

HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

8th of April, 2021

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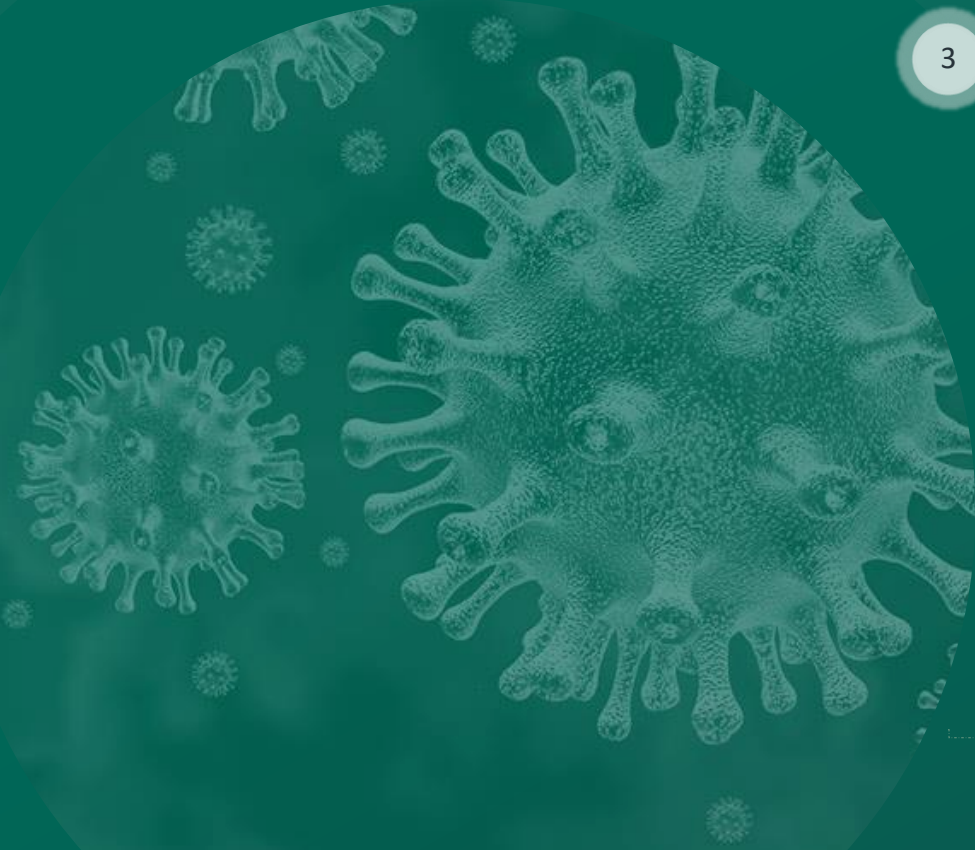
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A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



Test and Trace Headlines

Over **4,117,128**
Lab Tests Completed to Date



1.3 days

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



2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



121,580

Total number of swabs taken last week



110,710+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



3,030

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 31st March – 6th April.



Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 31st March – 6th April.



Community Referrals and total swabs taken

- Total Community Referrals (including Walk-In Referrals) were c.46,450
- From the 31st March – 6th April, over 121,580 swabs were taken across community, acutes and serial testing.
- The total community referrals (including Walk-In Referrals) has decreased by 15% since this time last week.
- **93.4%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.
- From 22nd – 28th of March of those close contacts who were referred for Test 1, attendance was **87%**.
- From 15th – 21st of March, of those close contacts who were referred for Test 2, attendance was **89%**



Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **110,716 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 3%**.



Contact Tracing

- Of the close contacts identified between 22nd – 28th of March who underwent Test 1 and whose results were available, 14.9% were positive. By circumstances of contact, positivity rates remain highest in this cohort for household close contacts where it is 30.7%.
- On the 6th of April, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number **close contacts are 3.6 per person**.
- From 31st of March – 6th of April a total of 3,456 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result.
- From 31st of March – 6th of April, contact tracing was completed for c.3,030 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c.4,716 calls were made to close contacts.



Test and Trace Turnaround Times

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 31st March – 6th April.



Turnaround

- The combined median time from swab to lab result in community and acute settings was **22 hours**.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a **mean of 7.3 hours** and a **median of 5.1 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 2 days for detected results**.

A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from the surface. The background is dark, making the lighter-colored virus particles stand out.

Walk In Test Centres



Walk in - Test Centres

Symptom Free Walk-In COVID-19 Testing

TO BE UPDATED WITH DATA
FROM 7TH APRIL on 8TH APRIL

- Covid-19 walk-in test centres provide quicker and easier access to Covid-19 testing for asymptomatic people
- Up to the 6th April there have been 12 walk-in test centres opened which saw a significant uptake of testing
 - 24,373 people attended
 - The 25-44 age group make up 45% of walk-ins
 - Overall positivity rate for walk-in test centres is 2.7%
 - Positivity rate was highest among the 15-24 year old Category at 4.4%
- Additional testing centres are due to open later this week and will target where there is the greatest risk of disease.

HE | **Rialtas na hÉireann**
Government of Ireland

Coronavirus COVID-19
Public Health Advice

Don't have symptoms of COVID-19 but want to be tested?

Try our new free, walk-in COVID-19 testing service.



