

**HSE COVID-19**

**Testing & Contact Tracing Update  
25th of February 2021**



## 1) Test and Trace Weekly Metrics



# Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 3,467,852 lab tests completed to date



**1.5 days**  
Community - median end to end TAT for a not detected result



**1.9 days**  
Community - median end to end for a detected result



**112,450+**  
Total Swabs last week



**105,480+**  
Total number of laboratory tests last week



**4,260+**  
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 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

# Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

## Swabbing

- **c. 112,457 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **42,790 taken in the community**, **42,640 taken in acute and private acute settings** and **27,027 taken as part of serial testing** of Staff in Food Plants and Residential Care Facilities.
- We have had **34 static testing centres** in operation, with pop up testing sites in areas of most acute need.
- Over the past week, a pop-up testing centre was open in Donegal (Cleary Centre).
- Community testing demand has decreased by **4.5% in the last week**.
- **90.8%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

## Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **105,489 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 5.1%**.

## Contact Tracing

- Over the last 7 days, positivity in close contact testing is **27%**, it is highest in household close contacts where **it is 35%**
- From 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number close contacts are **3.3** per person. The highest close contacts an individual person had was **38**.
- From 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, a total of 5,032 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result. **█**
- From 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, contact tracing was completed for c.4,266 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case, and contact tracing is complete.
- In addition, c.6,262 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 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

## Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **22 hours**.
- **82% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours** and **96%** within **48 hours** within the community.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **6.3 hours** and a **mean of 4 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.5 days for not detected results**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.9 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 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

## In Cycle 8;



**582 facilities** have been tested



**63,540** tests have been completed



**305 detected cases** identified  
(0.48% detected rate)



# Testing of All Staff in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 1 of testing in Mental Health Facilities commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

## In Cycle 1:



**40 facilities** have been tested



**1,825** tests have been completed



**5 detected cases** identified  
(0.27% detected rate)





# Testing of All Staff in Disability Facilities

Testing in Disability Facilities commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

## In Cycle 1:



**77 facilities** have been tested



**4,733** tests have been completed



**15 detected cases** identified  
(0.32% 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 and concluded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

Cycle 6 of Serial testing commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

## In Cycle 6;



**52 facilities** have been tested



**15,853 tests** have been completed



**95 detected cases** identified  
(0.60% detected rate).



# Testing in Education & Childcare Facilities

## School and Childcare Facilities

- Last week testing was carried out in **39 childcare settings**.
- Over **446 individuals** associated with childcare settings were tested.
- Testing of these 464 individuals resulted in a **9.6% detected rate**.
- The recommencement of children attending school settings in the coming weeks, is likely to drive an increase in volumes of testing associated with education and childcare facilities.
- Any tests associated with this setting are prioritised at our lab process stage, the current Turnaround time from swab to communication of result is **1.2 days**.



### **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 4.5%, since this time last week.

This decrease is continuing even with the reinstatement referrals of close contacts for testing since the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.5.1%

