

**HSE COVID-19**

**Testing & Contact Tracing Update  
21<sup>st</sup> of January 2021**



# 1) Performance of the Testing Infrastructure



# Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 2,854,163 tests completed to date



1.4 days

Community - median end to end for a not detected result



1.8 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



139,590+

Total Swabs last week



159,980+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



22,630+

Total number of Contact Tracing calls made last week

Note: The above TaT and volume metrics refer to the seven day date range from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

# Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

## Swabbing

- **c. 139,595 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **73,688 taken in the community**, **32,723 taken in hospitals** and **33,184 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 the following pop ups have been in operation; St Joesphs and the Cleary Centre, Donegal.
- Community testing demand has increased by **73%** over the last 6 weeks. There has been a decrease in community demand of **30% in the last week**.
- **95.7%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

## Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **159,985 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 13%**, this is a decrease of c.6% from this time last week.

## Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is carried out in our centres in Galway, Limerick, Cork and Dublin. |
- As of 20<sup>th</sup> of January, close contacts average at **2.8** per person.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan in order to respond to the significant surge in cases, the contact tracing centre changes the way of work, by doing call 1 (inform positive patient) and call 2 (take contact details) together.
- Our Contact Tracing teams across Public Health and CTCs completed **c.22,636 phone calls** over the seven day period.
- In addition, during this seven day period, **c.31,475** text messages were sent to the close contacts of confirmed cases.

# Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

## Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **1 day**.
- **73.6% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours and over 88% within 48 hours**
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **2.1 hours** and a **mean of 4.1 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.4 days for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.8 days for detected results**.



## 2) Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing of All Staff in Residential Care Facilities

Cycle 7 of serial testing of RCFs has commenced on January 4<sup>th</sup>. During Cycle 7 of serial testing of RCFs, the majority of RCFs have transitioned from two weekly testing to weekly testing.

## In Cycle 7;



**579 facilities** have been tested



**57,298** tests have been completed



**1,326 detected cases** identified (2.31% detected rate)



# Serial Testing of All Staff in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 5 of serial testing in food production facilities commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> of January.

## In Cycle 5 ;



**32 facilities** have been tested



**6,582 tests** have been completed



**132 detected cases** identified (2.01% detected rate).





# Monitoring COVID-19 in Schools & Childcare Facilities

## School and Childcare Facilities

- Although Schools have not yet reopened we continue to test in childcare facilities.
- As of January 20<sup>th</sup>, testing is currently ongoing or has been completed **in 1,596 facilities**. This includes schools and childcare facilities.
- **c.44,735 tests** have been carried out as part of this mass testing programme.
- Of these, **1,453 detected cases** have been identified. This is a detected rate of 3.2%.



### **3) Test and Trace Trends**



# Total Count of Referrals by Age Group

## Referrals by Age Groups

- The total number of community referrals has decreased by 33% in the last week.
- 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 **20.2%** of all referrals.
- Of the 21-30 age group who attended a test and received a result, the detected of this age group was high at **22%**.
- This is a c.9% decrease in the detected rate for this same age group, from this time last week.