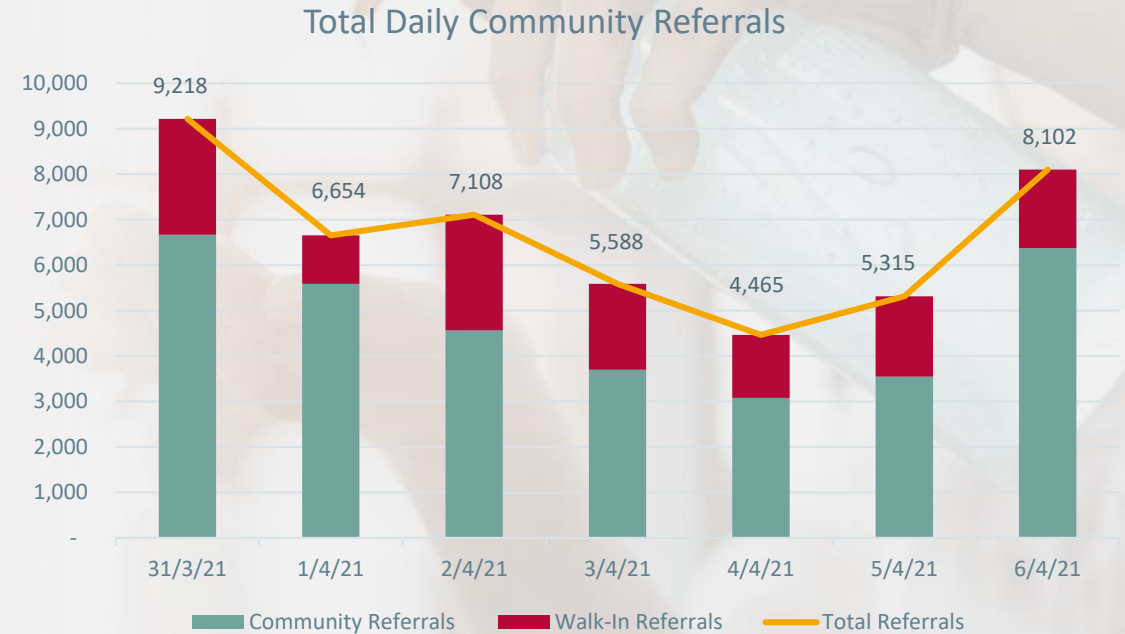
Testing and Trace Trends



Total Community Referrals

Including Walk-In Referrals

- From the 31st March – 6th April, **total community referrals (including walk-ins) were c.46,450.**
- This weekly total has decreased by 15% in comparison to the same time-period last week.
- The graph to the right shows a breakdown of **daily community referrals** over the past 7 days.

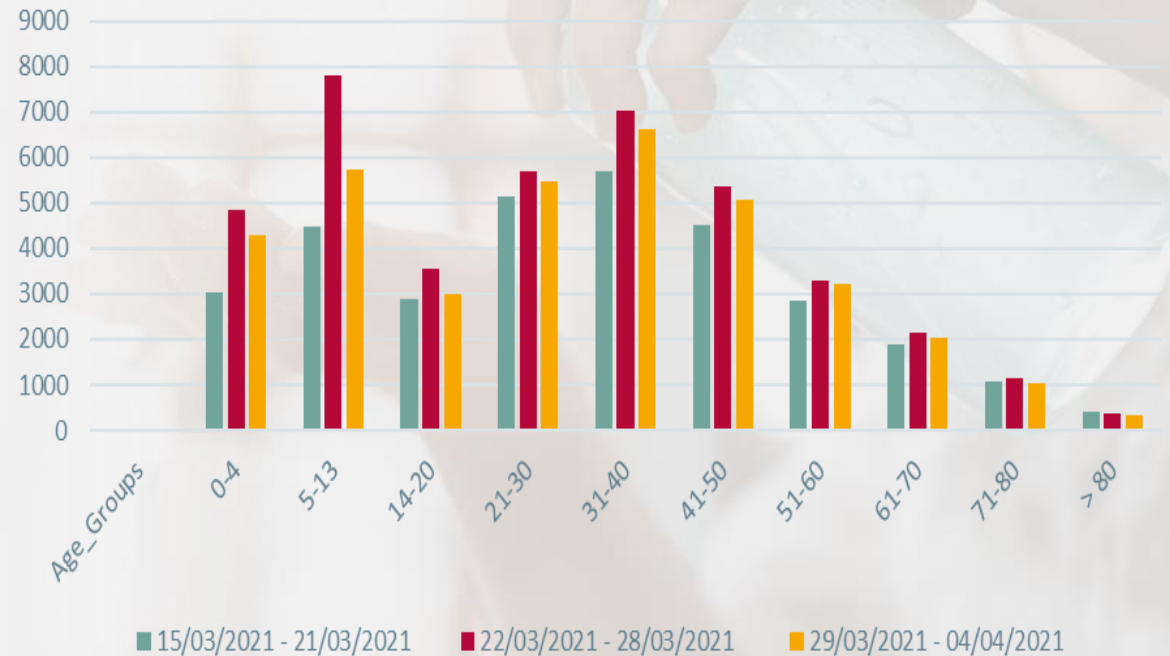




Community Referrals by Age Group

- From the 29th March – 4th of April, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the **31-40** age group.
- The **31-40** age group made up **18%** of all referrals.
- The detected rate for the **31-40** age group was **c.8.5%**.

