

HSE COVID-19

Testing & Contact Tracing Update
3rd of February 2021



1) Test and Trace Weekly Metrics



Testing and Contact Tracing Headlines – 3,128,741 tests completed to date



1.4 days

Community - median end to end for a not detected result



2 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



125,770+

Total Swabs last week



132,530+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



7,160+

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 27th January – 2nd February.

Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (1/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 27th January – 2nd February.

Swabbing

- **c. 125,777 swabs samples** this week – meeting all demand including serial testing.
- This total swabbing figure includes approximately **47,977 taken in the community**, **45,603 taken in acute and private acute settings** and **32,127 taken as part of serial testing** of Staff in Food Plants and Residential Care Facilities.
- We have had **35 static testing centres** in operation, with **pop up testing sites in areas of most acute need**.
- Over the past week the Cleary Centre pop up testing centre in Donegal was open.
- Community testing demand has decreased by **14.8% in the last week**.
- **95%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **132,537 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 6.7%**, this is a decrease of c.2% from this time last week.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is carried out in our centres in Galway, Limerick, Cork and Dublin. |
- From 27th January – 2nd of February, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number close contacts are **2.9** per person.
- From 27th of January – 2nd of February, contact tracing was completed for c.7,168 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- In addition, c.9,331 calls were made to close contacts.



Performance of the Testing Infrastructure (2/2)

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 27th January – 2nd February.

Turnaround

- Swab to lab result for community and acute settings is **1 day**.
- **75.9% of people receive their test result in less than 36 hours** and over **92%** within **48 hours**
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a median of **6.9 hours** and a **mean of 4.6 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 2 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 4th
And concluded on 31st of January

Cycle 8 of serial testing commenced on 1st of February.

In Cycle 7;



622 facilities have been tested



115,332 tests have been completed



2,245 detected cases identified
(1.95% 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.

In Cycle 5 ;



72 facilities have been tested



17,684 tests have been completed



395 detected cases identified
(2.23% detected rate).



Monitoring COVID-19 in Schools & Childcare Facilities

School and Childcare Facilities

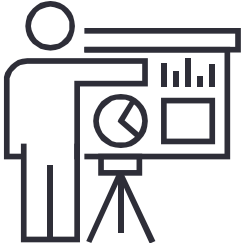
- Although Schools have not yet reopened we continue to test in childcare facilities. Last week we conducted tests in 43 childcare facilities, testing over 400 close contacts.
- Overall, as of February 3rd, testing is currently ongoing or has been completed **in 1,651 facilities**. This includes schools and childcare facilities.
- **c.45,991 tests** have been carried out as part of this mass testing programme.
- Of these, **1,651 detected cases** have been identified. This is a detected rate of 3.4%.



3) Test and Trace Trends



What can we see from the trends

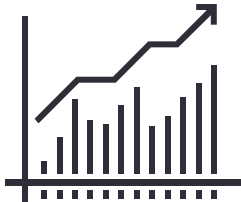


Decrease in Community Demand

There continues to be a decrease in community referrals, 23% in the last week, indicating a decrease in the number of symptomatic individuals in the community

This decrease remains even with the reinstatement of close contact referrals for COVID 19 tests

This metric will be monitored and its impact on the demand for testing .



Continuous high volumes of acute testing

While community referrals are reducing, high volumes of testing continues in acute hospitals

Our acute labs have processed over 30,000 tests over the past four weeks

In addition, serial testing and outbreak testing volumes remain high

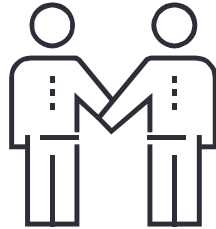
Our HSE lab network is operating at high volumes currently, consistently completing over 100,000 tests a week.



Positivity Rate Decreases

Thankfully, general positivity rate in the community continues to decrease

However, in the last week positivity rate only decreased by 2%, in comparison to circa 5-6% in the two weeks previous.



