

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

30th of September, 2021

Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

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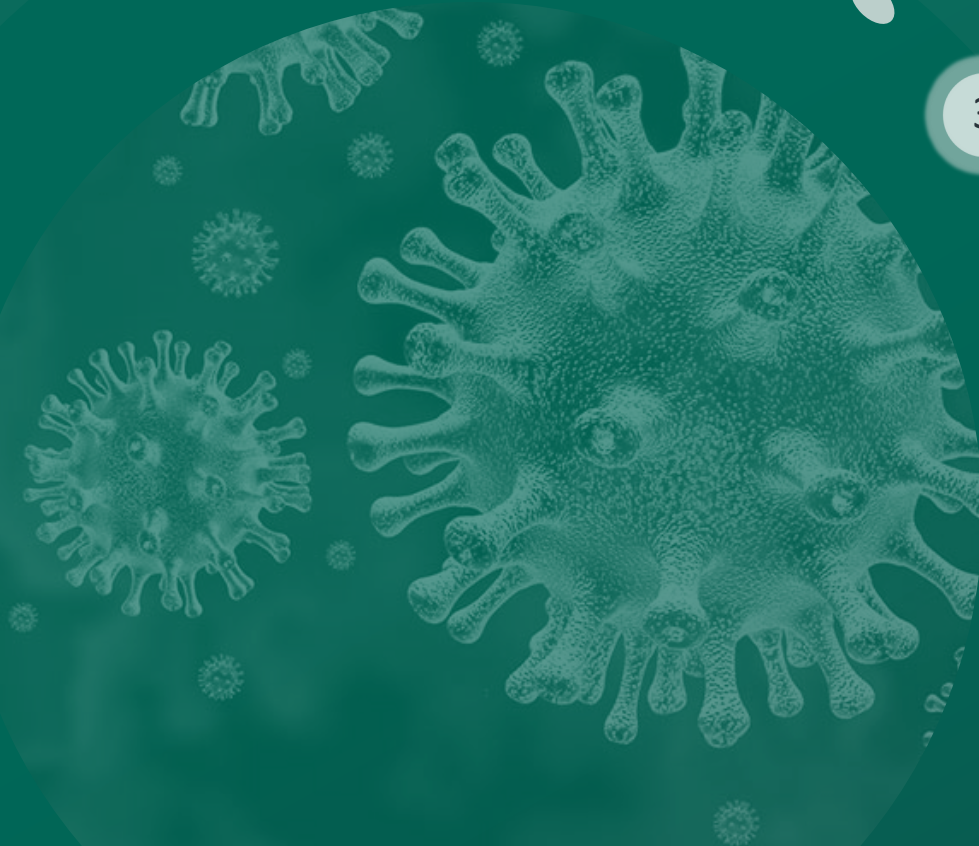
Test and Trace Trends

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Testing Programmes

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Recruitment





Test and Trace Headlines



1.1 day

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



1.9 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 116,110

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 154,926

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 18,856

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 22nd – 28th September

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 reduced by 21% in community testing sites

116,110 tests completed in last 7 days

92.2% can get a test in < 24 hrs



Close Contact Trends

Household close contacts highest at **39.7%**

Highest positivity rates in: **Household** (25.9%)



Testing and Tracing Protocol: Children

Routine testing of asymptomatic close contacts no longer taking place



Antigen Testing in Education Settings

1st phase (14 sites) completed and evaluated

2nd phase ongoing – 13 Early Learning and Childcare sites – 5 more to commence next week

7 Higher and Further Ed settings currently recruiting to commence in the coming weeks

A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. These particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, smoky background within the circular frame.

1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 22nd – 28th September



Total Community Referrals

- There were **c.124,112 community referrals** over the seven day period.
- This figure includes **1,232 International travel referrals** (↓**23%** in comparison to last week) and **83,176 referrals** from the **self-referral portal** (↓ **16.5%** in comparison to last week), the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- Overall, this weekly total has **decreased** by **21%** in comparison to the same time-frame the previous week (15th – 21st September; c.156,804 total referrals).



Total Swabs Completed

- During this time period, there were c. **116,110** swabs were completed.



Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.**154,926** lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 6.5% - Community and Acute and Serial blended. Community on its own is 7.7%**



Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 3.5 per person.**
- From 22nd – 28th September, a total of 8,784 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 22nd – 28th September, contact tracing was completed for c. 8,669 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 18,856 calls were made to close contacts.

