

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021

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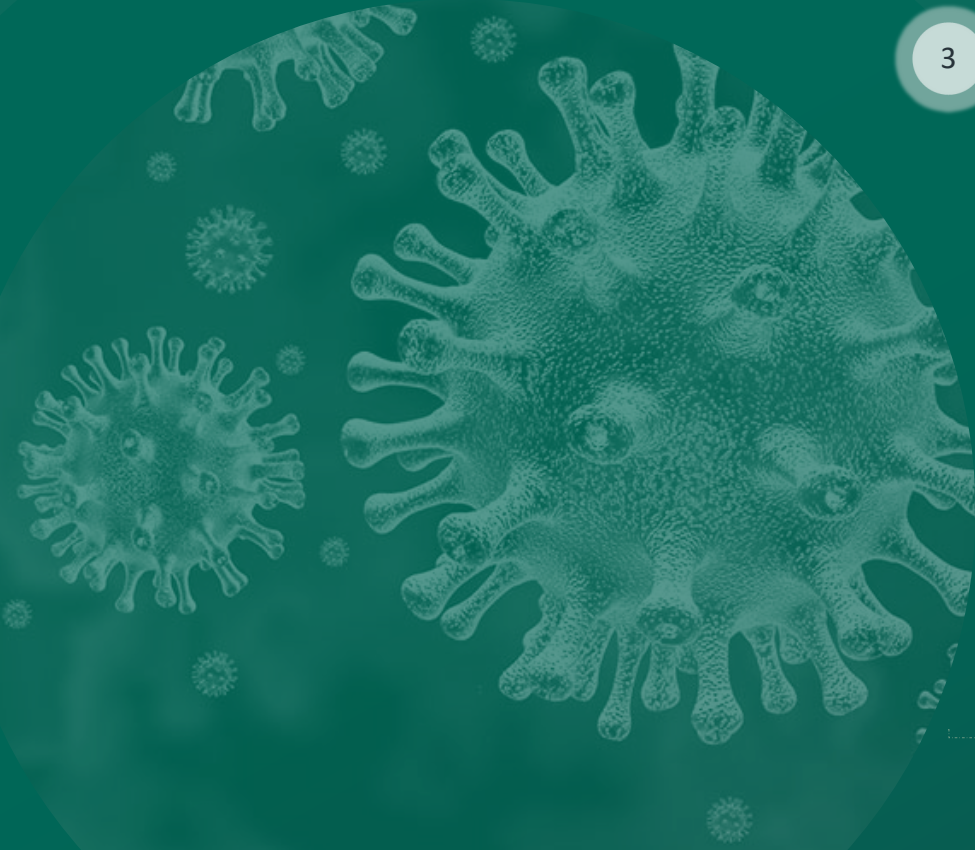
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## Test and Trace Headlines

Over 4,226,847  
Lab Tests Completed to Date



1.3 days

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



1.9 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



112,860+

Total number of swabs taken last week



109,320+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



2,410+

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 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April.

A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark background with some smaller, less distinct particles scattered around. The entire image is overlaid on a dark teal background with faint concentric circles.

## Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times



## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April.



### Community Referrals and Total Swabs Taken

- **Community Referrals (GP and CTC)** were c.33,975, an increase of 1% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (31<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April; c.33,510 community referrals)
- **Walk-In Referrals** were c.6,064, a decrease of 53% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (31<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April; c.12,923 walk-in referrals)
- From the 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, over 112,866 swabs were taken across community, acutes and serial testing.
- **93.7%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.
- From 29<sup>th</sup> of March – 4<sup>th</sup> of April of those close contacts who were referred for Test 1, attendance was **87%**.
- From 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of March, of those close contacts who were referred for Test 2, attendance was **87%**



### Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **109,326 tests** across our network of 46 labs.
- The average detected rate over the past week is **approximately 2.7%**.



### Contact Tracing

- Of the close contacts identified between 29<sup>th</sup> of March – 4<sup>th</sup> of April who underwent Test 1 and whose results were available, 15% were positive. By circumstances of contact, positivity rates remain highest in this cohort for household close contacts where it is 26.9%.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, of those who recorded close contacts, the average number **close contacts are 3.2 per person**.
- From 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of April a total of 2,759 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result.
- From 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of April, contact tracing was completed for c.2,419 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c.3,727 calls were made to close contacts.



