

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021

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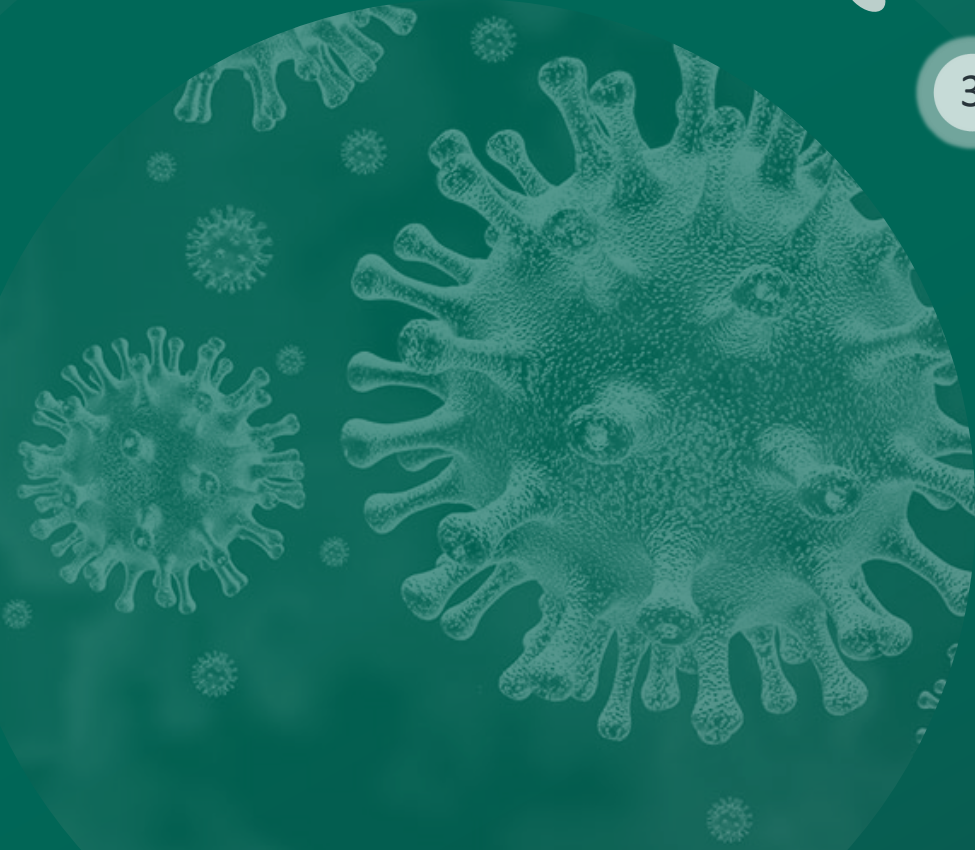
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## Test and Trace Headlines



1.3 days

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



2.2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



c. 128,607

Total number of swabs taken last week



c. 119,695

Total number of laboratory tests last week



c. 6,721

Calls made to close contacts last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 30<sup>th</sup> June– 6<sup>th</sup> July.

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. They are set against a dark, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

## 1. Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> July.



### Total Community Referrals

- There were c. 92,692 community referrals over the seven day period.
- This figure includes 22,004 walk-in referrals, 6,398 International travel referrals and 21,089 referrals from the self-referral portal, the remainder relate to GP and close contact referrals.
- International travel referrals for Day 5 testing has increased by 31.1% in comparison to the same timeframe last week.
- Overall, this weekly total has increased by **23.4%** in comparison to the same time-frame last week (23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June; c.59, 77,338 total referrals).



### Total Swabs Taken

- During this time period, there were c. 128,607 swabs were completed – this includes Community, Serial testing and Acute hospital swabbing



### Laboratory Tests and Detected Rate

- During this time period, there was c.119,695 lab tests reported in community, private and acute settings over the past week.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 2.9%**.



### Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, of those tested with close contacts, the average number **close contacts was 4.0 per person**.
- From 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> July, a total of 3,149 calls were completed to inform individuals of their detected COVID-19 test result.
- From 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> July, contact tracing was completed for c. 2,858 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c. 6,721 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 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> July.