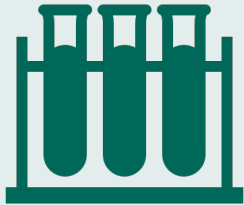
Note: The above swab figures represent total community swabs. Additional swabs are carried out in private and acute settings.



Test and Trace Turnaround Times

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 22nd – 28th September.

23 hrs



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

7.1 hrs



Median time taken to
complete contact tracing
calls

1.1 day



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

1.9 days



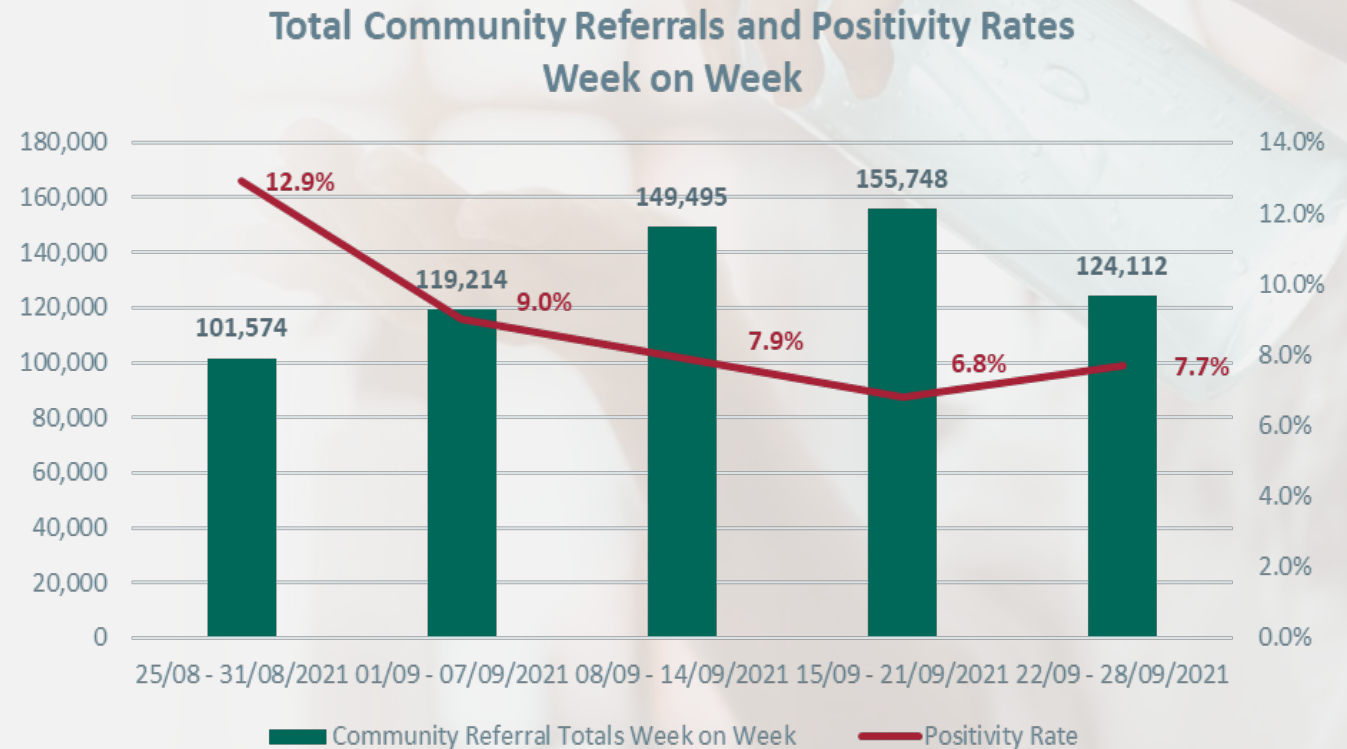
Median end to end
turnaround time for a
detected result

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 22nd – 28th September, there were **c.124,112** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **decreased by 21%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (15th – 21st September; c.156,804 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a weekly breakdown **of total community referrals** over the past 5 weeks.

