

HSE COVID-19

**Testing & Contact Tracing Update
18th of February 2021**



1) Test and Trace Weekly Metrics



Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 3,325,653 lab tests completed to date



1.6 days

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



2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



109,600+

Total Swabs last week



110,460+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



4,530+

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 10th – 16th February.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 10th – 16th February.

Swabbing

- **c. 109,605 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **43,955 taken in the community**, **43,192 taken in acute and private acute settings** and **22,458 taken as part of serial testing** of Staff in Food Plants and Residential Care Facilities.
- We have had **36 static testing centres** in operation, with pop up testing sites in areas of most acute need.
- Over the past week, two pop-up testing centres were open in Limerick (University of Limerick) and Donegal (Cleary Centre).
- Community testing demand has decreased by **4% in the last week**.
- 91.6% of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **110,867 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 5.4%**.

Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, Positivity in close contact testing is 25%, in household close contacts it is 33%
- From 10th – 16th February, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number close contacts are **3** per person.
- From 10th – 16th February, a total of 5,685 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result. **|**
- From 10th – 16th February, contact tracing was completed for c.4,537 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case, and contact tracing is complete.
- In addition, c.8,616 calls were made to close contacts.
- The gathering of enhanced Positive Patient Assessment data recommenced on Wednesday 10th February. On this date we also recommenced the Day 0 and Day 10 swabbing for close contacts.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 10th – 16th February.

Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **22 hours**.
- **86% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours** and **95%** within **48 hours**
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **6.7 hours** and a **mean of 4.3 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.6 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**.

2) Testing Programmes



Serial Testing of All Staff in Nursing Homes

Cycle 8 of serial testing for Nursing Homes commenced on 1st of February.

In Cycle 8;



580 facilities have been tested



45,344 tests have been completed



246 detected cases identified
(0.54% detected rate)



Testing of All Staff in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 1 of testing in Mental Health Facilities commenced on 25th of January.

In Cycle 1:



35 facilities have been tested



1,140 tests have been completed



3 detected cases identified
(0.26% detected rate)



Testing of All Staff in Disability Facilities

Testing in Disability Facilities commenced on 25th of January.

In Cycle 1:



71 facilities have been tested



4,120 tests have been completed



14 detected cases identified
(0.34% detected rate)



Serial Testing of All Staff in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 5 of serial testing in food production facilities commenced on 12th of January and concluded on the 5th of February.

Cycle 6 of Serial testing commenced on 8th of February.

Cycle 6 in total;



35 facilities have been tested



8,746 tests have been completed



73 detected cases identified
(0.83% detected rate).



Testing in Schools & Childcare Facilities

School and Childcare Facilities

- We continue to carry out tests in childcare facilities, with last week conducting tests for **41 childcare facilities**.
- Over **464 individuals** associated with childcare settings were tested.
- Testing in this week resulted in a **7.5% detected rate**.



3) Test and Trace Trends



What can we see from the trends



Decrease in community tests

The number of community tests completed has decreased slightly by 4%, since this time last week.

This decrease is continuing even with the reinstatement referrals of close contacts for testing since the 10th of February.

This will continue to be monitored.



Continuous high volumes of acute testing

There continues to be consistently high volumes of testing in acute hospitals.

Our acute labs have processed c.29,000- 34,000 tests week on week over the past four weeks

Our total HSE lab network is operating at high volumes currently, consistently completing over 100,000 tests a week.



Positivity Rate Decreases

Overall positivity rate is continuing to decrease, in the last week positivity rate was c.5.5%

However this decrease is slowing down in comparison to previous weeks c.1% decrease each week for the past two weeks.