Community Referrals by Age Group



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

# Community Demand for Testing over the past 6 weeks

30%

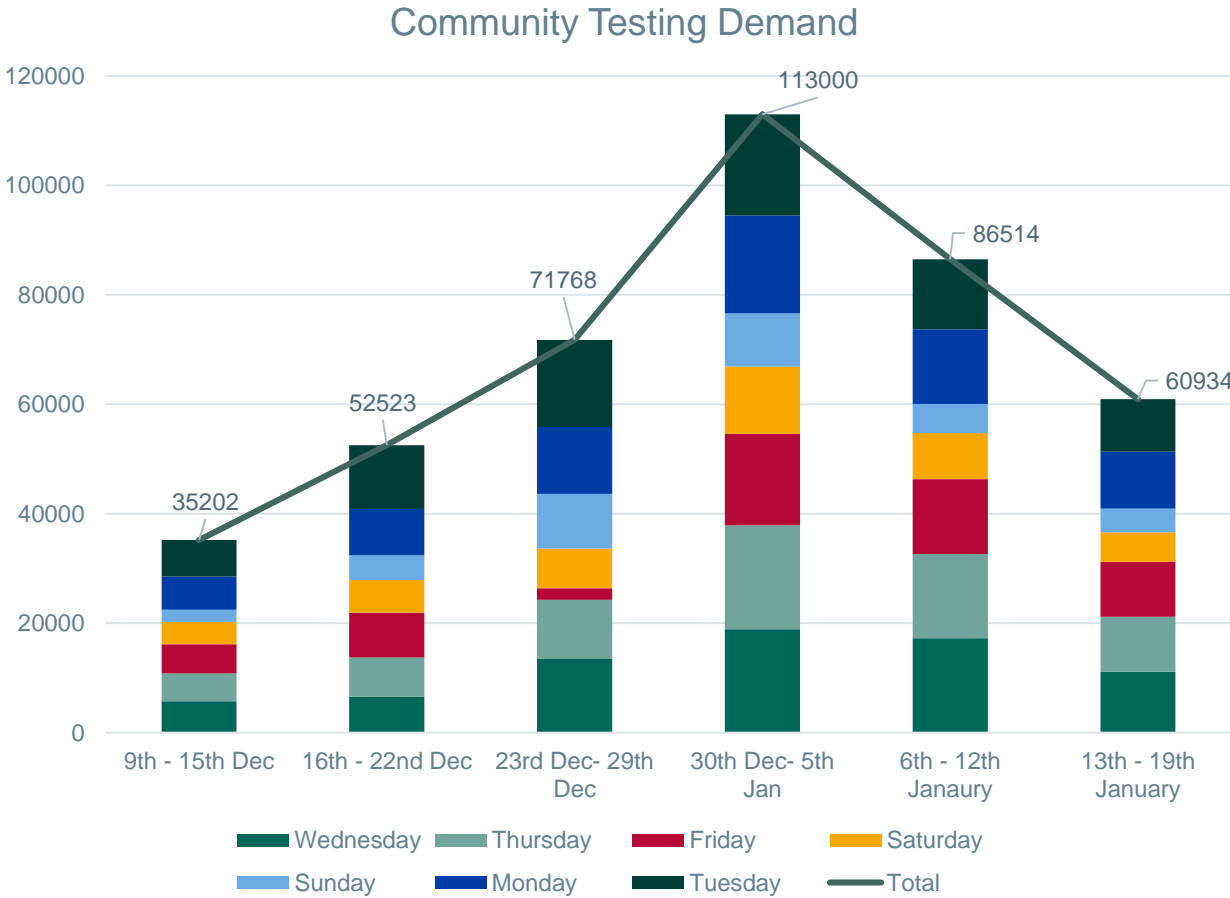