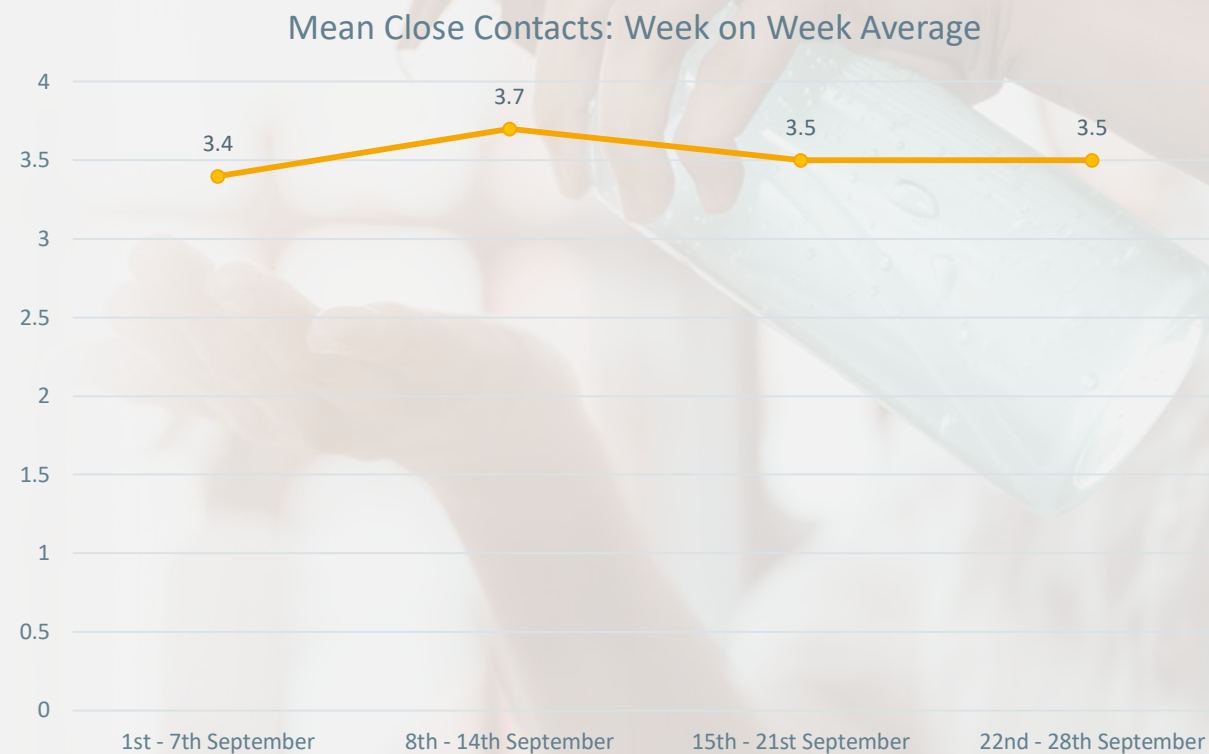




Close Contacts Trend

3.5

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.5**



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous protruding spike proteins. They are set against a dark, smoky background. The entire image is framed within a large, faint circular graphic on the left side of the slide.

3. Testing Programmes



Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

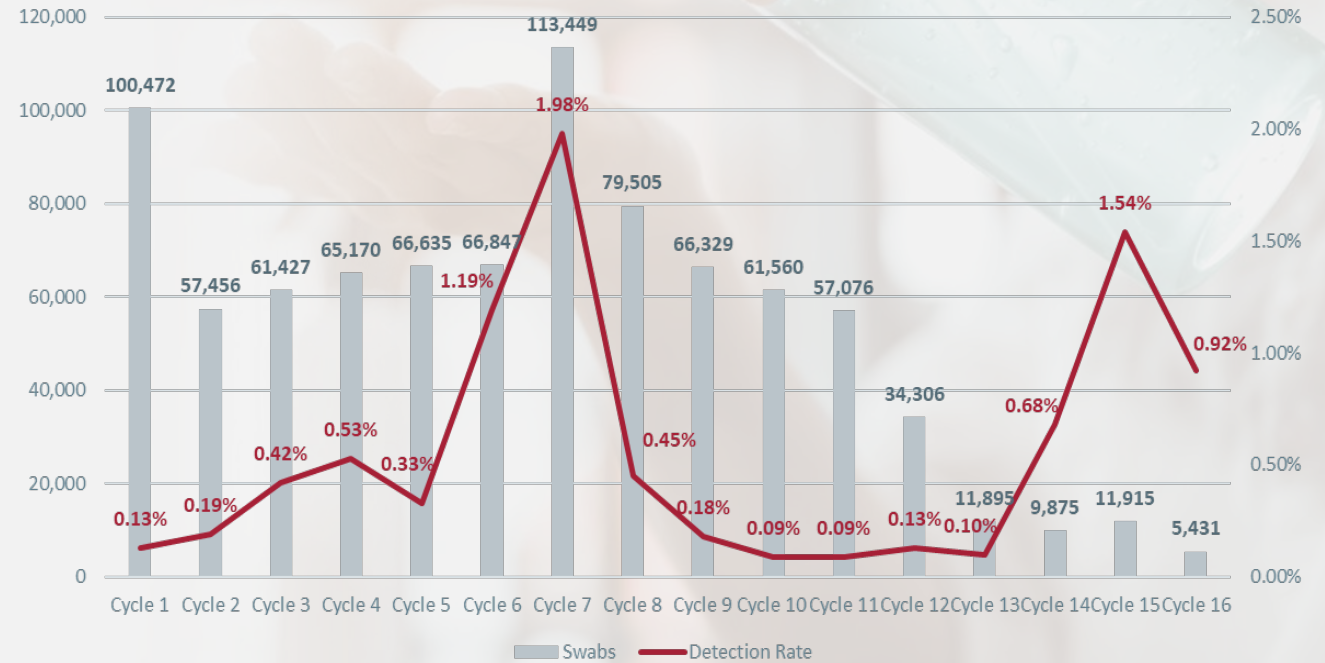
In Cycle 16 (Commenced 13th September);