## Test and Trace Turnaround Times

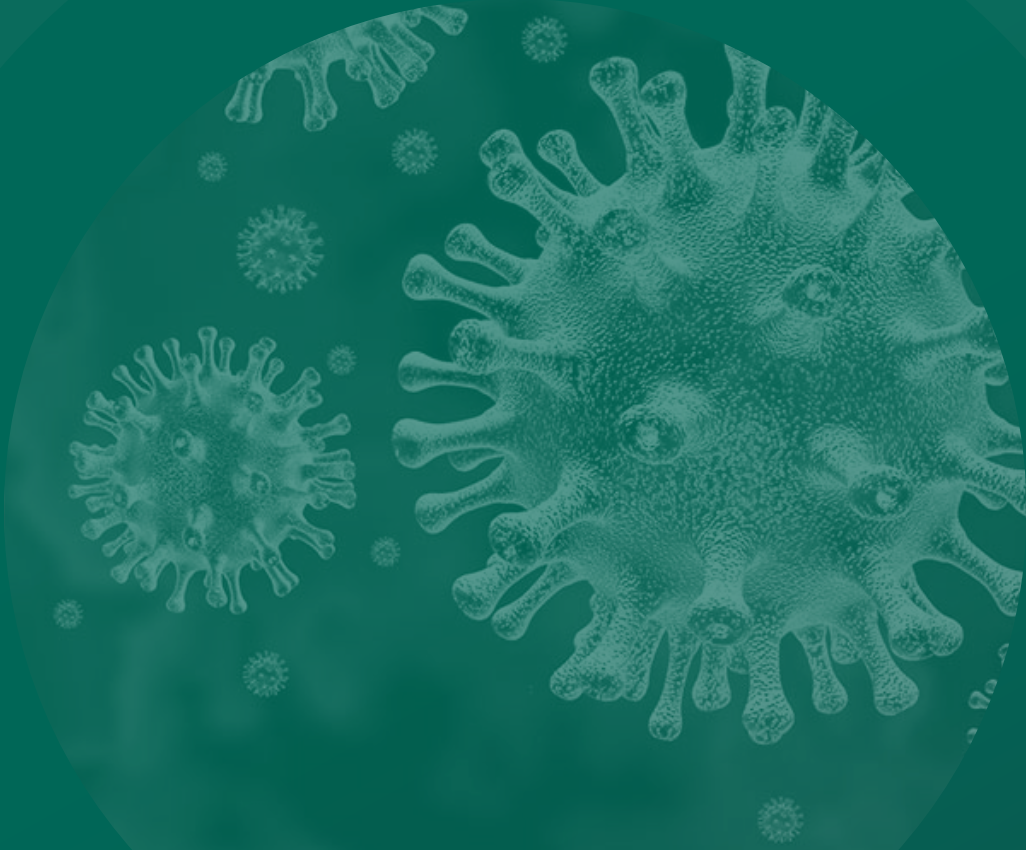
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The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April.



### Turnaround Times

- The combined median time from swab to lab result in community and acute settings was **22 hours**.
- All contact tracing calls are completed within a **mean of 6.5 hours** and a **median of 4.4 hours**.
- In the last seven days, in the community, we have delivered a **median end to end turnaround time of 1.3 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**.



## Walk In Test Centres





# Walk in - Test Centres (1/2)

## Symptom Free Walk-In COVID-19 Testing

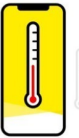
- Five new temporary walk-in test centres have opened since Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April and will remain open until Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April at the following locations:
  - Crumlin GAA, Dublin 12
  - Mulhuddart, Dublin 15
  - St Joseph's Health Campus, Limerick
  - Waterford IT College Street Campus, Waterford
  - Ballyfermot Sports Complex, Dublin 10
- Two existing static test centres will now operate drive-through, no appointment needed, testing from 9am – 5pm, 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April at the following locations:
  - St Loman's Hospital Campus, Mullingar
  - Randal Óg GAA Club, Cork



HE  Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland 

**Don't have symptoms of COVID-19 but want to be tested?**

Try our new free, walk-in COVID-19 testing service.