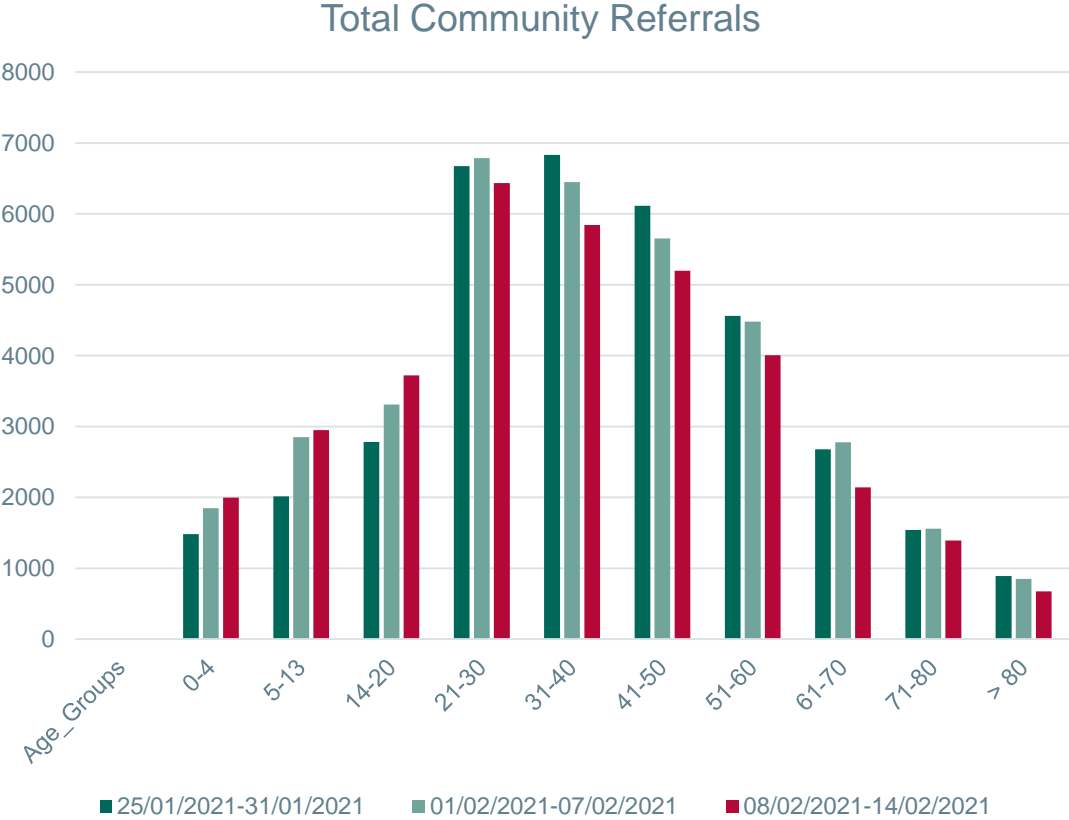
Positivity rates in community testing sites alone is c.16% over the past seven days and over 20% in certain counties.

The overall % is lower due to the inclusion of testing in acute settings and serial testing programmes.

Community Referrals by Age Group

Referrals by Age Groups

- In the last week, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the 21-30 age group.
- The 21-30 age group made up 18.7% of all referrals.
- The detected rate of this age group was c.17%.



The source of this graph is the data available to the integrated information service.

Community Demand for Testing over the past 6 weeks

4%



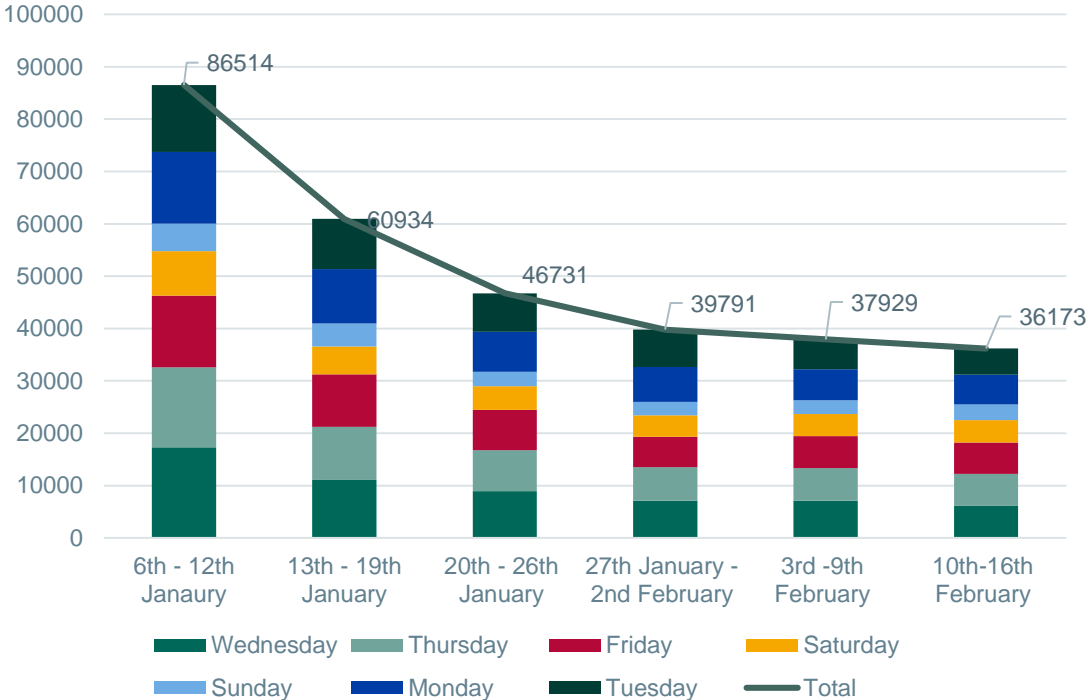
Last week saw a **4% decrease** week on week in community tests completed.