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

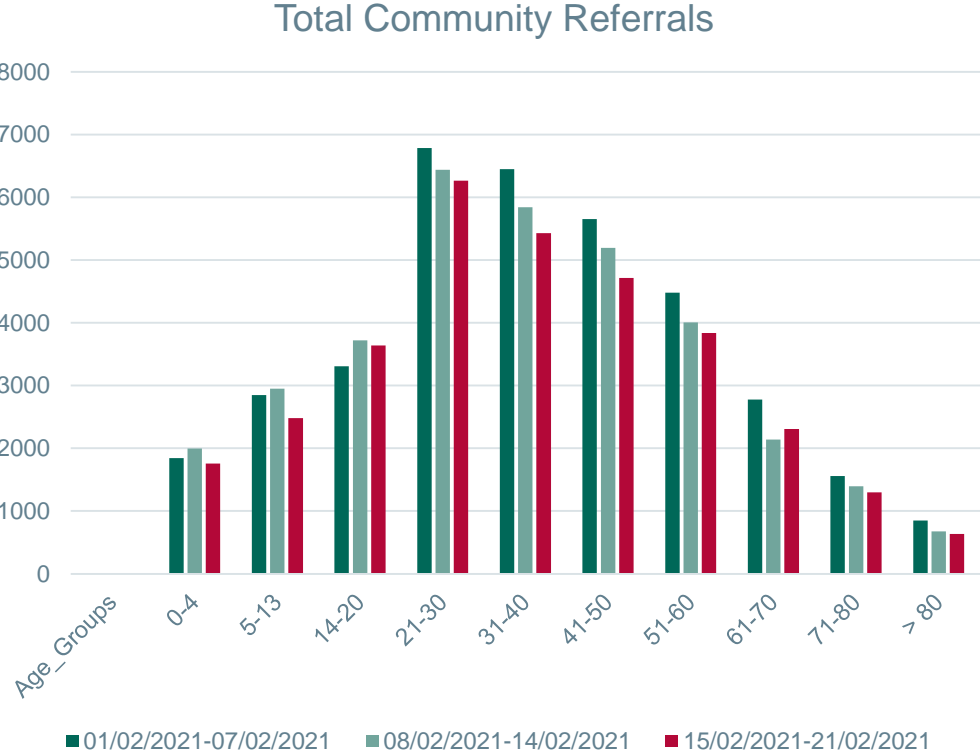
Positivity rates in community testing sites alone is c.17% over the past seven days and over 20% in certain counties.

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 19.4% 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

4.5%

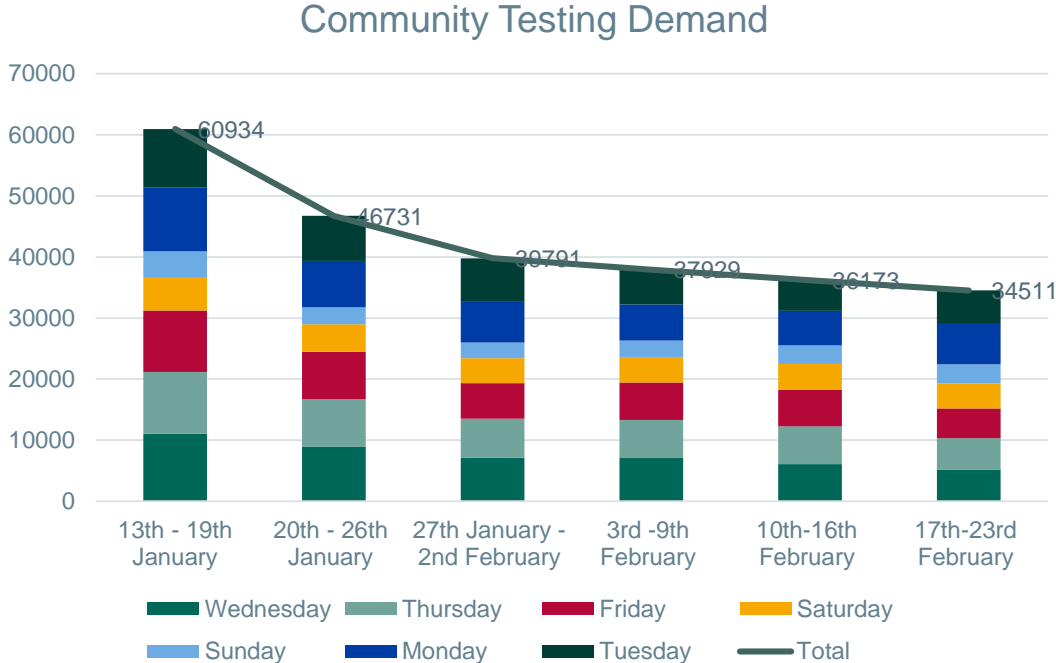


Last week saw a **4.5% decrease** week on week in community tests completed.