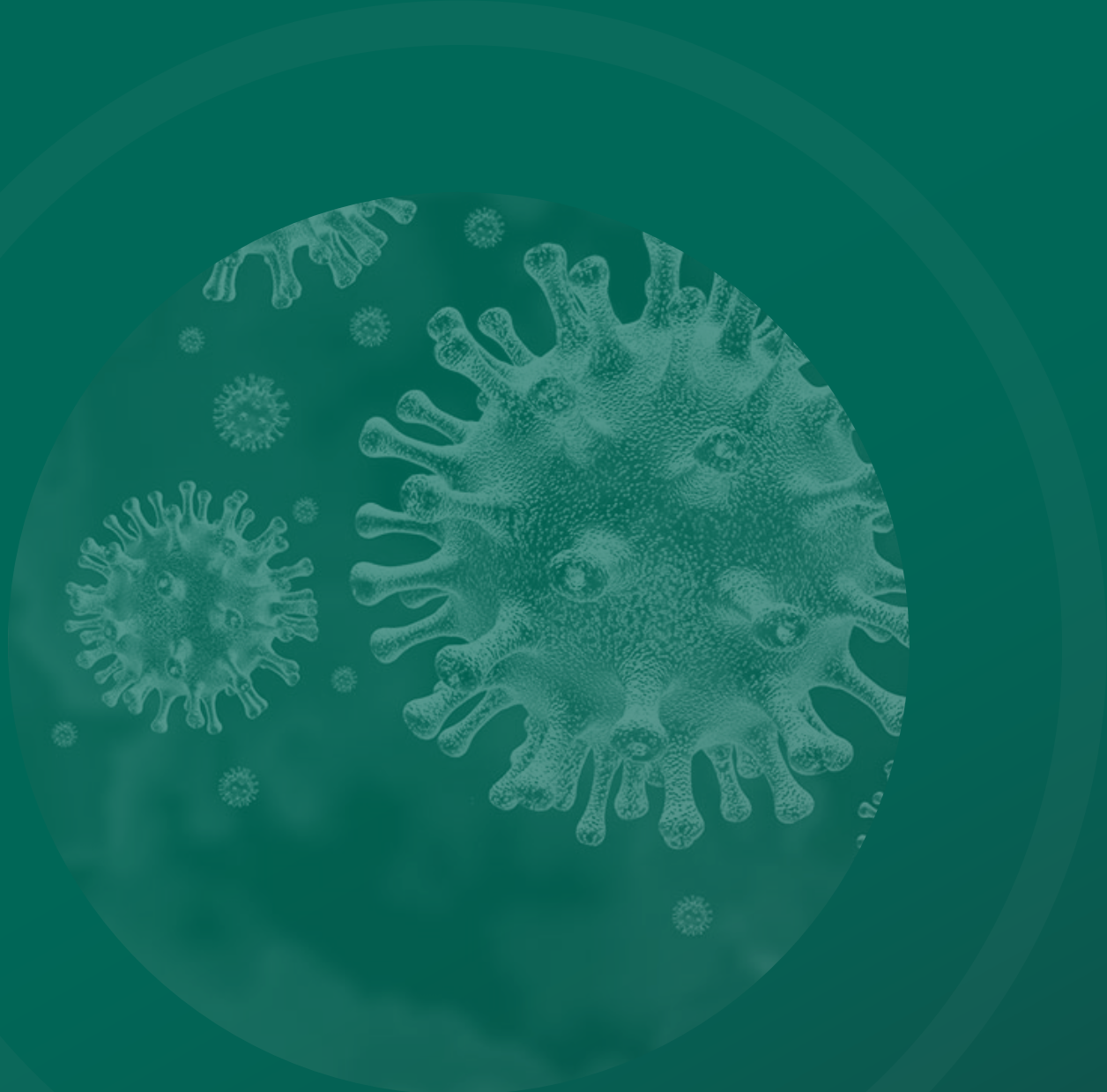


# Walk in - Test Centres (2/2)

## Symptom Free Walk-In COVID-19 Testing

- Covid-19 walk-in test centres provide quicker and easier access to Covid-19 testing for asymptomatic people. They first opened on 26th March.
- As of April 13<sup>th</sup>:
  - 30,420 people have attended
  - Overall positivity rate for walk-in test centres is 2.79%
    - Finglas and Mulhuddart sites had the highest positivity levels – over 4%
  - The positivity rate was highest among the 15-24 year old Category at 4.4% and lowest in over 65s (c.1.2%)
  - To date **822 detected cases** have been identified

The advertisement features the HE logo, the Irish harp, and the text 'Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland' on the left. On the right, it includes the 'Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice' logo. The central text asks 'Don't have symptoms of COVID-19 but want to be tested?' and promotes a 'free, walk-in COVID-19 testing service'. A graphic of a smartphone with a thermometer icon is shown on the right side of the ad.