190 facilities have been tested

5,431 tests have been completed

50 detected cases identified
(0.92% detected rate)

Swabs completed and detection rate per cycle in Nursing Homes





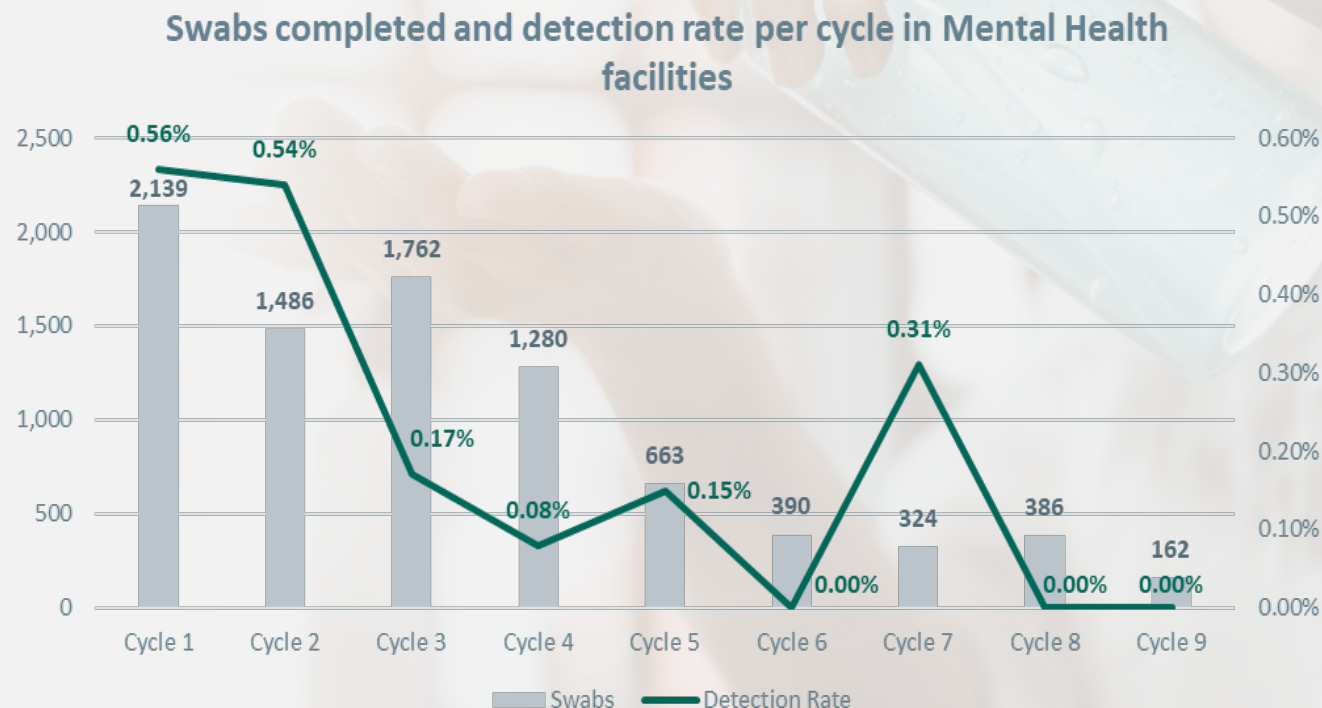
Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