### Turnaround Times

- The combined median time from swab to lab result in community and acute settings was **24 hours**.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a **mean of 12.3 hours** and a **median of 9.6 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.3 day for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 2.2 days for detected results**.

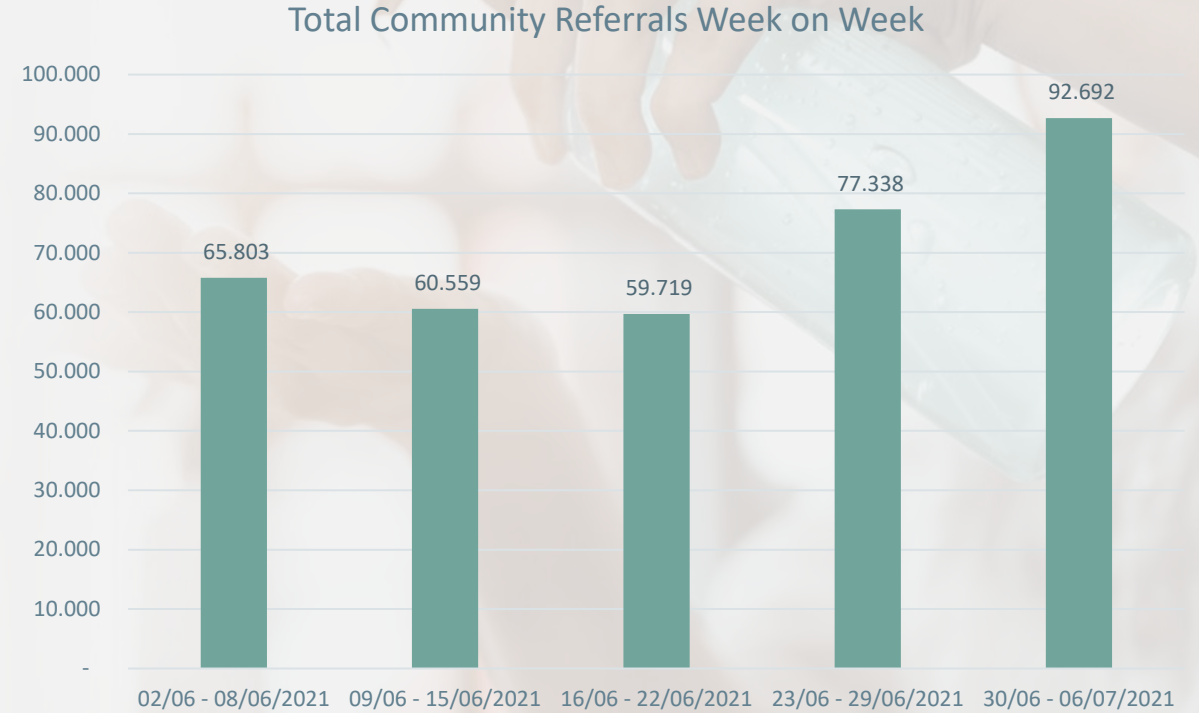
A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions (glycoprotein spikes) extending from their outer layer. They are set against a dark, circular background.

## 2. Testing and Trace Trends



# Total Community Referrals

- From the 30<sup>th</sup> June– 6<sup>th</sup> July, there were a total of **c. 92,692** Community Referrals (including walk-ins, international travel and self referrals)
- This weekly total has **increased by 23.4%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June; c. 77,338 total referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a daily breakdown of **total community referrals** over the past 7 days.








# Community Testing

## Symptom Free Walk-In COVID-19 Testing

From June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 6<sup>th</sup> over **90,000 people** have attended our test sites

As of the 6<sup>th</sup> July:

- The overall **positivity rate** at walk in test centres over the past 7 days was **4.6%**
- The age group with the **highest positivity rate** at walk in test centres was the **15-24 year old group (7.3%)**
- The walk in test centre, with the highest positivity rate to date been seen in Letterkenny (11%).