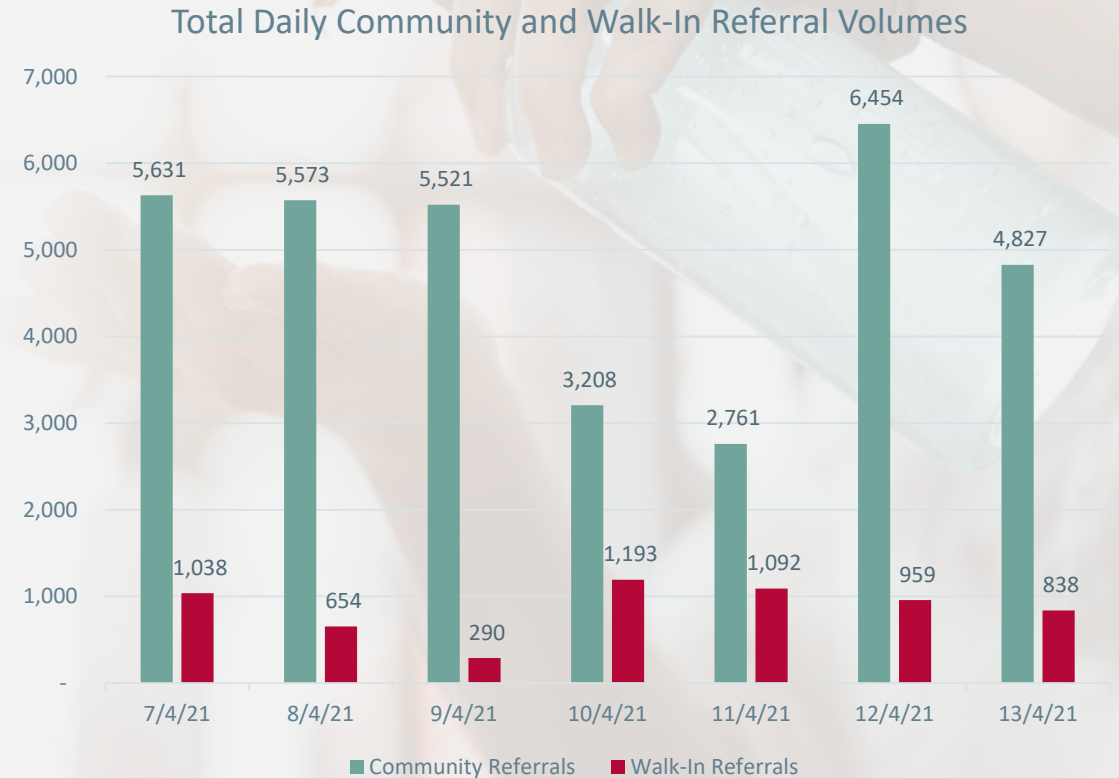


## Testing and Trace Trends



# Community & Walk-In Referrals

- From the 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, there were **c. 33,975** referrals in **community settings**. This weekly total has **increased by 1%** since the same time-period last week (31<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April; c.33,510 community referrals).
- From the 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, there were **c.6,064** referrals for **walk-in test centres**.
- This weekly total has **decreased by 53%** since the same time-period last week (31<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April; c.12,923 walk-in referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a breakdown of **total daily community and walk-in referrals** over the past 7 days.

