

HSE COVID-19

**Testing & Contact Tracing
Service Enhancements**



Testing and Contact Tracing Key Metrics



1.4 days

Median end to end TaT from referral to contacting close contacts for a **not detected** result



2 days

Median end to end TaT from referral to end of contact tracing for a **detected** result



2 mn

Laboratory tests completed to date by this week



85%

The percentage of individuals who receive their result within 36 hours from swabbing appointment



94%

The percentage of close contacts we reach and arrange tests for. We do this, on average, in less than 1 day

What have we improved in Swabbing ?



There are currently **33 static testing facilities**, there will be one in each county of Ireland by Christmas.



Increased number of test centre lanes and extended **operating hours** to address testing demand. |



We have secured additional new equipment and staffing to stand up additional **Pop Up Centres**, facilitating flexibility in responding to testing demand.



We have recruited over 560 community swabbers, and redeployed back to services over 500 people. We will continue to recruit until we reach c. 1,000

What have we improved in Laboratory Testing ?



Laboratory capacity has increased from **15,000** to **20,000** tests a day at present. We are working to increase capacity onshore to **25,000 tests a day by year end**



Acute Hospital testing capacity has risen to over 4,000 per day with new testing platforms and staff, will get to 5,000 next year



We are building **a second large public community laboratory** which will start operating by the beginning of January



Offshore capacity is currently not in use but can be leveraged as surge capacity of 2,000 tests a day if we need it.

What have we improved in Contact Tracing



A Service Improvement Plan is in place and mid way through implementation for our contact tracing centres



Source identification is commencing in two regions and due to roll out nationally by 8th of December



Active surveillance has been done by text message since May. We have extended this to calling those who are positive during their isolation periods



We have recruited and trained 650 dedicated contact tracers in four locations. We will continue recruitment until we reach at least 800

If demand increases, we have contingency to:



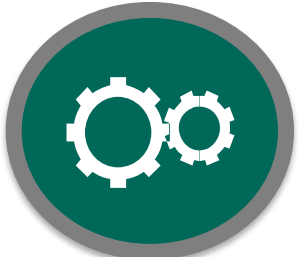
Increase the number of lanes/booths in centres and extend operating hours
Leverage NAS pop up fleet to fullest extent.



Recall staff that were previously deployed to swabbing activities once again



Lean on our supply chain contingency arrangements. We have had a focus on high stock levels for further waves, advance purchasing of testing platforms, test kits, reagents etc. Leverage offshore laboratory capacity

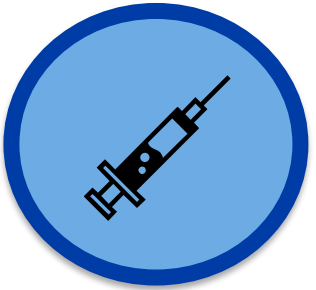


Leverage technology in contact tracing centre for example; online appointments.
Recall surge capacity staffing who were deployed and trained previously

Wider developments in Testing Techniques and Technologies



The focus is investigating the effectiveness of **saliva testing** and nasal swab to improve the patient experience



Antigen Testing Validation project in underway. Using it in outbreaks in meat plants, hospital outbreaks, vulnerable groups. Mid-way through a procurement, for the best test for our uses.

Christmas Schedule

- Testing and Tracing will continue to operate over the coming Christmas and New Year period (24th of December – 4th of January).
- This includes referral, swabbing, laboratory, results communication and contact tracing activity.
- On Referral - much of this period falls outside 'normal working days' General practice co-ops will provide country wide cover on those days.
- Serial Testing activity will also continue for Residential Care Facilities for older persons and Food Production facilities.
- We hope you won't need a test, but will be there if you do. Testing is free and available to all.