The advertisement features the HE logo and the Government of Ireland logo on the left. On the right, it includes the Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice logo. The central text asks, 'Don't have symptoms of COVID-19 but want to be tested?' and promotes a free, walk-in testing service. A graphic of a smartphone with a thermometer icon is positioned on the right side of the ad.

# Pop-up - Test Centres

As of the 6<sup>th</sup> July:

- The following pop-ups are operational in Dublin (Blanchardstown & The Liberties), Athlone and Donegal.
- The self-referral online portal has been updated to allow u-16s to book a test through this channel.
- Current operational procedures for those u-16 will apply at testing centres upon arrival.





# International Travel Referrals

*The international on-line booking system allows booking an appointment 5 days after arrival to the country. At present, work is currently underway to add the day 10 functionality.*

As of the 6<sup>th</sup> of July:

- The overall **positivity rate** at **International travel referrals** over the past 7 days was **0.5%**.
- The age group with the highest positivity rate for International travel referrals was the **15-24 year old group (0.8%)**.
- The highest positivity rates for International travel referrals have been seen in Sligo, Finisklin (2.4%) and Galway, NUIG Campus (1.4%).

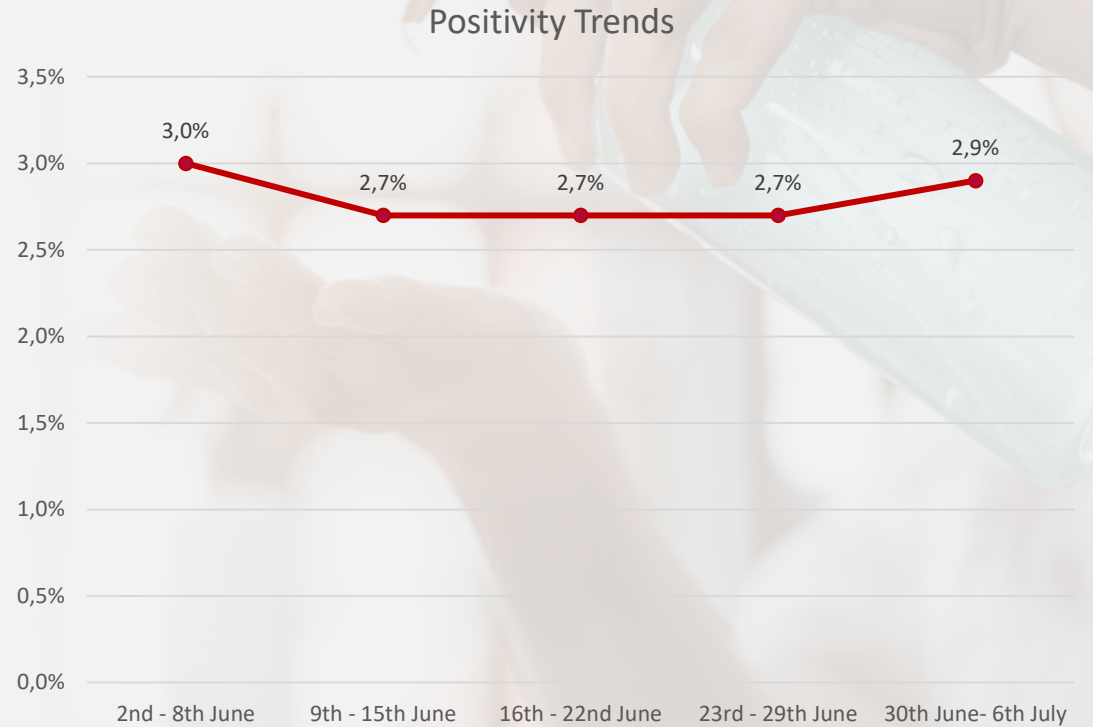




# Overall Positivity Trend

**c.2.9%**

- The positivity rate for the past seven days is **c.2.9%**
- The positivity rate has increased by 0.2% since the same time-period last week (2.7%)