In Cycle 9 (Commenced 13th September);

3 facilities have been tested

162 tests have been completed

0 detected cases identified
(0.00% detected rate)





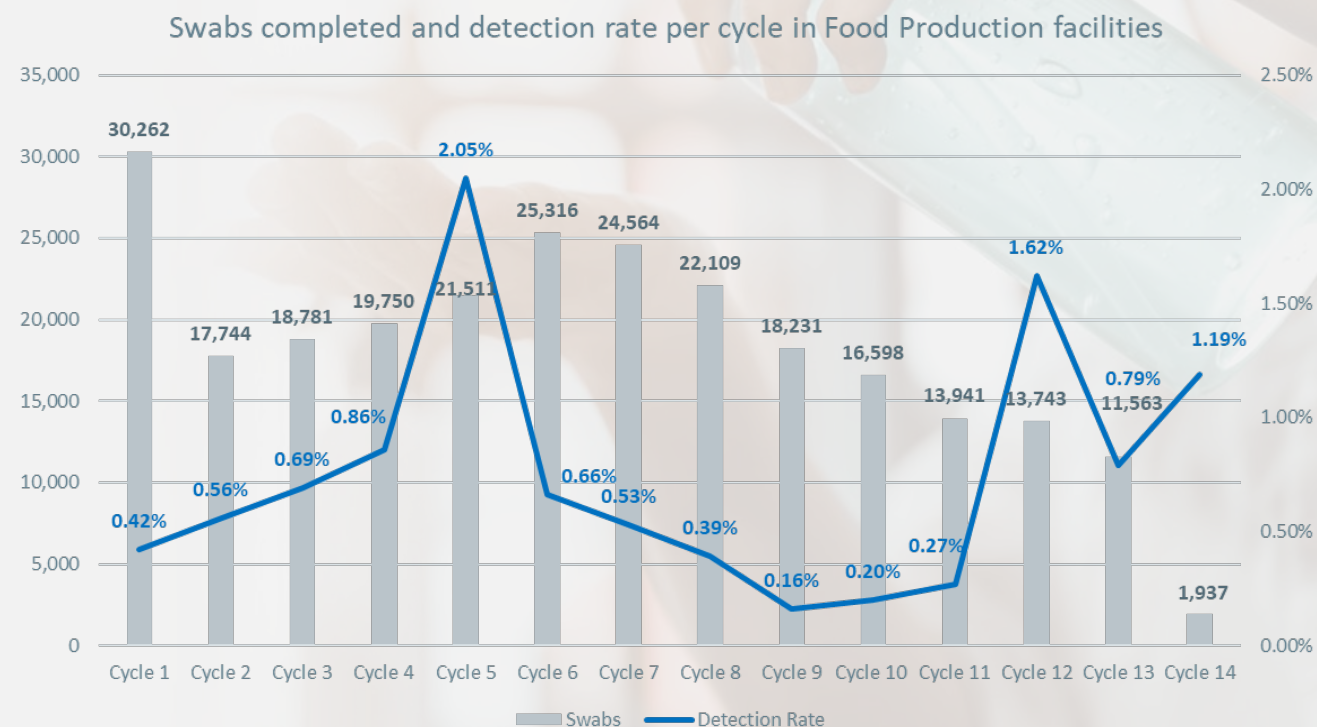
Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

In Cycle 14 (Commenced 20th September);

24 facilities have been tested

1,937 tests have been completed

23 detected cases identified
(1.19% detected rate)



Mandatory Hotel Quarantine Testing has ceased

- As of 27th September, Mandatory Hotel Quarantine has ceased.
- The data reflects results up until the 26th of September, prior to the termination of the service.

**Total Hotel Quarantine Data as of operation
cease date September 27th:**

26,829 swabs completed

8,891 in Hotel Quarantine Staff

17,856 in Hotel Quarantine Residents

621 Detected Cases



A circular inset on the left side of the slide shows 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, smoky background within the circle. The entire slide has a dark teal background with faint, concentric circular lines.

4. Recruitment



Recruitment as of 27th September

892

Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 892 staff;
803 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining 89 staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles

