

1) Performance of the testing infrastructure



Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 2,051,136 tests completed to date



2 days

Median end to end for a detected result



1.3 days

Median end to end for a not detected result



78,480+

Total Swabs last week



76,300+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



8,570+

Total number of Contact Tracing calls made last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 1st – 7th December.



Seirbhís Sláinte
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Building a
Better Health
Service

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 1st – 7th December.

Swabbing

- c.78,489 **swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately 34,793 taken in the community, 24,798 taken in hospitals and 18,898 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 **31%** over the last 6 weeks. There has been a slight increase in community demand of **3% in the last week**.
- **91% of GP referrals result in swabs being taken the same day or next day.**

Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **76,365 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 2.5%**, this is a decrease of 0.2% 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/ Merrion Lane and Kells (HSE).
- Our Contact Tracing teams across Public Health and CTCs completed over **8,579 phone calls** in the last week.
- Close contacts average at 3.5 per person.

We thank the general public who have all worked to significantly reduce their number of close contacts over the last number of weeks. We should channel these significant efforts over the Christmas period and prioritise who we meet in order to limit the number of our close contacts.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 1st - 7th December.

Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **1.1 days**.
- All calls are completed within **0.8 days (median)** – including all complex cases.
- In the last seven days, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 2 days for detected results**.
- In the last seven days, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.3 days for not detected results**.
- In the last 7 days, 2.5% of all tests were detected COVID-19 and approximately 97.5% 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;



572 facilities have been tested



62,764 tests have been completed



205 detected cases identified (0.33% detected rate).



Serial Testing of All Staff in food production facilities

Cycle 3 of serial food production facilities has concluded on the 4th of December and cycle 4 of this serial testing programme has kicked off on 7th of December.

Cycle 3 to date;



85 facilities have been tested



18,819 tests have been completed



129 detected cases identified (0.69% detected rate).



Monitoring COVID-19 in schools

School and Childcare Facilities

- As of December 1st, testing is currently ongoing or has been completed **in 1,159 facilities**. This includes schools and childcare facilities.
- **c.32,120 tests** have been carried out as part of this mass testing programme.
- Of these, **839 detected cases** have been identified. This is a detected rate of 2.6%.



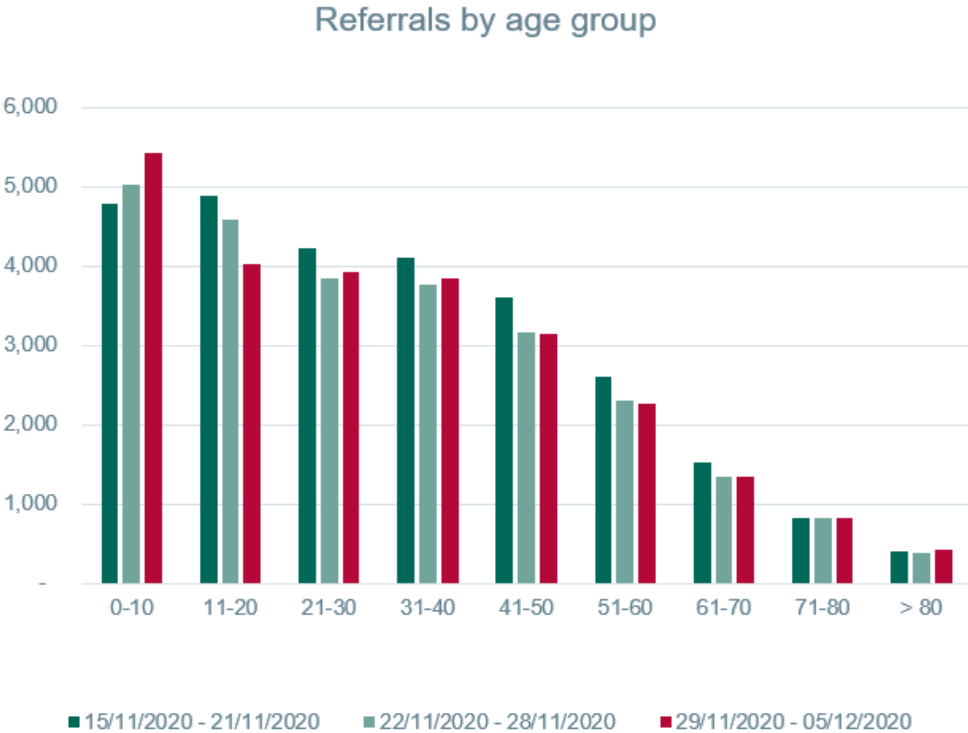
3) Test and Trace Trends



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 **21.5%** of all referrals. The detected rate of this age group was 3.4%.
 - the **11-20 age group** which made up **15.9%** of all referrals. The detected rate of this age group was 5.6%.



Community demand over the past 6 weeks

3%



Last week saw a c.3% increase from the previous week in demand for testing.

31%



Demand for testing in the community has decreased by 31% in the last six weeks.

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

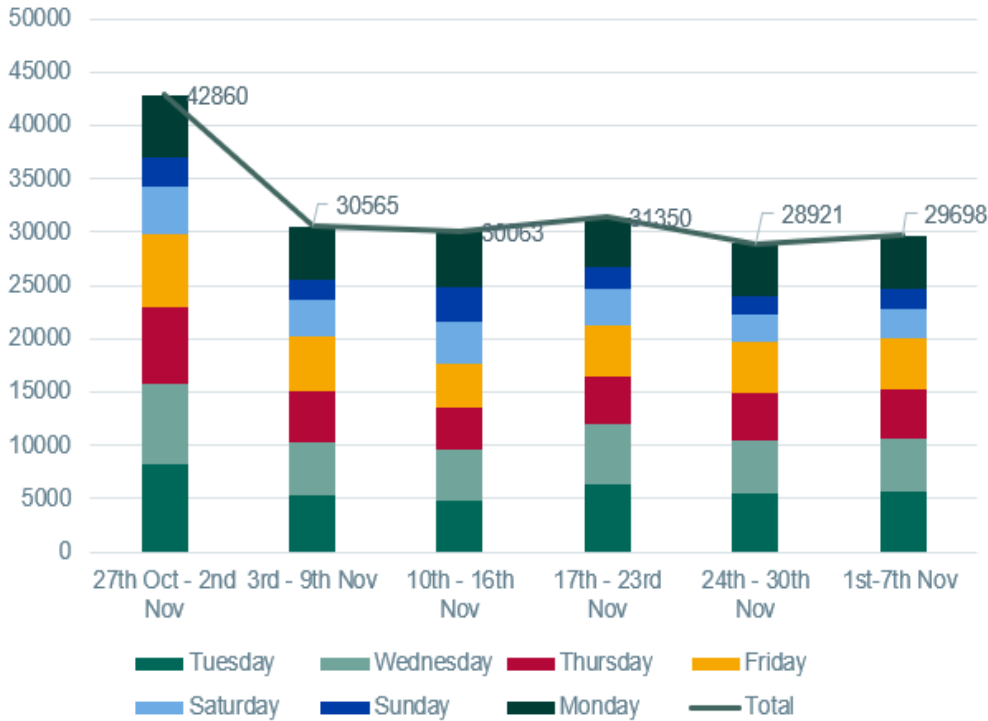


Tested staff in Nursing Homes
(tested over 14,888 staff from 1st – 7th November)



Tested staff at food plants
(tested over 4,010 food plant facility staff from 1st – 7th November)

Community Testing Demand



Contact tracing volumes over the past 6 weeks



9%



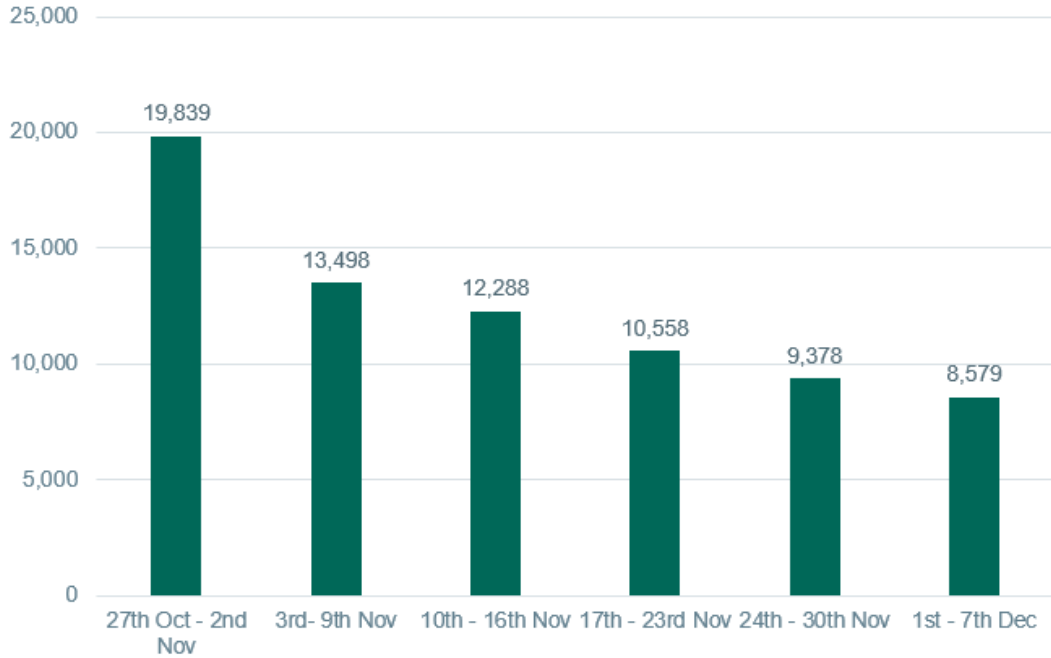
The volume of calls has decreased by **9%** in the last week.

57%



The last six weeks saw a c.**57%** decrease in the number of contact tracing calls made.

Total Contact tracing calls



Close contacts Trend

Average number of close contacts trend.

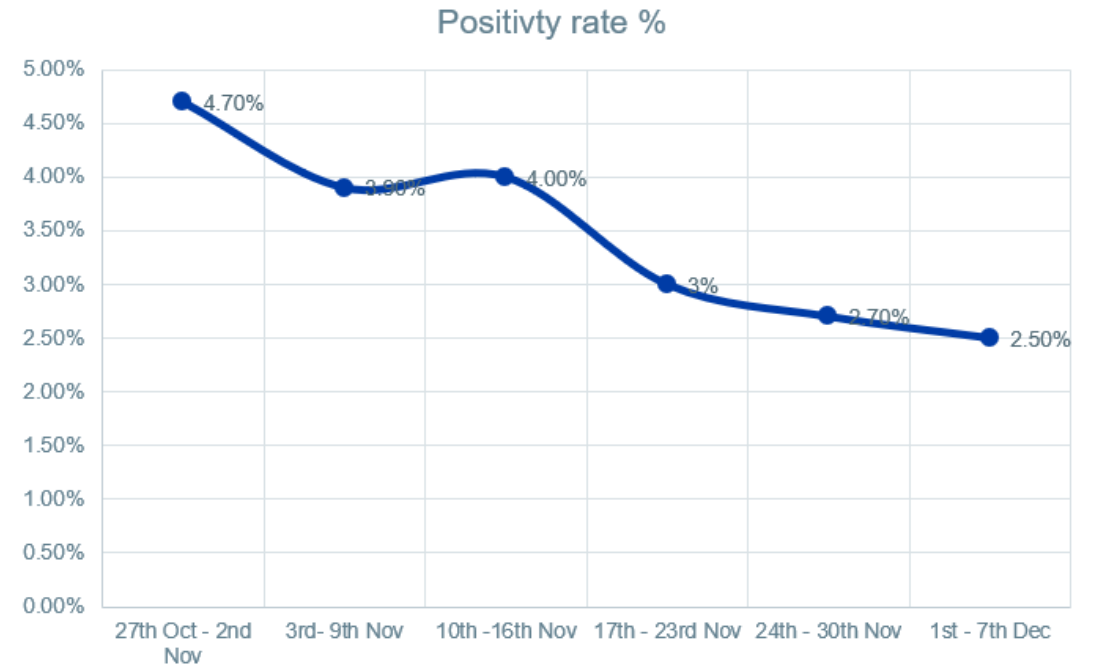
- There remains very little change in the number of close contacts per person in the last six weeks. This ranges from 3.5 – 3.8 close contacts per person.
- Last week the average number of **close contacts per person is 3.5**.