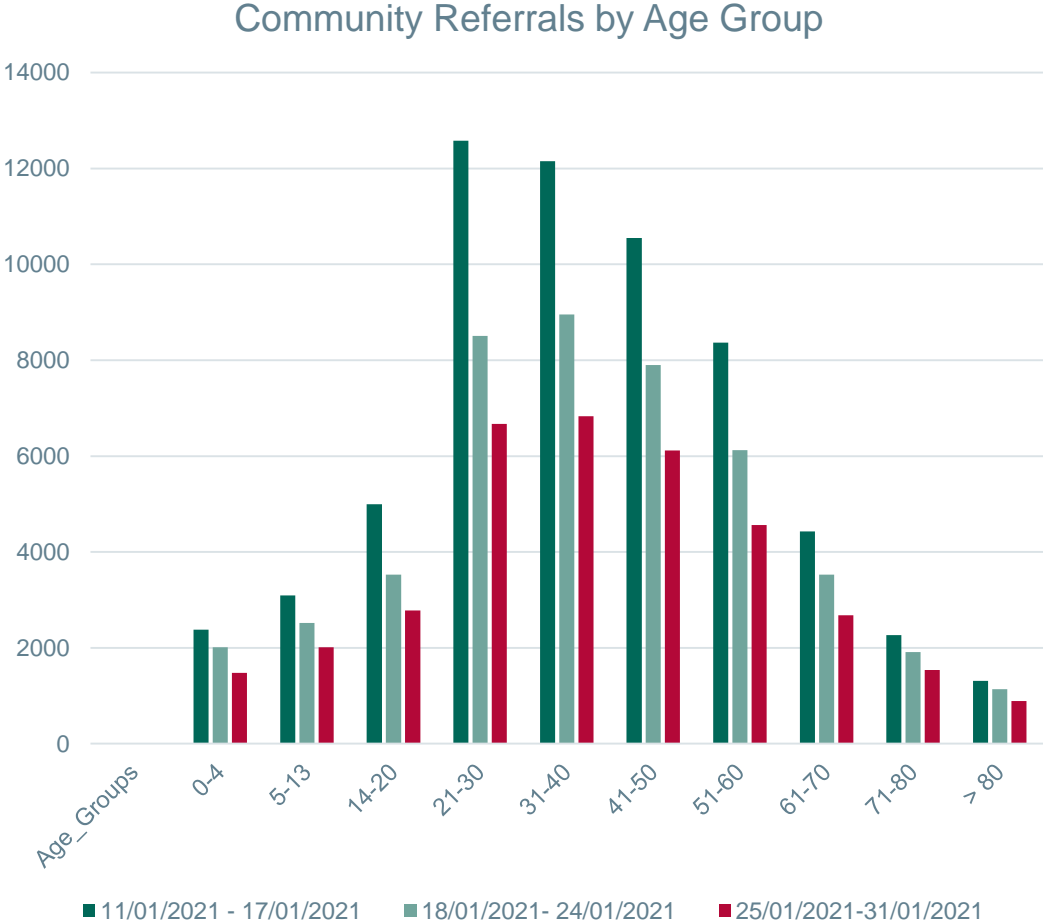
Close Contacts

There has been no significant decrease in close contacts per person, remaining at 2.9 on average per person this week.

Community Referrals by Age Group

Referrals by Age Groups

- The total number of community referrals has decreased by 23% in the last week.
- In the last week, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the 31-40 age group.
- The 31-40 age group made up 19.2% of all referrals.
- The detected rate of this age group was 13.2%.
- This was a decrease in detected rate for this age group of c. 3% since this time last week.