58%



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 58%** in the last 6 weeks

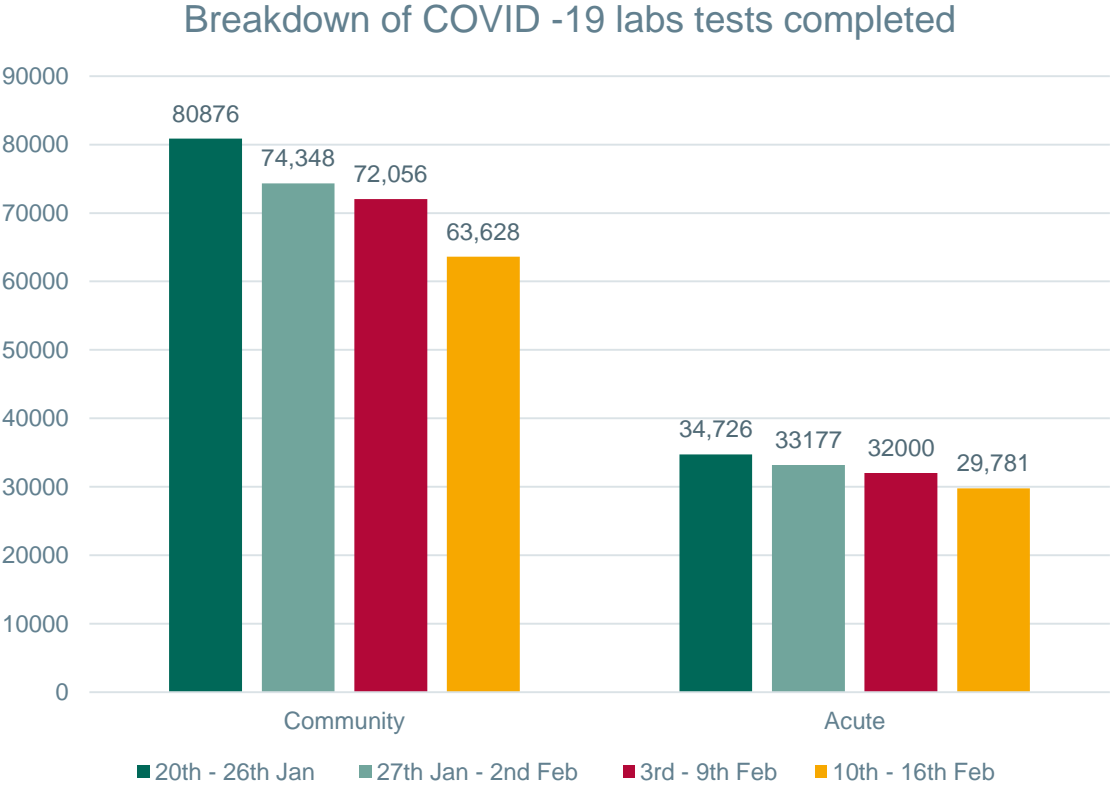
Community Testing Demand



The source of the community testing demand graph is the daily community testing file