Referral Data Volumes by Age Group

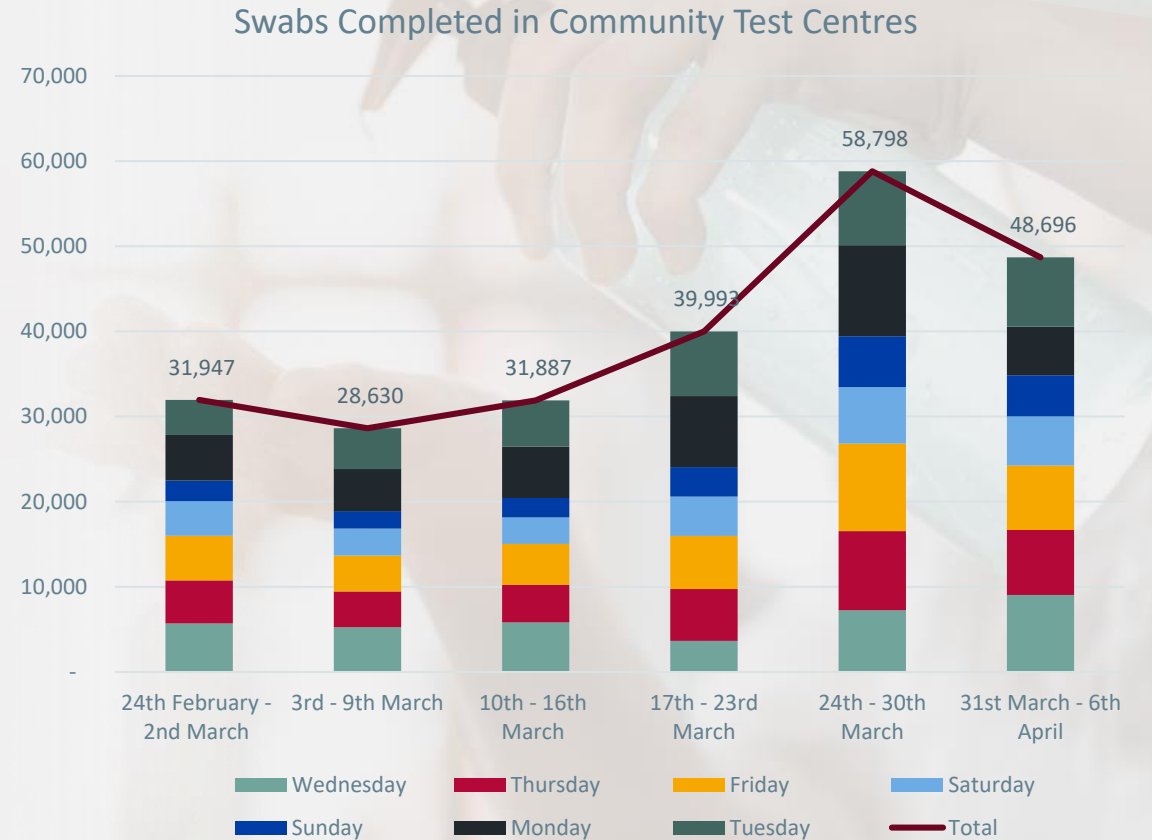




Swabs Completed in Community Test Centres

Including Walk-in Test Centres

Over the 7 day period, 31st – 6th April, there has been **c.48,696** swabs completed in community test centres (including walk-in test centres)