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

Community Demand for Testing over the past 6 weeks

14.8%

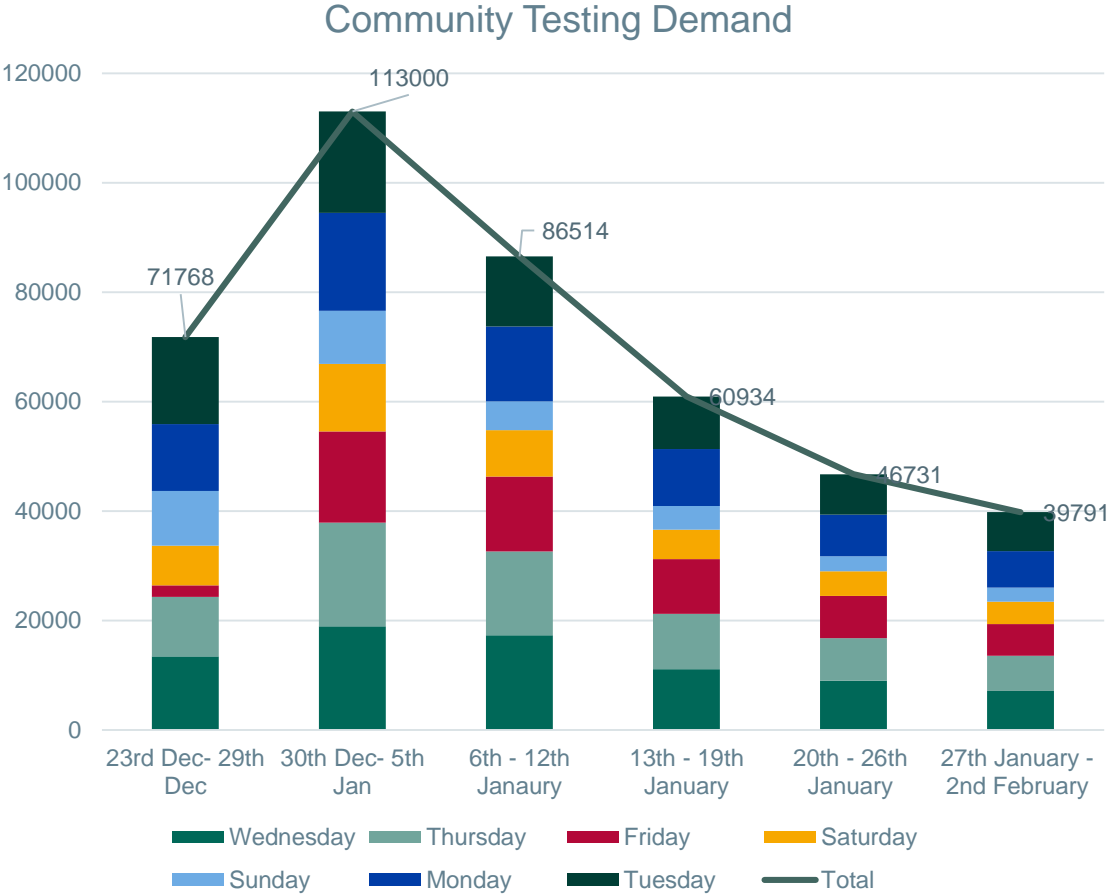


Last week saw a **14.8% decrease** from the previous week in demand for testing

65%



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 65%** since the most recent peak in demand for community testing from 30th December – 5th of January.



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

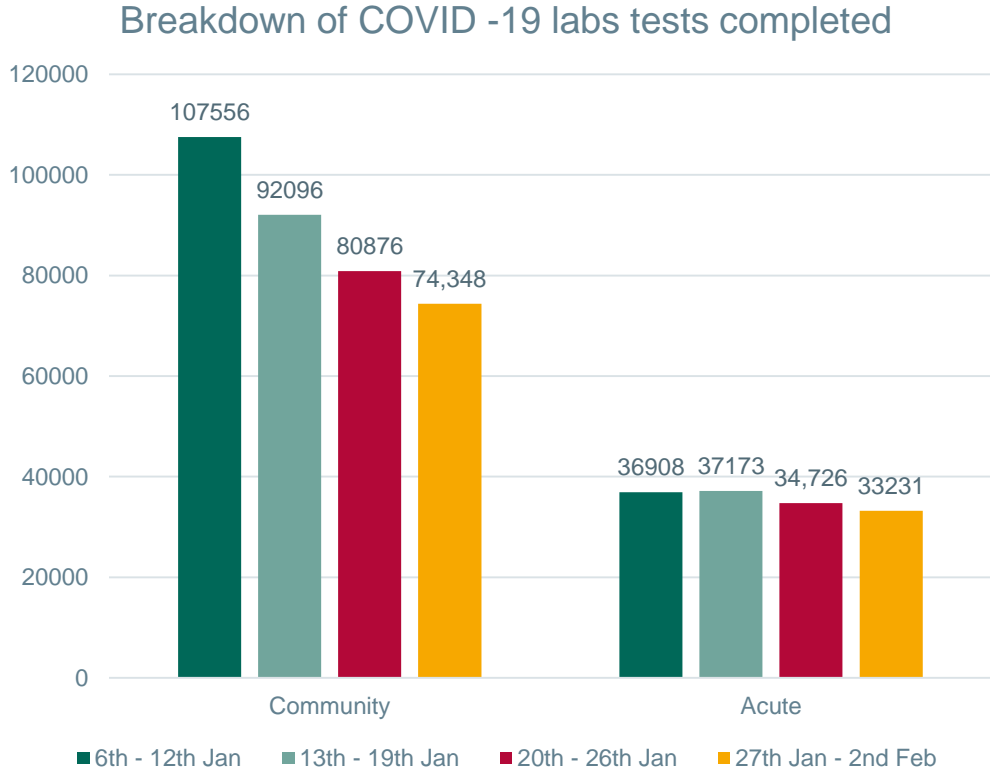
Impact of reinstatement of close contact referrals