Positivity Trend

Positivity rate

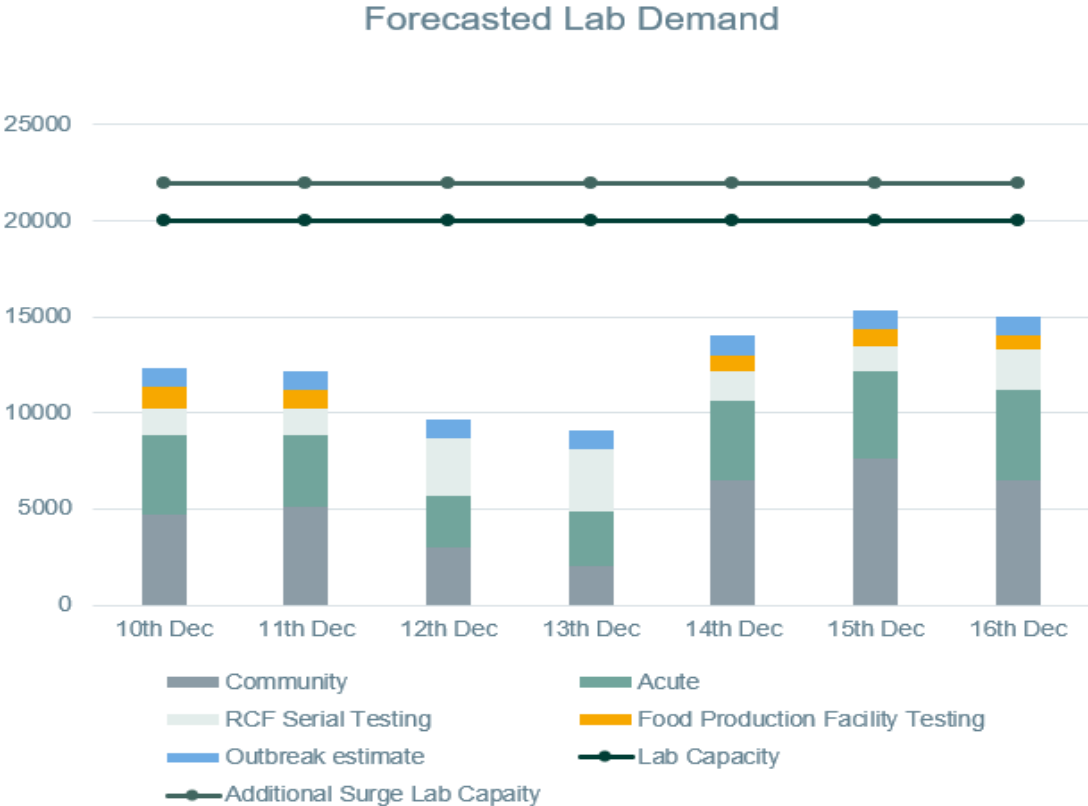
- The positivity rate continues on a downward trajectory.
- This week **the positivity rate has fallen to 2.5%**, a decrease from the previous week, where the positivity rate was 2.7%.



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 15% 10th – 13th Dec, 20% 14th– 16th Dec.
 - Nursing homes uptake rate of 76%.
 - Meat plants uptake rate of 75%.



4) Enhancements to the test and trace system



Christmas and the Test and Trace System

- It is normal practice for the HSE to plan, operate and roster over holiday periods such as Christmas.
- Test and Trace is a new component of the service this year, and to-date it has operated on a consistent 7 day per week schedule.
- Test and Trace will continue to operate over the coming Christmas and New Year's period (24th of December – 4th of January).
- This includes referral, swabbing, laboratory, results communication and contact tracing activity.
- We have **ongoing communications with our GP practice colleagues** to stand up an **enhanced out of hours referral** presence over the Christmas period.
- Serial Testing activity will also continue for Residential Care Facilities for older persons and Food Production facilities. There is an agreed testing schedule which accounts for operational periods over the Christmas break.



Recruitment across Swabbing and Contact Tracing

Recruitment

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

Swabbing

As of December 8th, an additional 603 people have been onboarded to carry out swabbing activities.

Contact Tracing

As of December 8th, 684 contact tracers have been onboarded.

A further 60 contact tracers are expected to be onboarded by week ending 13th of December.



Conclusion



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



In the last week, we have seen a slight increase in demand for community testing, by approximately **3%** from this time last week.



As of 8th of December, there are over **2,051,136** lab results completed to date.