43%



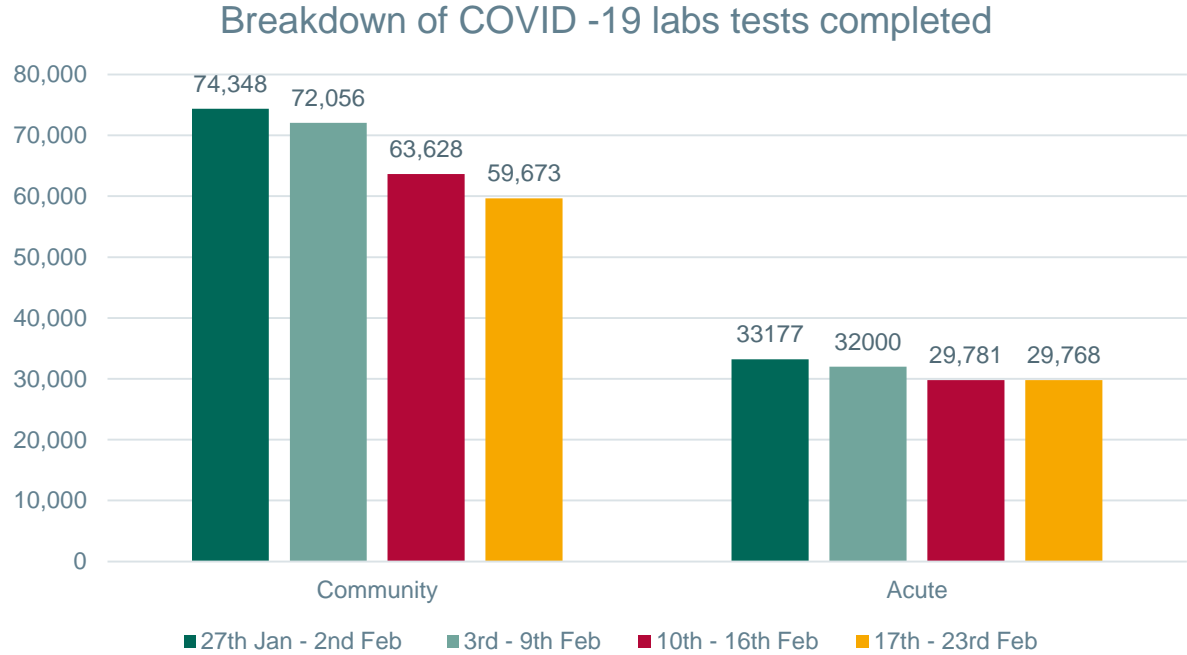
Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 43%** in the last 6 weeks



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 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.