Last week saw a **30% decrease from the previous week** in demand for testing

73%



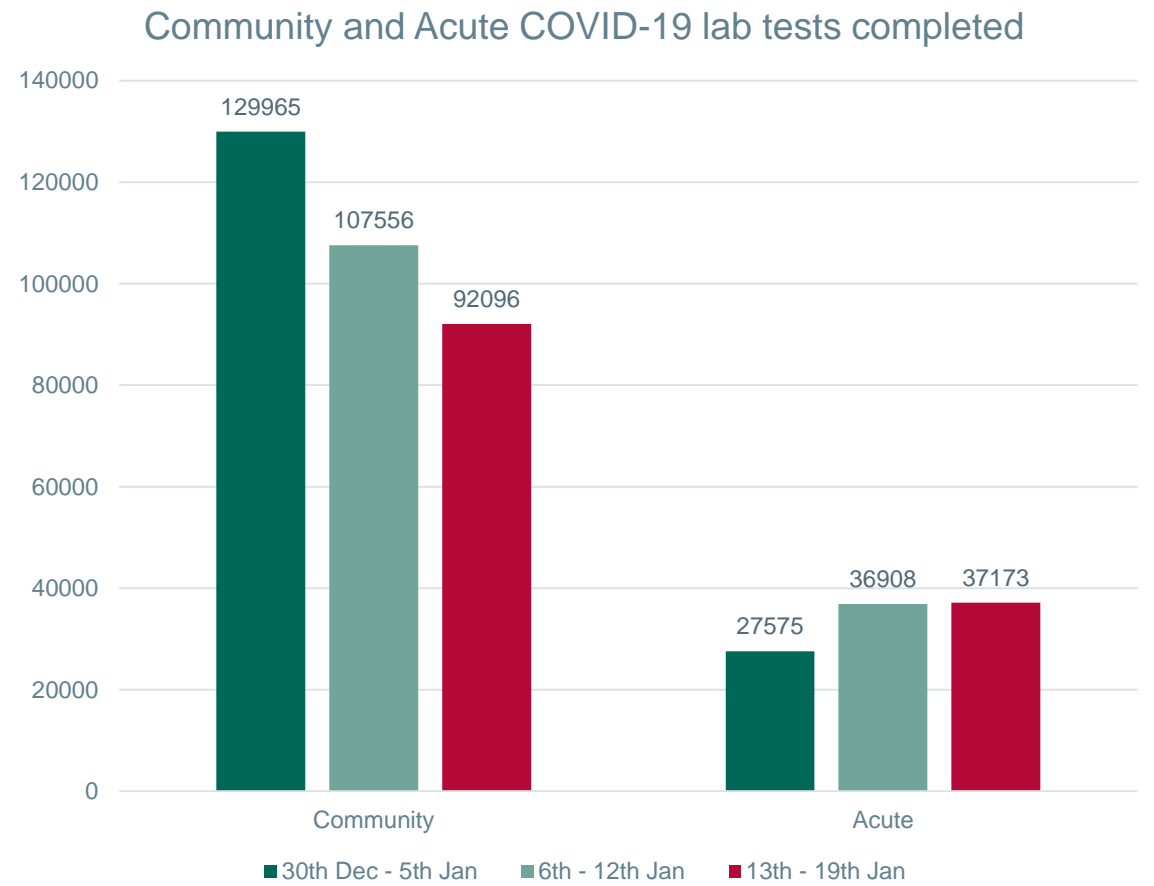
Demand for testing in the community has **increased by 73% in the last six weeks.**