- As of Friday 29th January 2021, the HSE re-instated the automatic testing of close contacts, five days from when they were last in contact with the confirmed case of COVID-19
- The total community referrals for testing on Monday 1st February was down 15% since this time last week and was a total of **7,440**.
- Of these;
 - **c.1,000** were **close contact** referrals
 - **c.6,400** were GP referrals of symptomatic cases
- The total community referrals for testing on Tuesday 2nd Feb was down 3% since this day last week and was a total of **6581**
- Of these;
 - **c. 1,200** of these were close contact referrals
 - **c. 5,381** were GP referrals of symptomatic cases
- By 1pm on Wednesday 3rd Feb there were 3,700 referrals. **1,500 of these were close contact referrals**, showing a 25% increase in this category of referral in comparison to the total close contact referrals on Tuesday 2nd of February.



Tests completed in the community and Acute settings

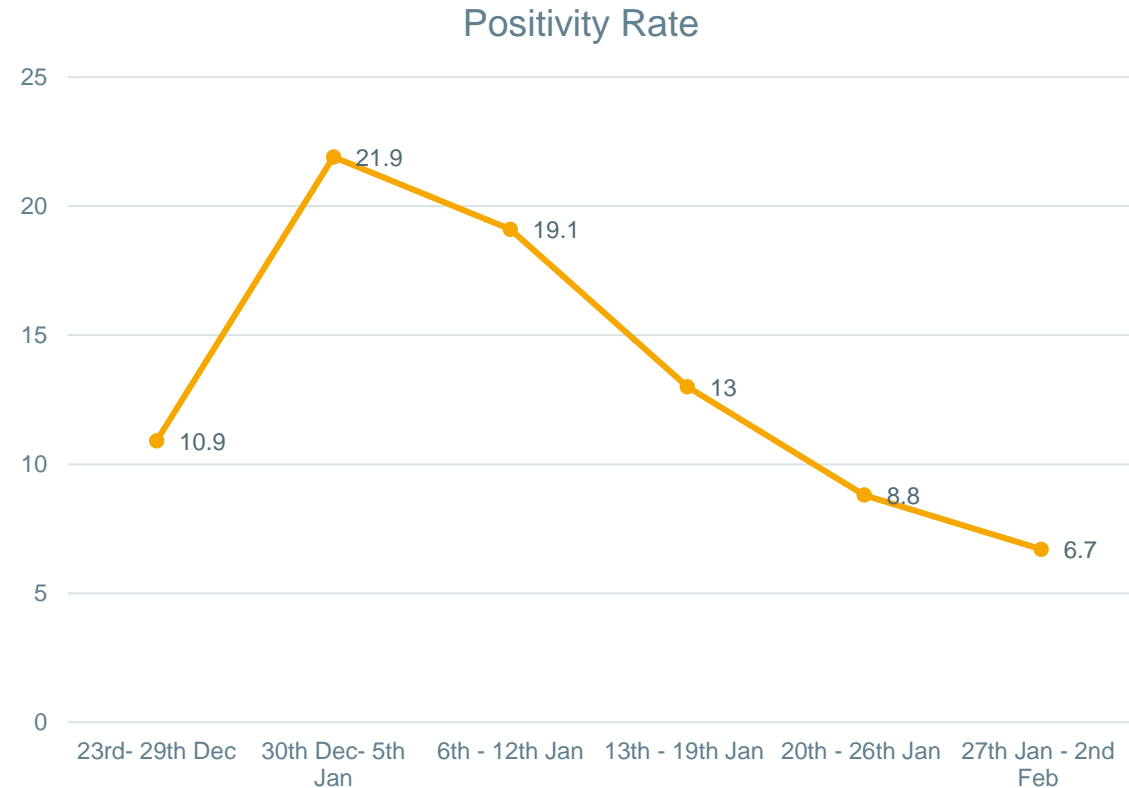
- Over the past four weeks the number of tests completed by community labs has decreased week on week, indicating a decrease in the levels of symptomatic individuals in the community.
- However, as visible from the graph, the number of tests completed in our acute settings have remained steady over the past four weeks.
- This provides an insight into the volume of COVID-19 tests being completed by our Acute settings.



Positivity Trend



- The positivity rate for the past seven days is c.6.7%
- The positivity rate has decreased significantly since the peak from 30th Dec – 5th Jan
- However, in the last week the positivity rate has only decreased by c.2%.



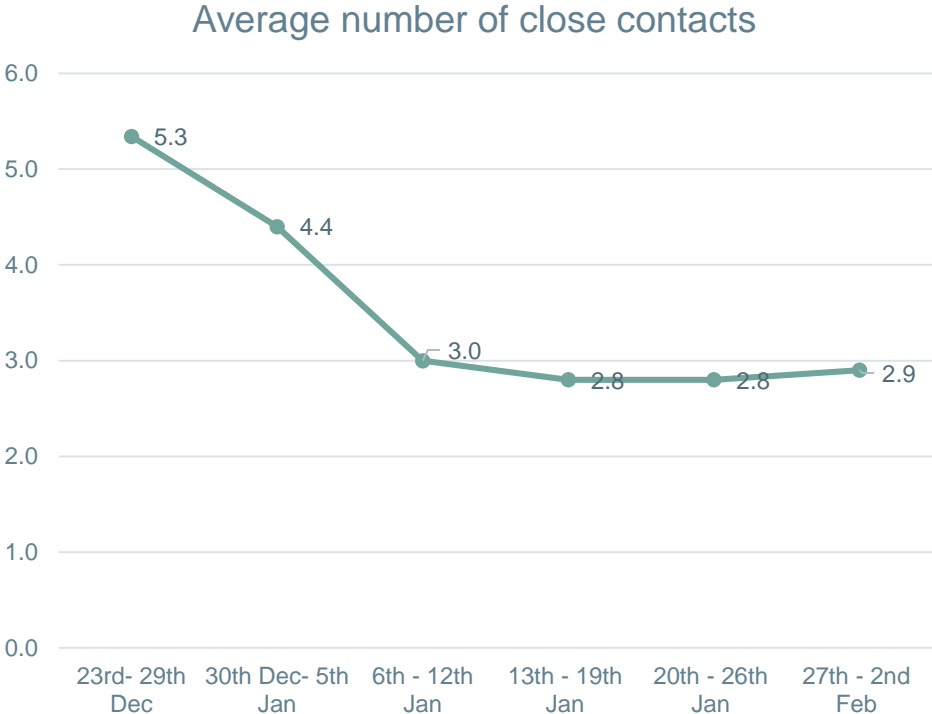
Close Contacts Trend

2.9

Over the past 6 weeks, the highest number of close contacts recorded per person were, on average, 5.3 per person

This number has levelled out over the past four weeks

Of those who recorded close contacts, the average number of close contacts from 27th January – 2nd of February was **2.9 per person.**



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 1st of February, there is a total of 730 community swabbers have been hired and on-boarded so far

Contact Tracing

- As of 1st of February, there is a total of 882 staff supporting contact tracing
- Of these 882 staff, 812 of these staff have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function
- The remaining 70 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles.



Contact Tracers take over HSE Instagram Account

- Ali, Colm and Jess, from the Contact Tracing Centre in Cork, recently took over the [Irish Health Service Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/irishhealthservice) account
- During the takeover, the HSE's 86,000+ followers got glimpse into what's it's like to work as a contact tracer
- The stories were viewed a total of 663k + throughout the day
- <https://www.instagram.com/irishhealthservice>
#OurHealthService



Conclusion



Our median end to end turnaround time is **2 days for detected cases** and **1.4 days for not detected cases**.



Demand for testing in the community has **decreased by 65%**, since the most recent peak in demand for community testing, from 30th December – 5th of January.



As of 2nd of February, there are **over 3 million COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.