Tests completed in the community and Acute settings

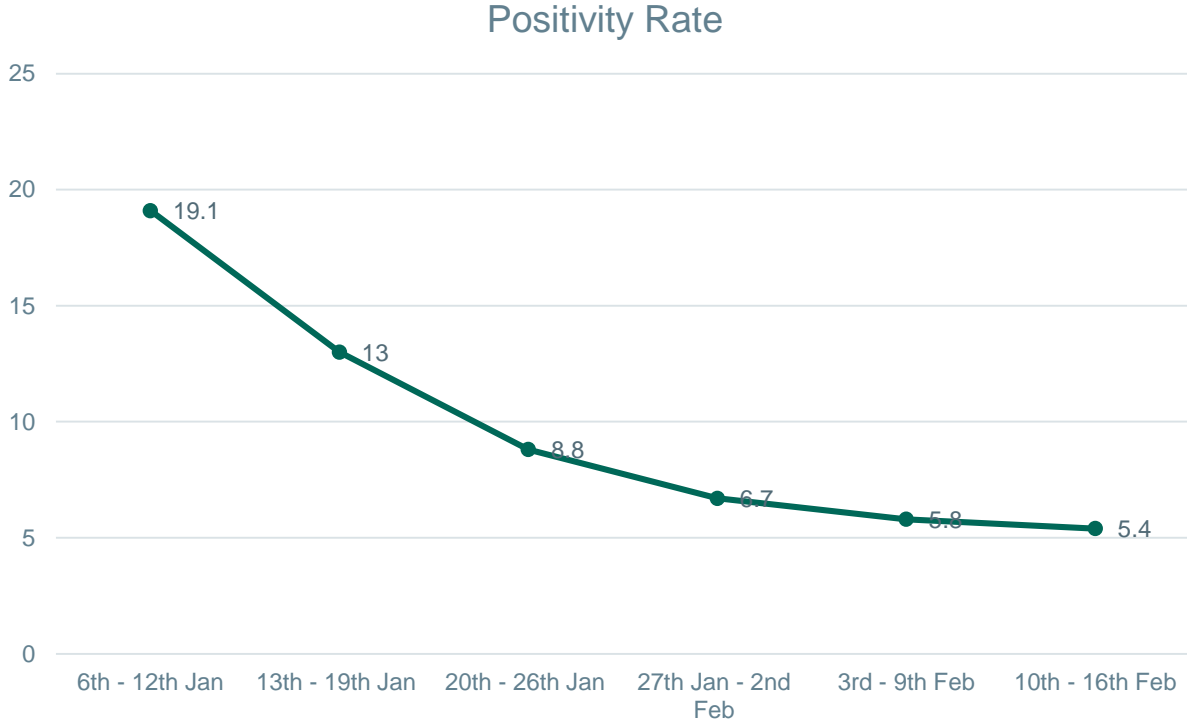
- Over the past four weeks the number of tests completed by community labs has slightly decreased week on week
- However, as visible from the graph, the number of tests completed in our acute settings has remained steady, with over 29,000-34,000 tests a week, over the past four weeks.
- This provides a comparison into the volume of COVID-19 tests being completed in our community and Acute settings.



Positivity Trend



- The positivity rate for the past seven days is c.5.4%
- The positivity rate has decreased significantly in the past six weeks.
- However, in the last two weeks the positivity rate is decreasing at a slower rate, c.1%.



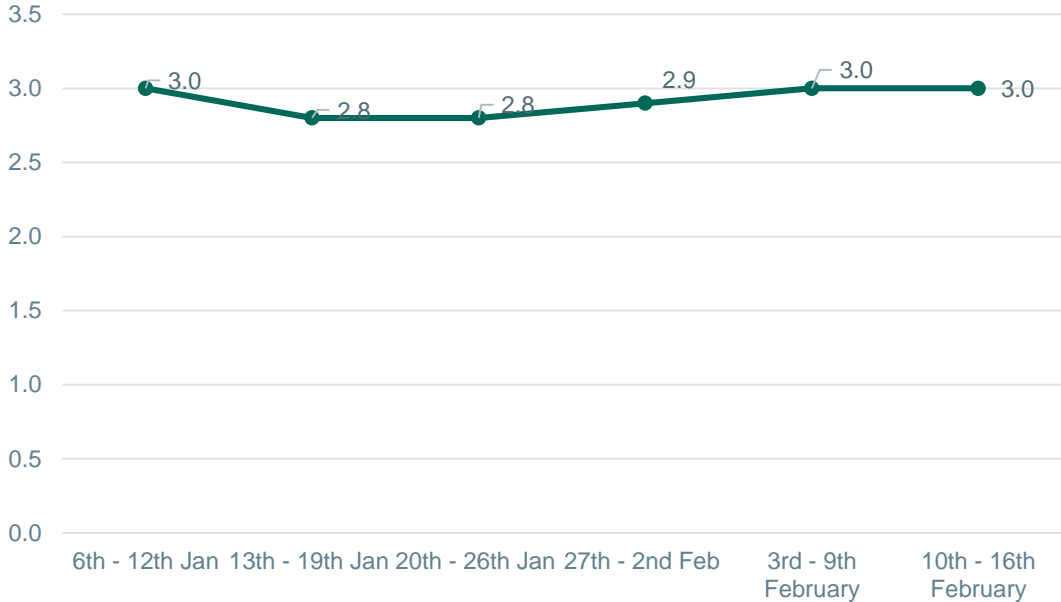
Close Contacts Trend

3

Number of close contacts remains steady over the past 6 weeks, with no significant decrease.

Of those who recorded at least 1 close contact, the average number of close contacts per person, over the past 7 days was 3.

Average number of close contacts



4) Updates to Test and Trace



Recruitment

Recruitment

The HSE continues to focus efforts on increasing resources across our test and trace system

Swabbing

- As of the 15th of February, there is a total of 749 community swabbers have been hired and on-boarded

Contact Tracing

- As of 15th of February, there is a total of 901 staff supporting contact tracing
- Of these 901 staff, 828 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function
- The remaining 73 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles.



Conclusion



Our median end to end turnaround time is **2 days for detected cases** and **1.6 days for not detected cases**.



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 58%**, in the last 6 weeks



As of 16th of February, there are **over 3,325,650 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.