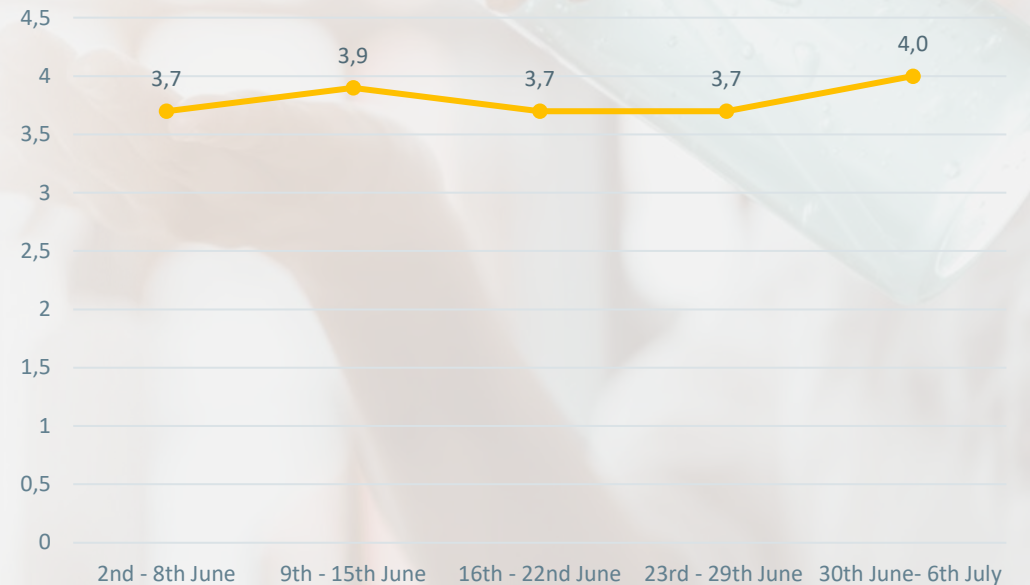
# Close Contacts Trend

*In order to combat the spread of Covid-19 within the community, the public are advised to share all close contact details with HSE Contact Tracing Teams. This is particularly important as society begins to open back up.*

4.0

Over the last 7 days, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **4.0**

Mean Close Contacts: Week on Week Average



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 with some faint, smaller particles visible.

## 3. Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

Cycle 13 of serial testing for Nursing Homes commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> of June.

## In Cycle 13;



**275 facilities** have been tested

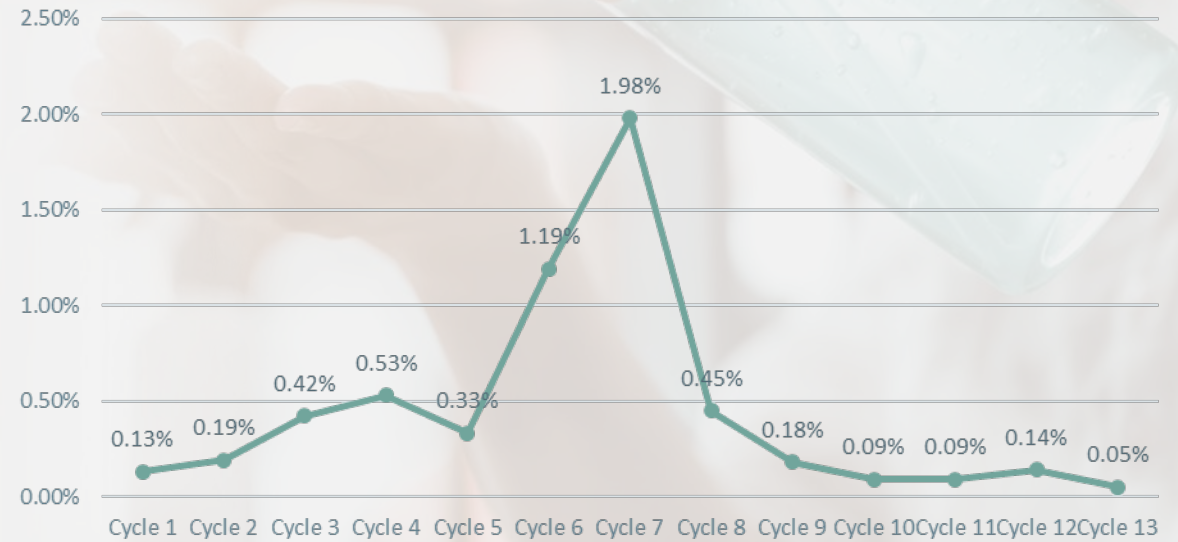


**7,330 tests** have been completed



**4 detected cases** identified  
(0.05% detected rate)

Nursing Home Detected Rate per Cycle





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 6 of serial testing for Mental Health Facilities commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## In Cycle 6;



**5 facilities** have been tested

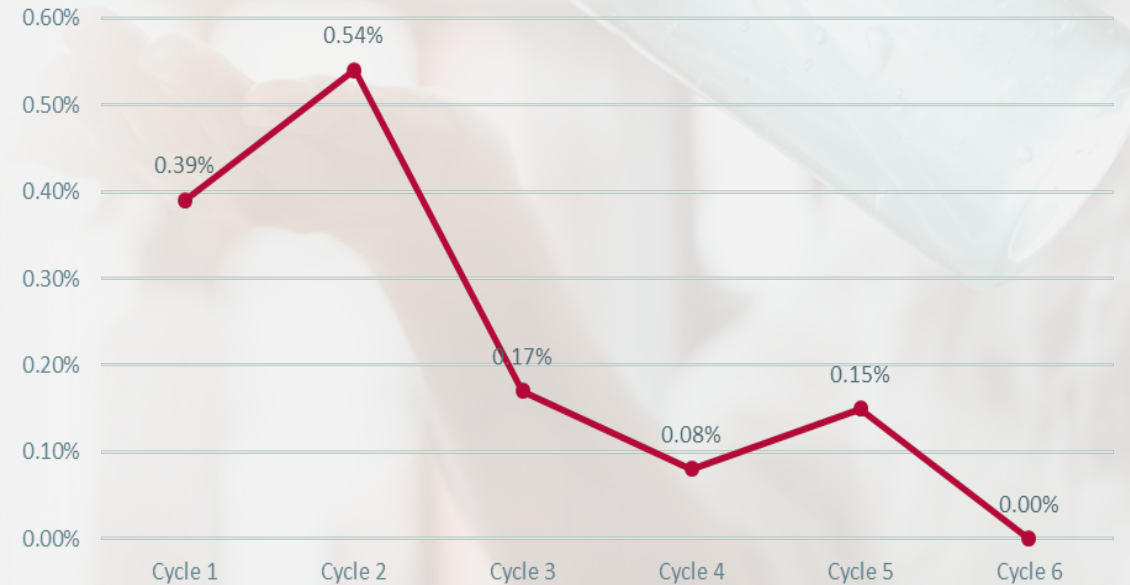


**192 tests** have been completed



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

Mental Health Facilities Detected Rate per Cycle







# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 11 of serial testing for Food Production Facilities commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## In Cycle 11;



**30 facilities** have been tested

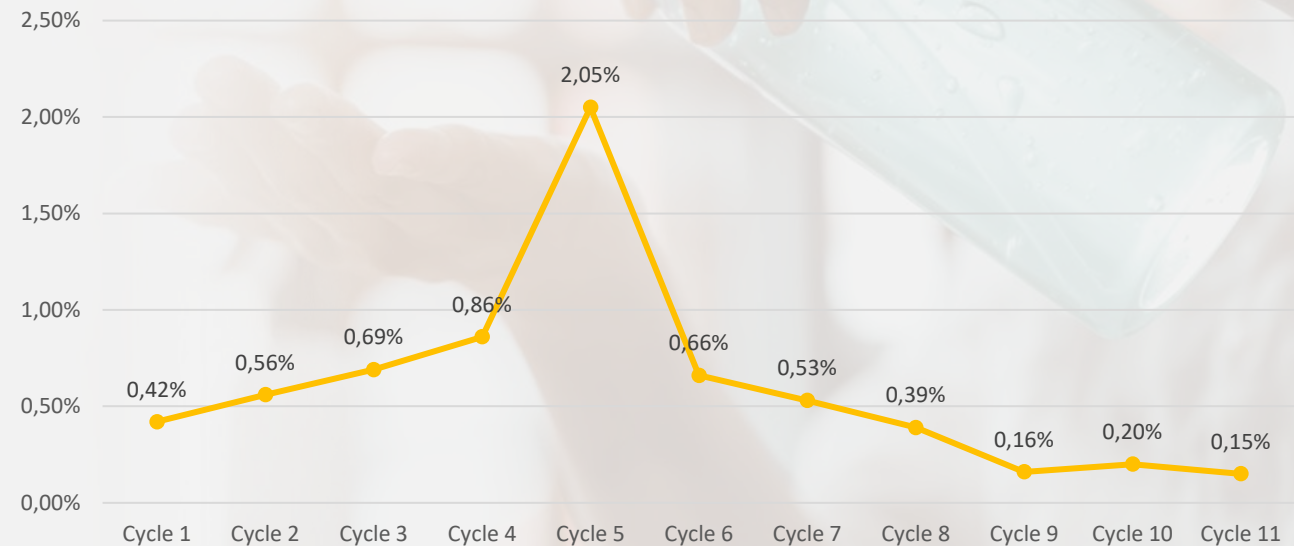


**4,750 tests** have been completed



**7 detected cases** identified  
(0.15% detected rate)

Food Production Detected Rate per Cycle





# Mandatory Hotel Quarantine Testing

- All passengers arriving into Ireland from designated states are required to pre-book accommodation in a designated quarantine facility.
- Testing resources have been made available in Quarantine Facilities since 26<sup>th</sup> 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 as of July 6<sup>th</sup>:

### Hotel Staff

**4,583** swabs complete

### Quarantine Residents

**11,920** swabs complete

### Detected Cases To Date

**354**



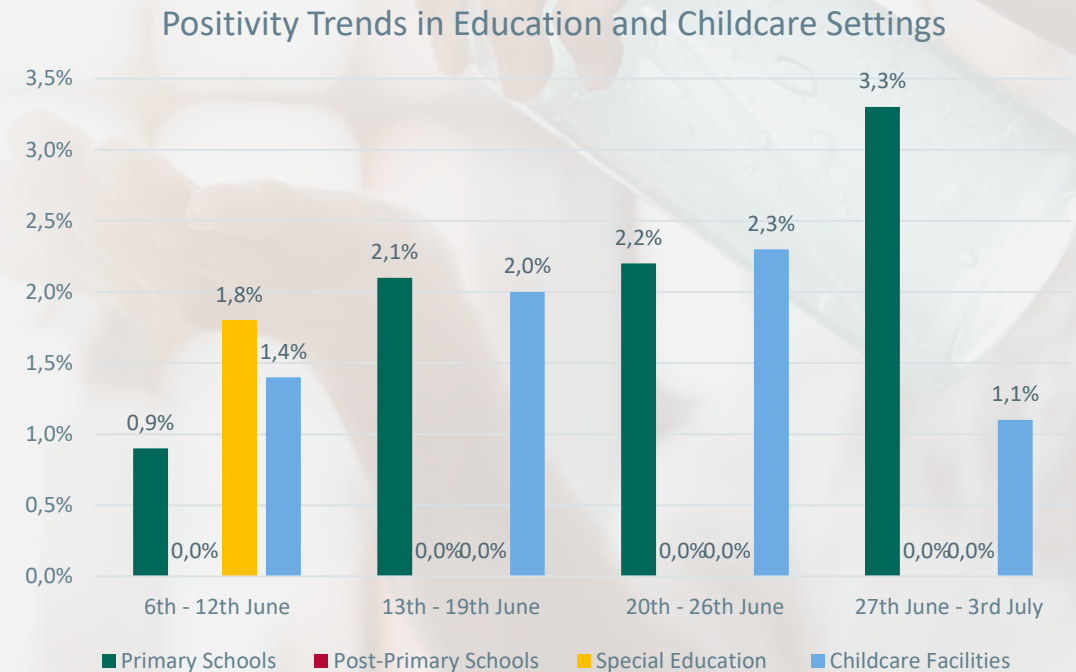
A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark background with some smaller, less distinct particles scattered around. The entire image is overlaid on a teal gradient background with faint concentric circles.

