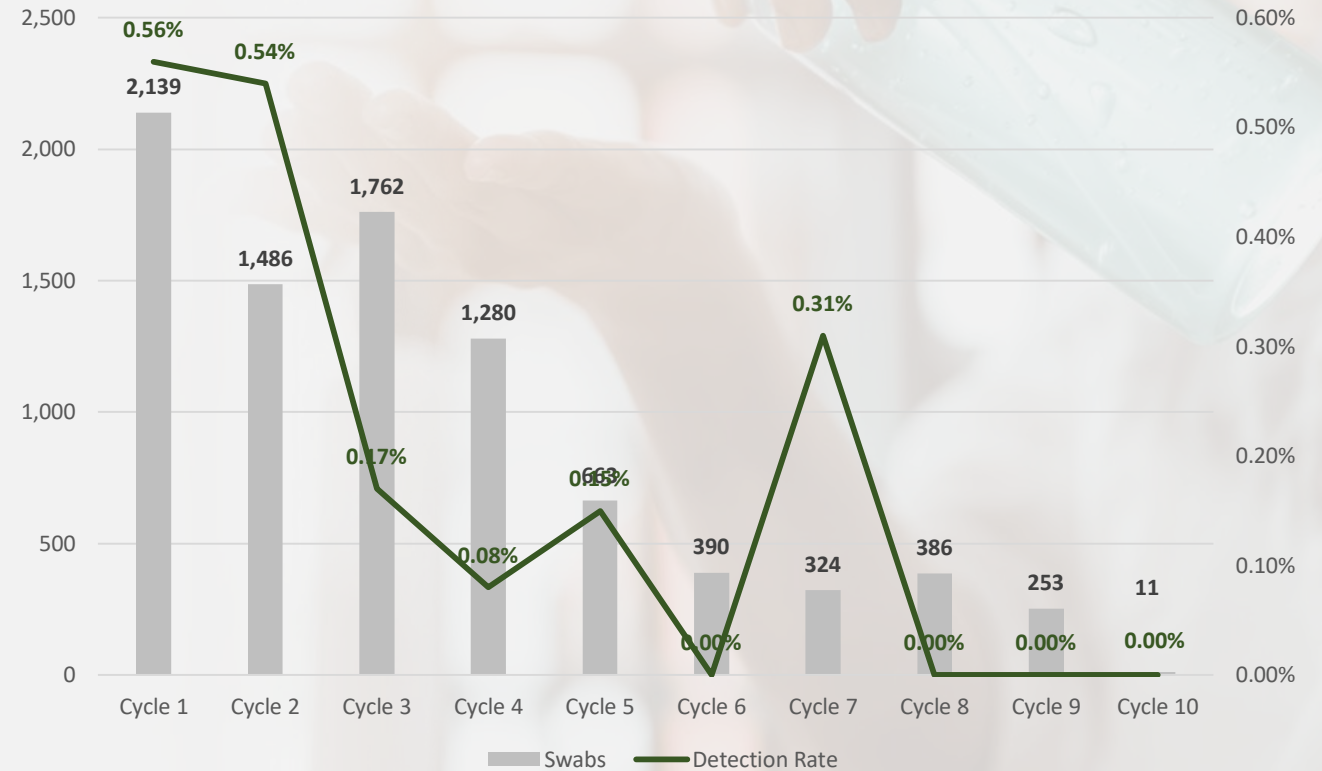


**11 tests** have been completed



**0 detected cases** identified  
(0.00% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Mental Health facilities





# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

**In Cycle 14 (Commenced 20<sup>th</sup> September);**



**61 facilities** have been tested

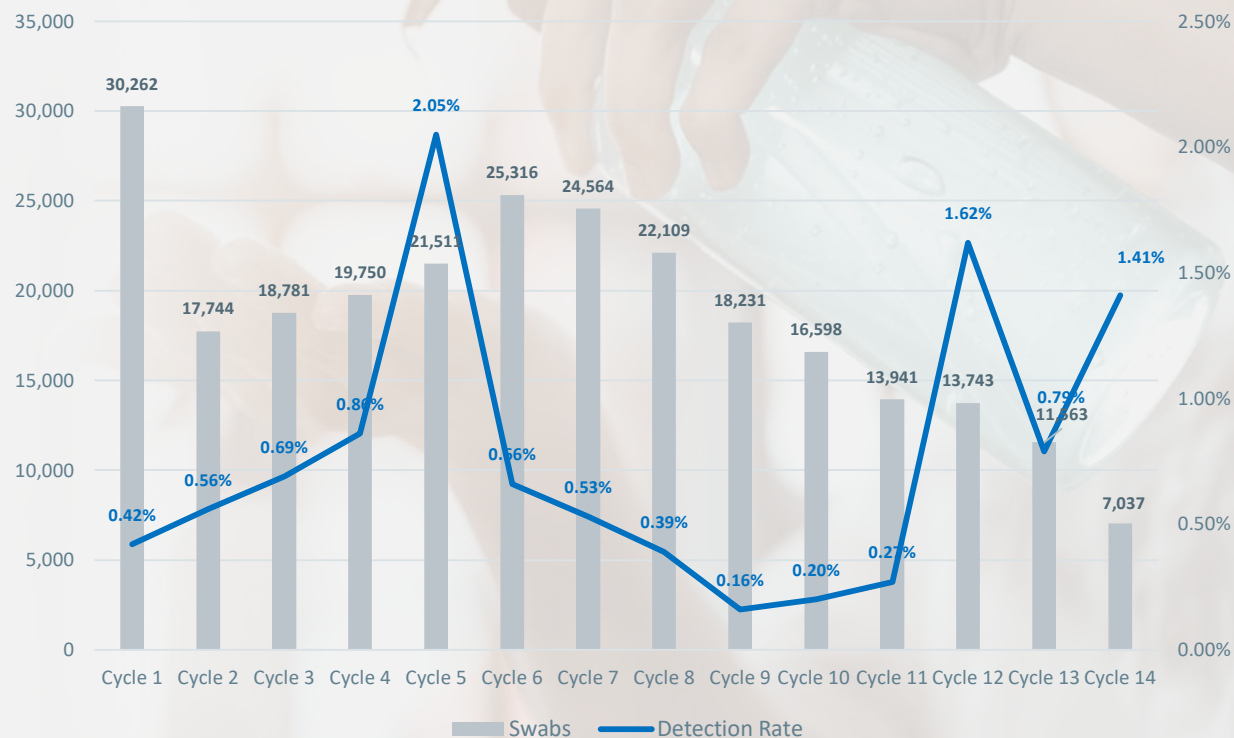


**7,037** tests have been completed



**99 detected cases** identified  
(1.41% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Food Production facilities



A circular inset image showing 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, suggesting a fluid environment. The entire image is framed within a circular area on a dark teal background.

## 4. Recruitment



# Recruitment as of 11<sup>th</sup> October

805

## Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 805 staff;  
**769** of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining **36** staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles