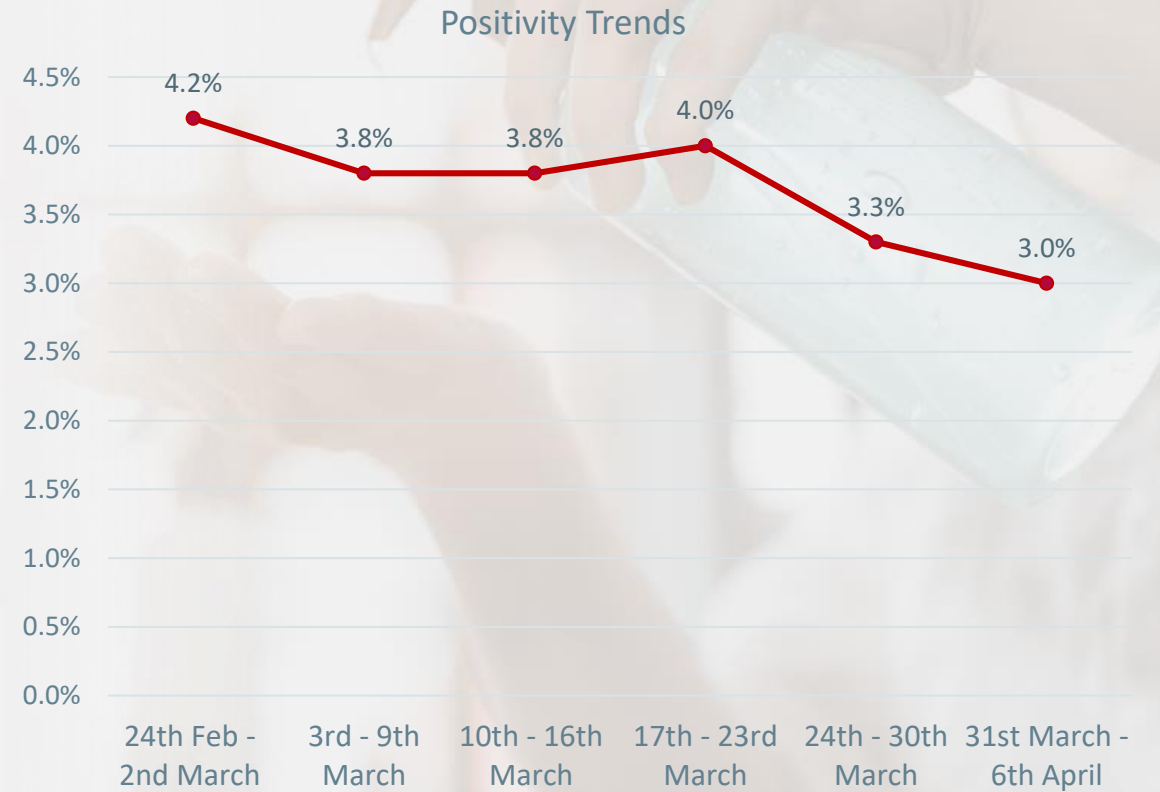




Overall Positivity Trend

c.3%

- The positivity rate for the past seven days is **c.3%**
- This is a decrease from the positivity rate last week, where the average positivity rate was 3.3%.

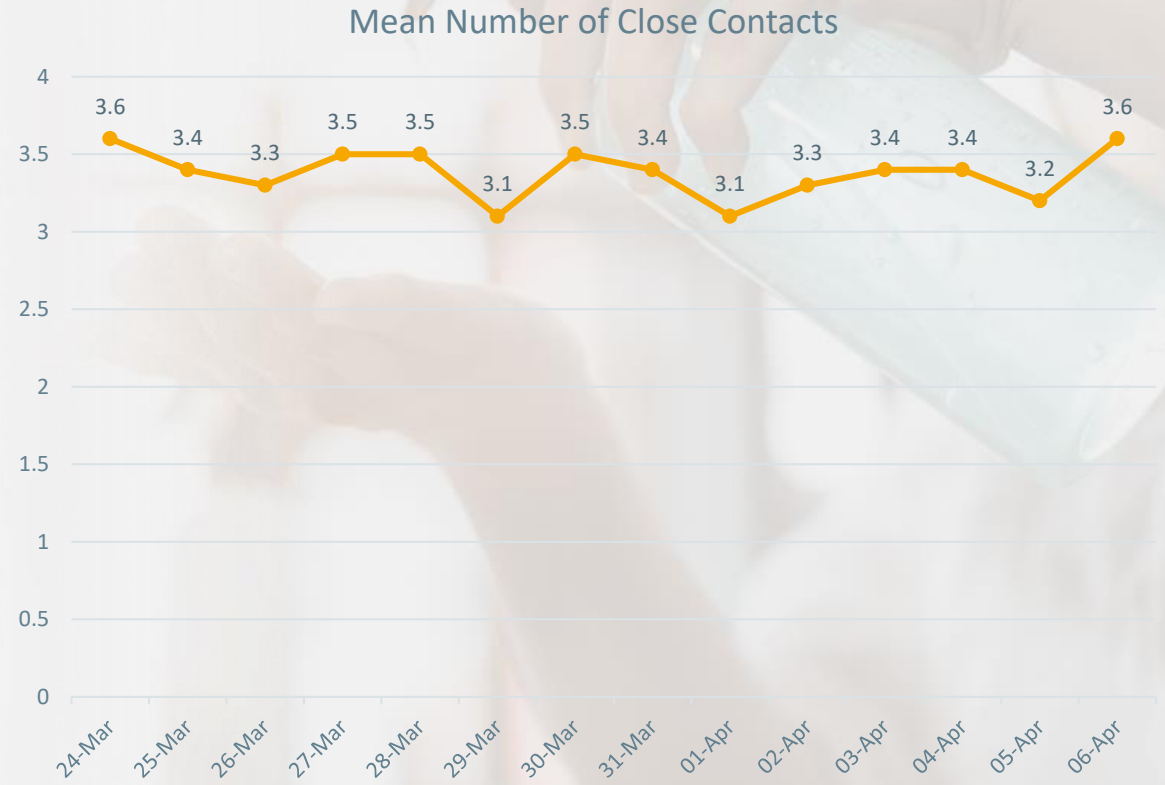




Close Contacts Trend

3.6

As of the 6th of April, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.6**



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from the surface. The background is dark, and the particles are rendered in a light, translucent green color. The circular inset is set against a larger, semi-transparent circular background of the same color.

Testing Programmes

Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

Cycle 10 of serial testing for Nursing Homes commenced on 29th of March.

In Cycle 10;



375 facilities have been tested

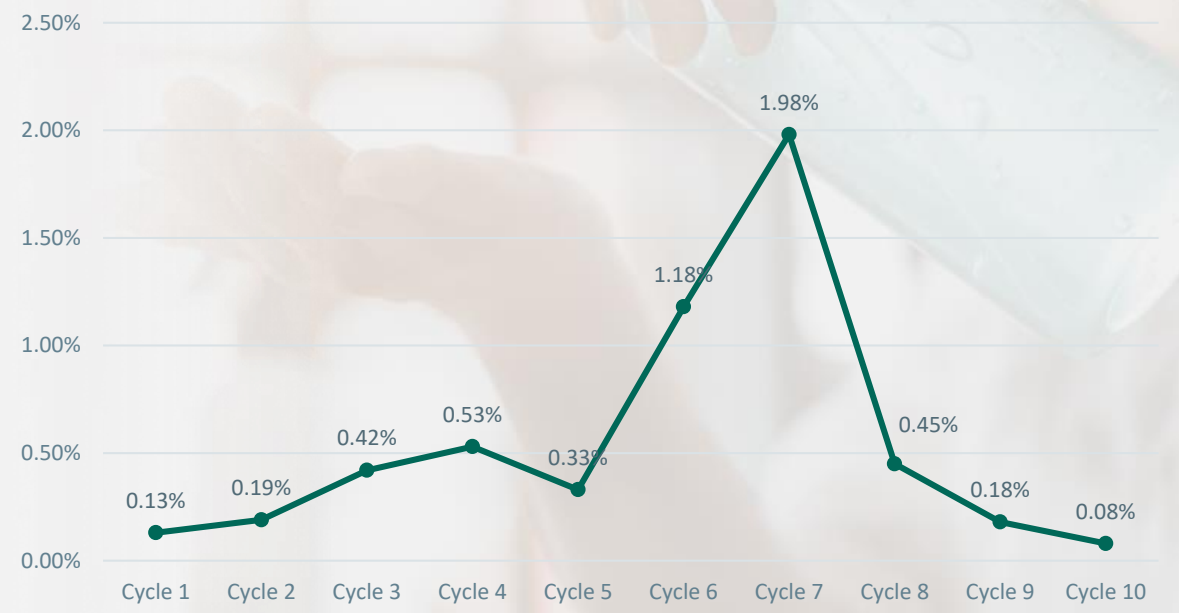


17,989 tests have been completed



14 detected cases identified
(0.08% detected rate)

Nursing Home Detected Rate per Cycle





Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 3 of serial testing for Mental Health Facilities commenced on 29th of March.

In Cycle 3;



16 facilities have been tested

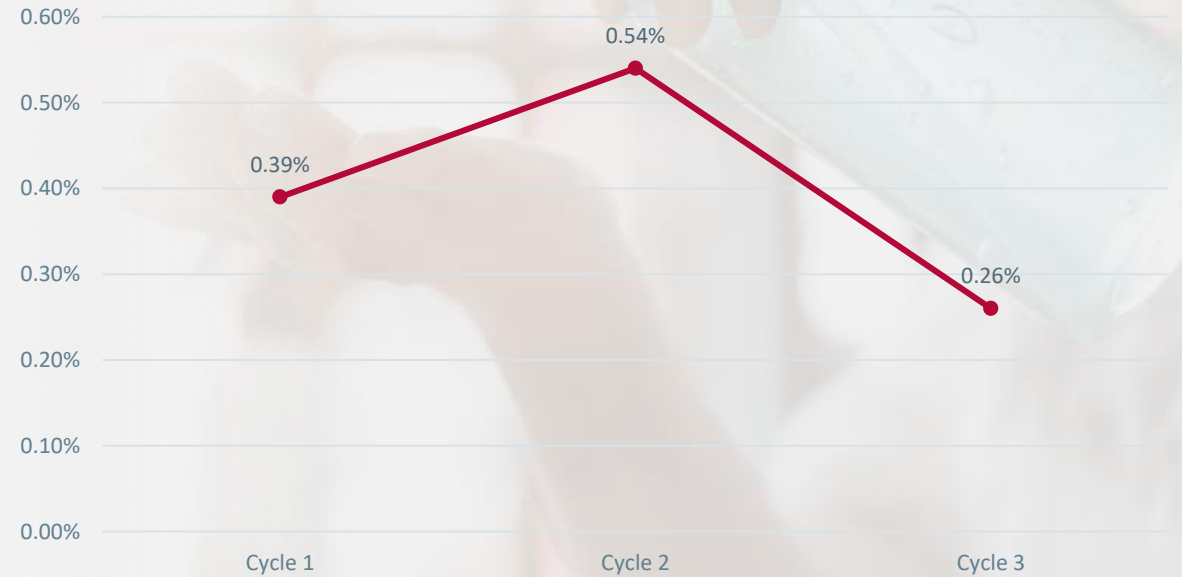


769 tests have been completed



2 detected cases identified
(0.26% detected rate)

Mental Health Facilities Detected Rate per Cycle





Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 8 of serial testing for Food Production Facilities commenced on 6th of April.

In Cycle 8;