## 4. Education and Childcare

# Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

From the 27<sup>th</sup> June– 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021;

- 2,320 tests were completed in 130 **Primary Schools** resulting in a **3.3%** positivity rate.
- 2 tests were completed in 1 **Post-primary Schools** resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 23 tests were completed in 4 **Special Education** settings resulting in a **0.0%** positivity rate.
- 526 tests were completed in 53 **Childcare Facilities** resulting in a **1.1%** positivity rate.



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 with some smaller, less distinct particles scattered around.

## 5. Recruitment



# Recruitment as of 5<sup>th</sup> July

858

Community  
Swabbers

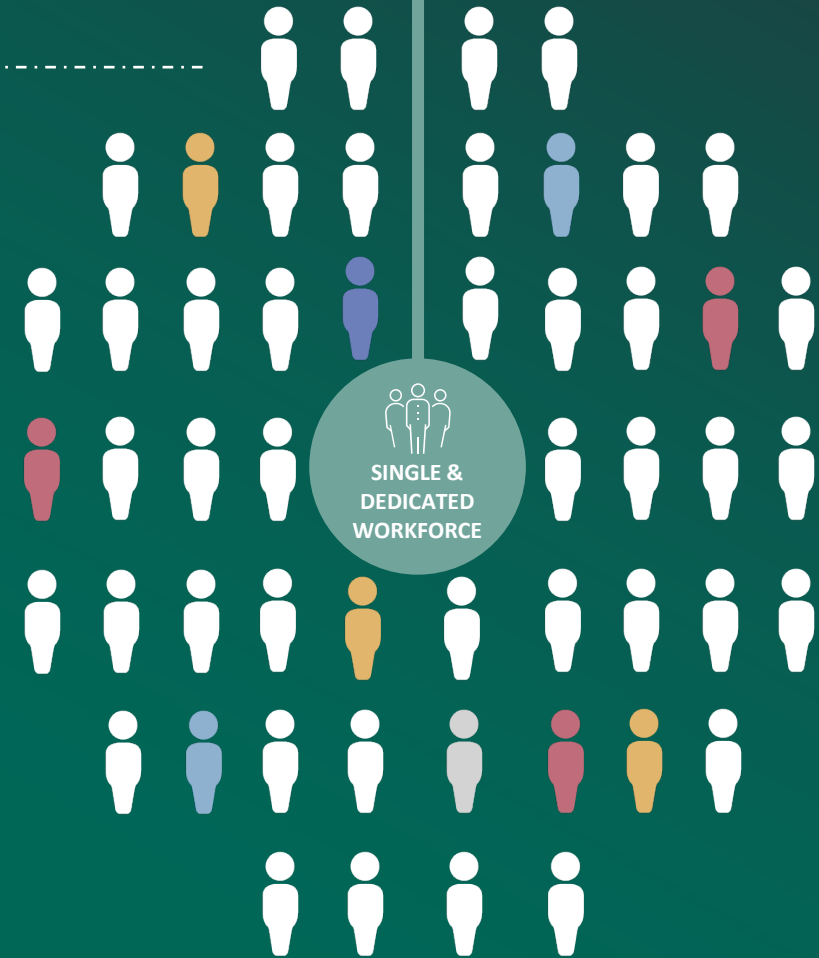
Recruited and Onboarded

926

Staff supporting  
Contact Tracing

Of these 926 staff;  
885 of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining 41 staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles





# Conclusion



Over the past seven days, the overall **positivity rate is 2.9%. Community site positivity level stands at X%.**



Our median end to end turnaround time is **2.2 days for detected cases and 1.3 days for not detected cases.**



**Total Community Referral Volumes** have **increased by 23.4%** in comparison to the same time-period last week