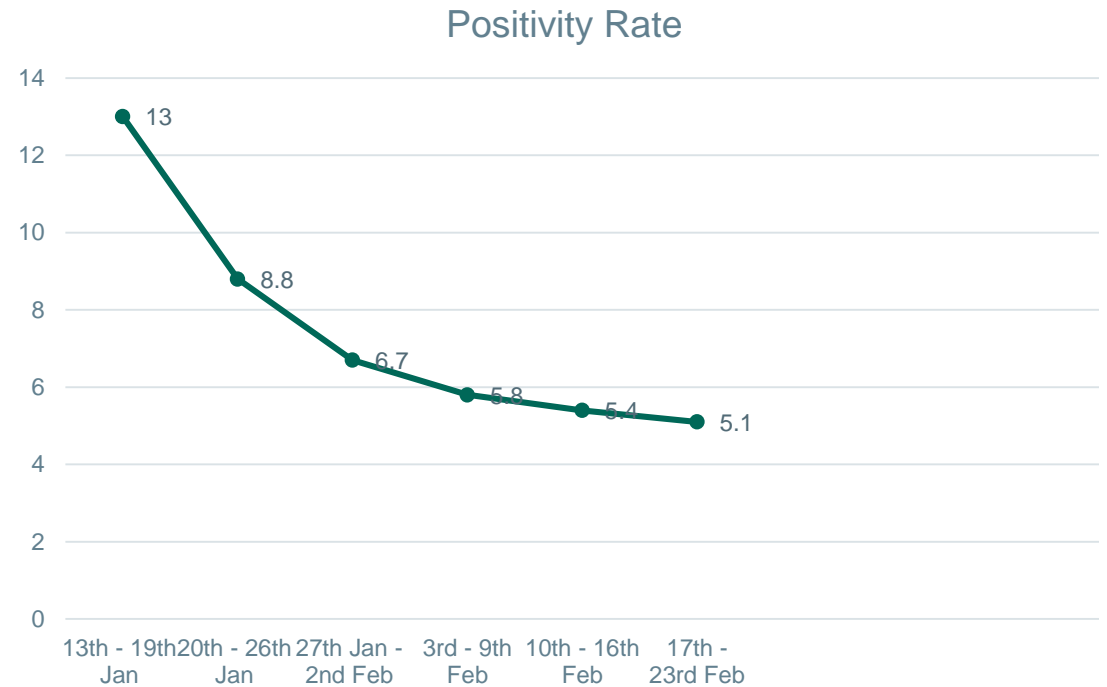




# Positivity Trend



- The positivity rate for the past seven days is c.5.1%
- 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%.

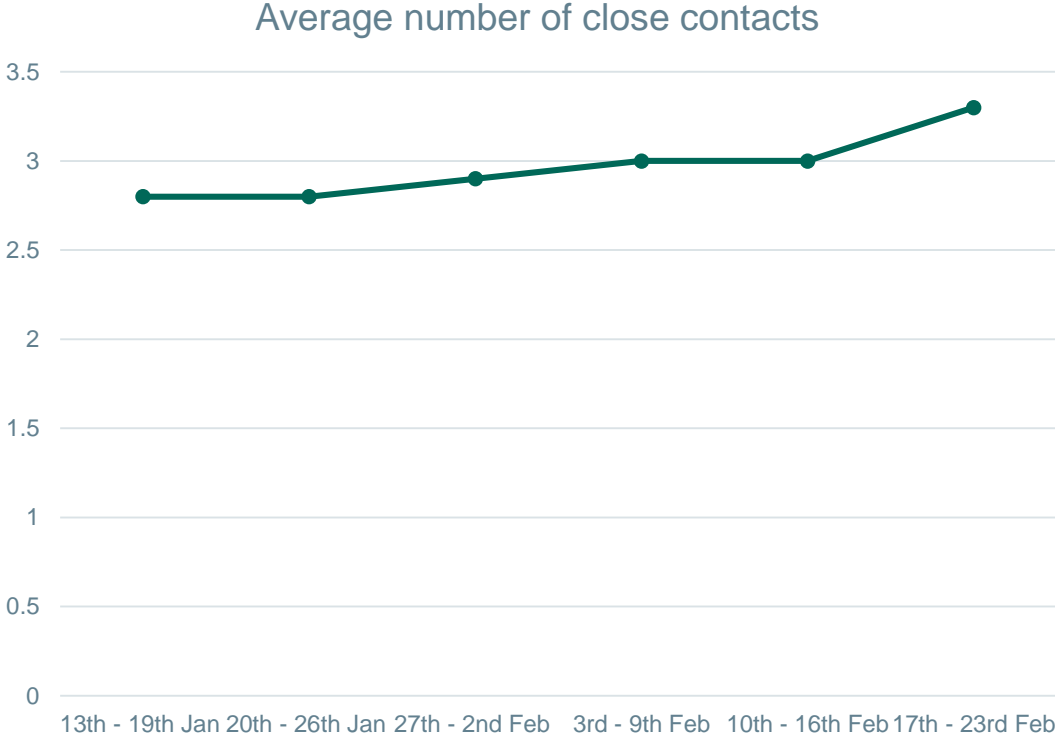


# Close Contacts Trend

3.3

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



## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, there is a total of 752 community swabbers have been hired and on-boarded

## Contact Tracing

- As of 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, there is a total of 900 staff supporting contact tracing
- Of these 900 staff, 828 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function
- The remaining 72 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles.



## Additional Information:

- There has been an increase in positive cases being reported each Wednesday, following higher demands for testing earlier in the week, particularly on Monday mornings.
- Individuals presenting with symptoms over the weekend should contact their **out of hours GP**.



# Conclusion



Our median end to end turnaround time is **1.9 days for detected cases** and **1.5 days for not detected cases**.



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 43%**, in the last 6 weeks



As of 16th of February, there are **over 3,467,850 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.