10 facilities have been tested

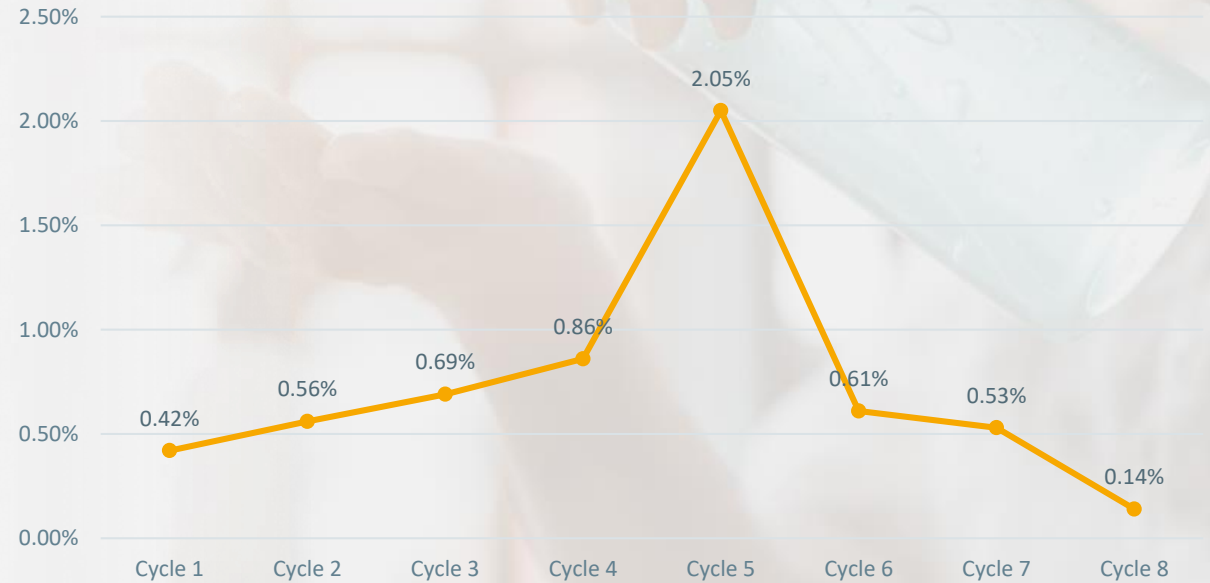


2,119 tests have been completed



3 detected cases identified
(0.14% detected rate)

Food Production Detected Rate per Cycle





Mandatory Hotel Quarantine Testing

- All passengers arriving into Ireland from designated states are now required to pre-book accommodation in a designated quarantine facility.
- Testing resources have been made available in Quarantine Facilities since 26th March 2021, and are available on a daily basis to accommodate the testing of all new arrivals.
- The scope of testing includes:
 - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 2 Countries on Day 0 and Day 10
 - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 1 Countries that have not been able to produce a negative result
 - Testing of Quarantine Hotel Staff on a weekly basis

Total Hotel Quarantine Swabs

Hotel Staff

149 swabs complete

Quarantine Residents

413 swabs complete



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from their surface. They are set against a dark, circular background.

Education and Childcare



In the Last Week

1 day

from swab to
communication of
result

Testing in Education and Childcare Facilities

primary
schools

4,691
individuals

198 primary
schools

2.0%
Positivity rate

Post primary
schools

780
individuals

50 post-
primary
schools

0.6%
Positivity rate

Special
schools

225
individuals

9 special
schools

1.3%
Positivity rate

Childcare
facilities

1,639
individuals

105 childcare
facilities

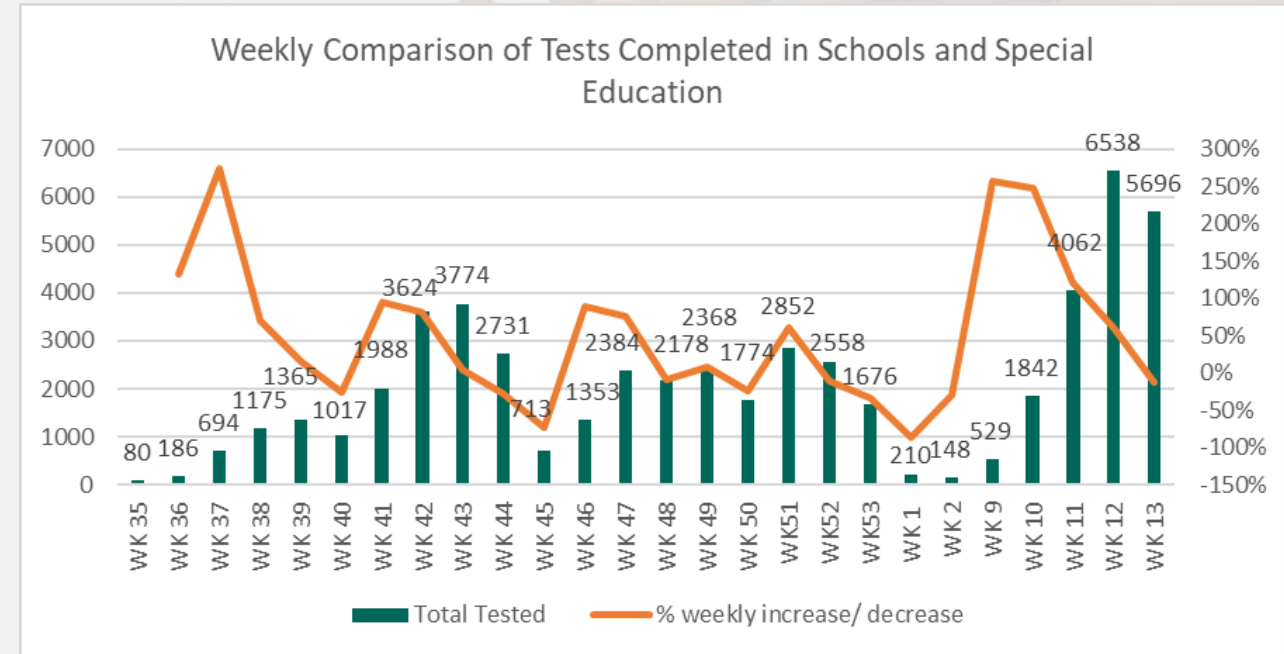
5.1%
Positivity rate



Education Facilities

Weekly Comparison of Tests Completed in Schools and Special Education Settings

- The graph provides a week to week view of the levels of testing completed in **Schools and Special Education settings**.
- In the last week (week 13, 28th March – 3rd April 2021), there were **over 5,600 tests completed**.