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 three weeks the number of tests completed by community labs has decreased week on week, indicating a slight decrease in demand for tests being completed in the community.
- However, as visible from the graph, the number of tests completed in our acute settings have increased or remained steady over the last three weeks.
- This provides an insight that the volumes of COVID-19 tests being completed by our hospitals is increasing.



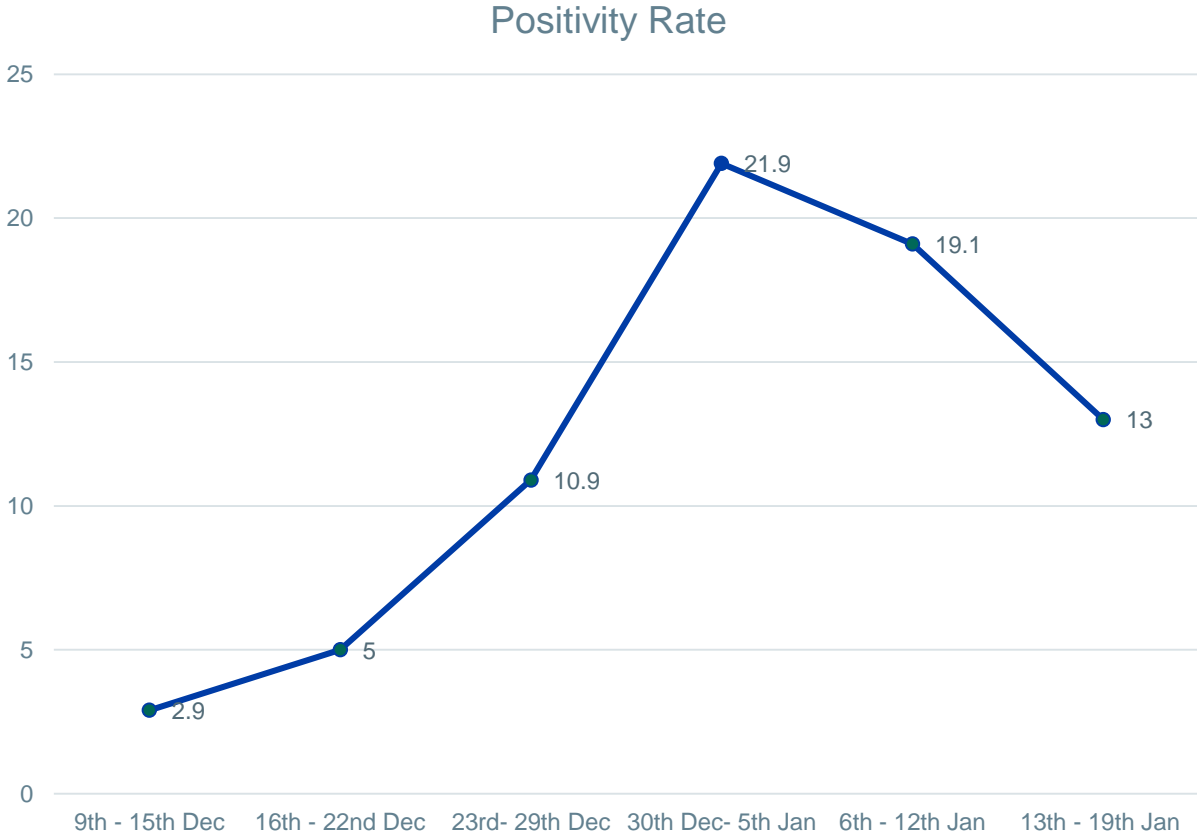
# Positivity Trend

13%



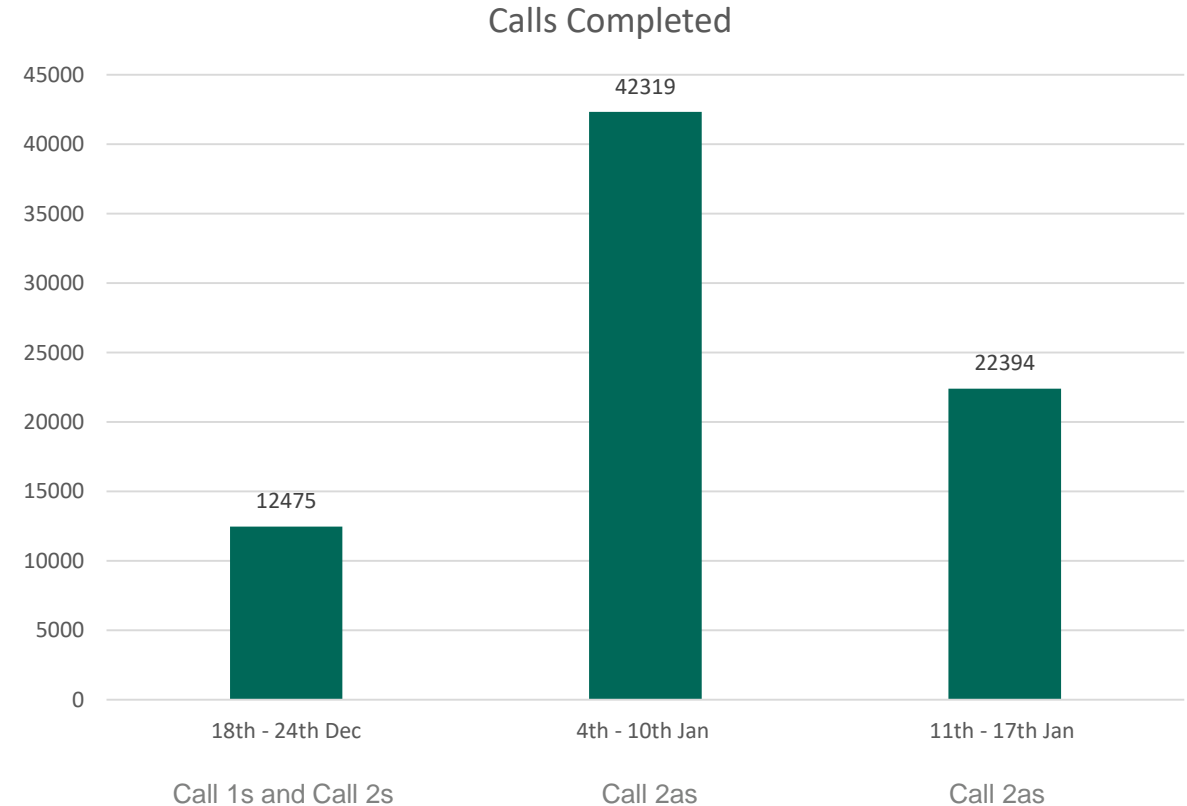
The Positivity rate has decreased week on week, the positivity rate for the past seven days is c.13%.

This is a significant 6% decrease from this time last week.