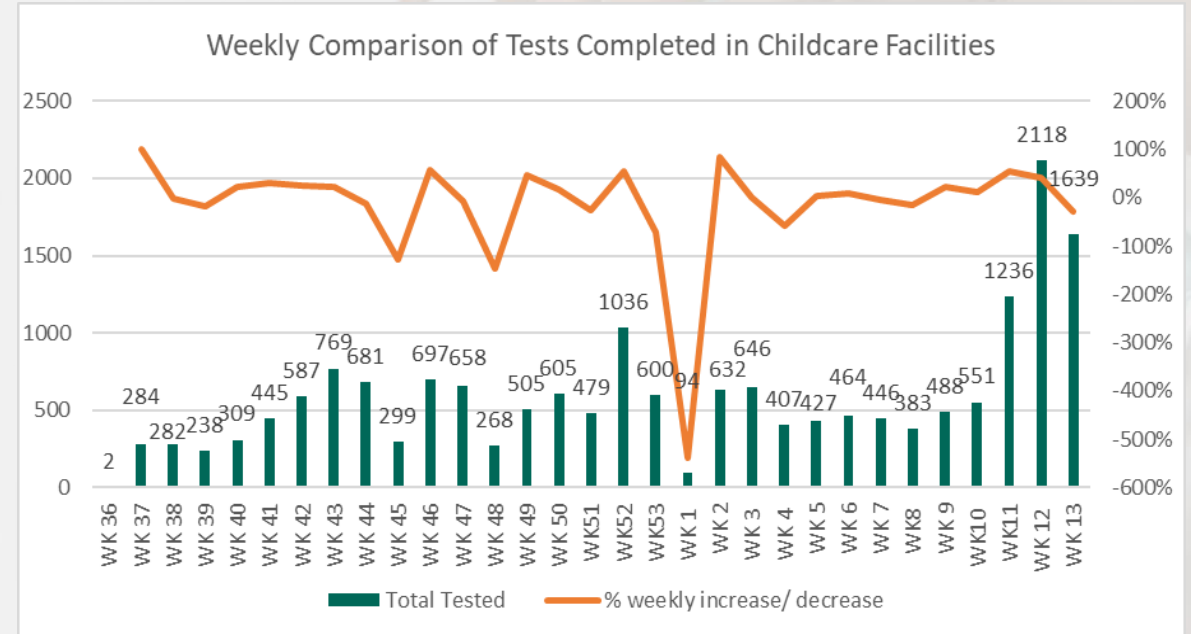
Weekly Analysis of Schools and Special Education Testing by Week



Childcare Facilities

Weekly Comparison of Tests Completed in Childcare facilities

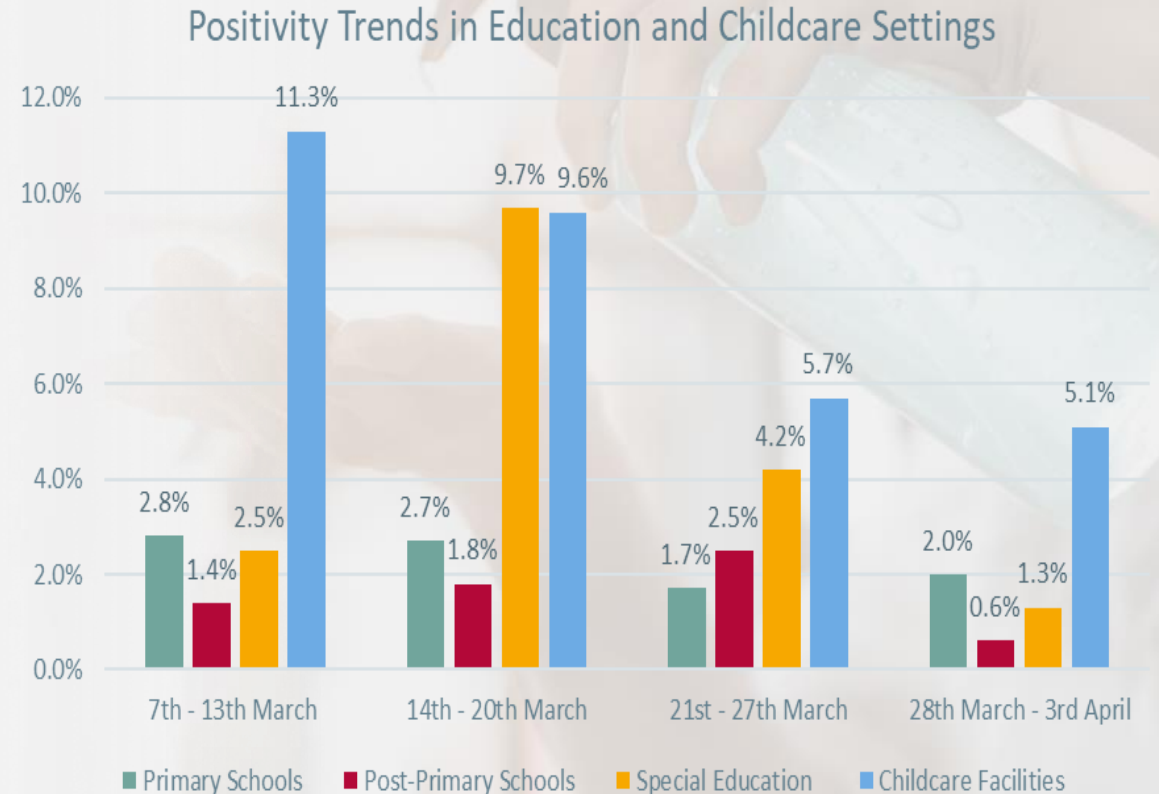
- The graph provides a week to week view of the levels of testing and % increase/decrease of testing completed in Childcare Facilities.
- In the last week (week 13, 28th March – 3rd April 2021), there were over **1,600 tests completed**.



Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

- This graph shows the positivity trend in primary schools, post primary schools, special education and childcare facilities over the past four weeks.
- The positivity rate in **childcare facilities** has been decreasing over the past four weeks and last week was **5.1%**.
- In the last week the positivity rate in;
 - **Special education** schools was 1.3%
 - **Post-primary** schools was 0.6%
 - **Primary schools** was 2%

This positivity rate will continue to be monitored as schools return from Easter break in the coming weeks.



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from their outer layer. They are set against a dark, circular background.

Test and Trace Service Updates

Source Investigation

- As of 31 March, CTCs are going back seven days prior to the onset of symptoms from individuals that have been identified as a detected case from community transmission.
- The objective of source investigation is to identify the source of infection and other contacts who might have been exposed at the same time.
- The effectiveness of Source Investigation is dependent on the incidence rate and burden of disease at any point in time. Low levels of infection in a country represents an opportunity to chase-down the few remaining cases.
- Source investigation is something that Departments of Public Health have been doing throughout the pandemic. This recent initiative is designed to facilitate the work of the regional Departments of Public Health.





Contact Management Programme and Source Investigation

- From the 29th March – 4th April the number of close contacts managed by the CMP was 11,120, a 27% decrease from the 15,134 reported during the previous week ending 28th March.
- Of the **11,120** close contacts:
 - **4,280** were close contacts from **households**
 - **1,894** were close contacts from **primary schools**
 - **1,637** were close contacts from **social gatherings**
- Of the **close contacts** referred for testing, the group with the **highest referrals** was the **5-12 age group**
 - This is reflective of the numbers referred for testing from primary schools

The CMP was developed by the HSE to support Departments of Public Health by notifying results to people tested for COVID-19 (or a nominated person), and to identify and manage contacts of people known to have COVID-19.





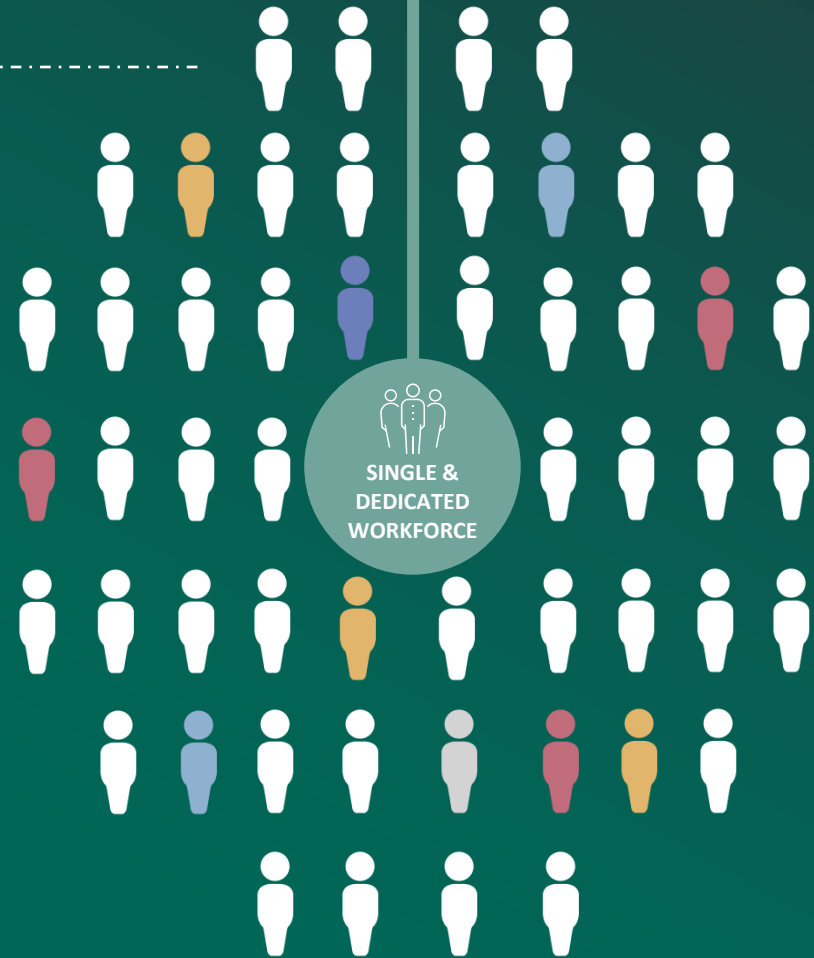
777
Community Swabbers

Recruited and Onboarded

846
Staff supporting Contact Tracing

Of these 846 staff;
804 of these staff have been hired
and retained as part of
dedicated workforce to support
the contact tracing function

The remaining 42 staff are redeployed
from the HSE and other Public Service
Roles





Conclusion

1

As of 31st March, there are **over 4,117,128 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.

2

Our median end to end turnaround time is **2 days for detected cases** and **1.3 days for not detected cases**.

3

The **total community referrals (including Walk-Ins)** has **decreased by 15%** since this time last week.