# Calls Completed

- The graph shows the volumes of calls which were completed over a seven day period before Christmas, **18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of December**, where **12,475 calls Call 1s and Call 2s** were made.
- Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, these calls have collapsed into one call, Call 2a, where an individual is informed of their positive result and contacts are collected.
- There has been an exponential increase in recent weeks with the **peak of call 2as from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January** where **42,319** Call 2as were completed.
- A decline in the number of 2a calls can be seen from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of January, in accordance with the decline of detected cases.



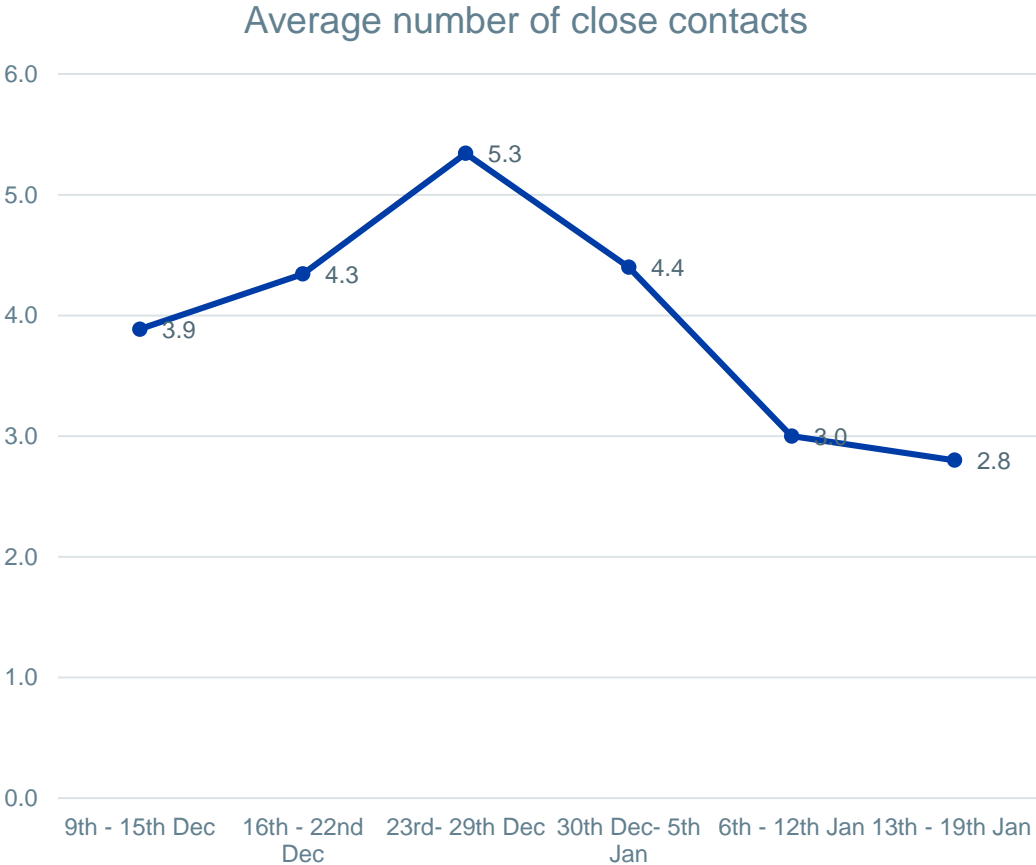
# Close Contacts Trend

2.8



Over the past 4 weeks, of those who have recorded close contacts, there has been a **decrease** in the number of close contacts per person.

The number of close contacts has decreased from 3 this time last week to 2.8 close contacts per person.





## 4) Enhancements to the test and trace system



# Recruitment

## Recruitment

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

## Swabbing

- As of the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, there is a total of 697 community swabbers have been hired and on-boarded so far.

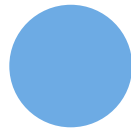
## Contact Tracing

- As of 19<sup>th</sup> of January, there is a total of 867 staff supporting contact tracing.
- Of these 867 staff, 811 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function. This number is 15 less than reported last week due to a number of leavers.
- The remaining 56 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles.



# Conclusion

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Our median end to end turnaround time is **1.8 days for detected cases** and **1.4 days for not detected cases**.



In the last week, we have seen a decrease in demand for community testing, by approximately **30%**.



As of 20<sup>th</sup> of January, there are over **2,854,163** lab results completed to date.