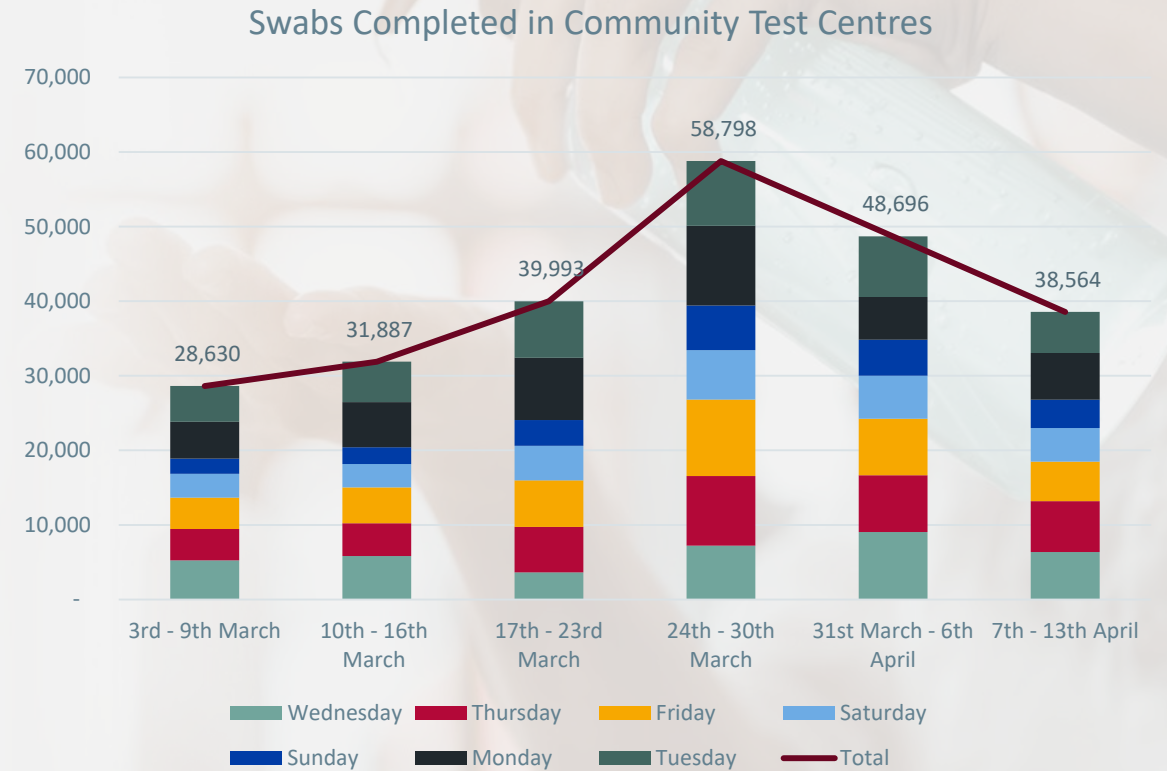




# Swabs Completed in Community Test Centres

*Including Walk-in Test Centres*

Over the 7 day period, 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, there has been **c.38,564** swabs completed in community test centres (including walk-in test centres)

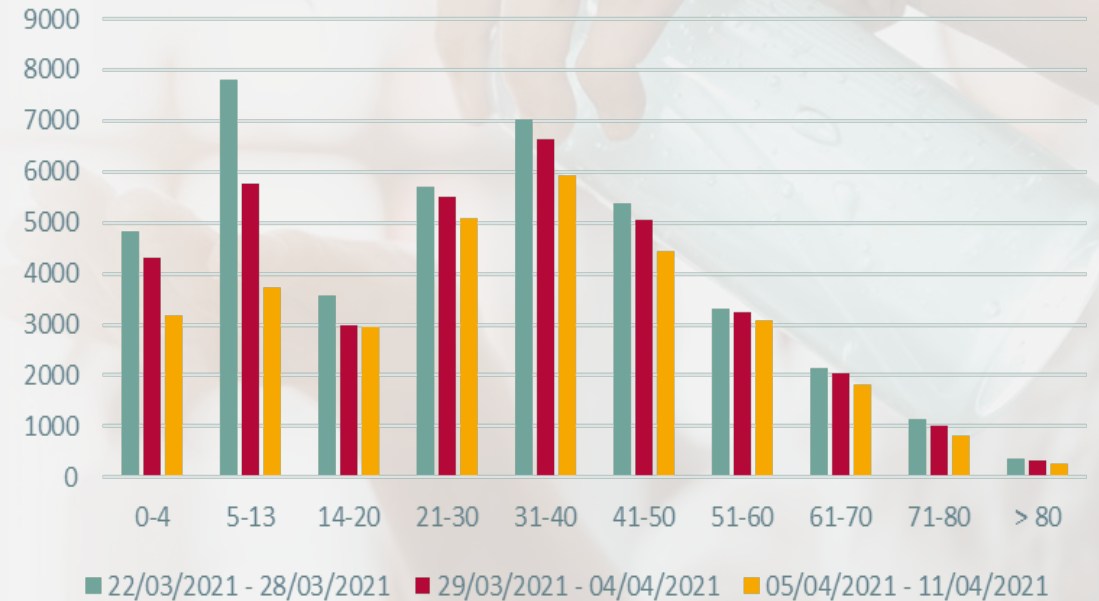




# Community Referrals by Age Group

- From the 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of April, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the **31-40** age group.
- The **31-40** age group made up **18.9%** of all referrals.
- The detected rate for the **31-40** age group was **c.8%.**

Referral Volumes by Age Group

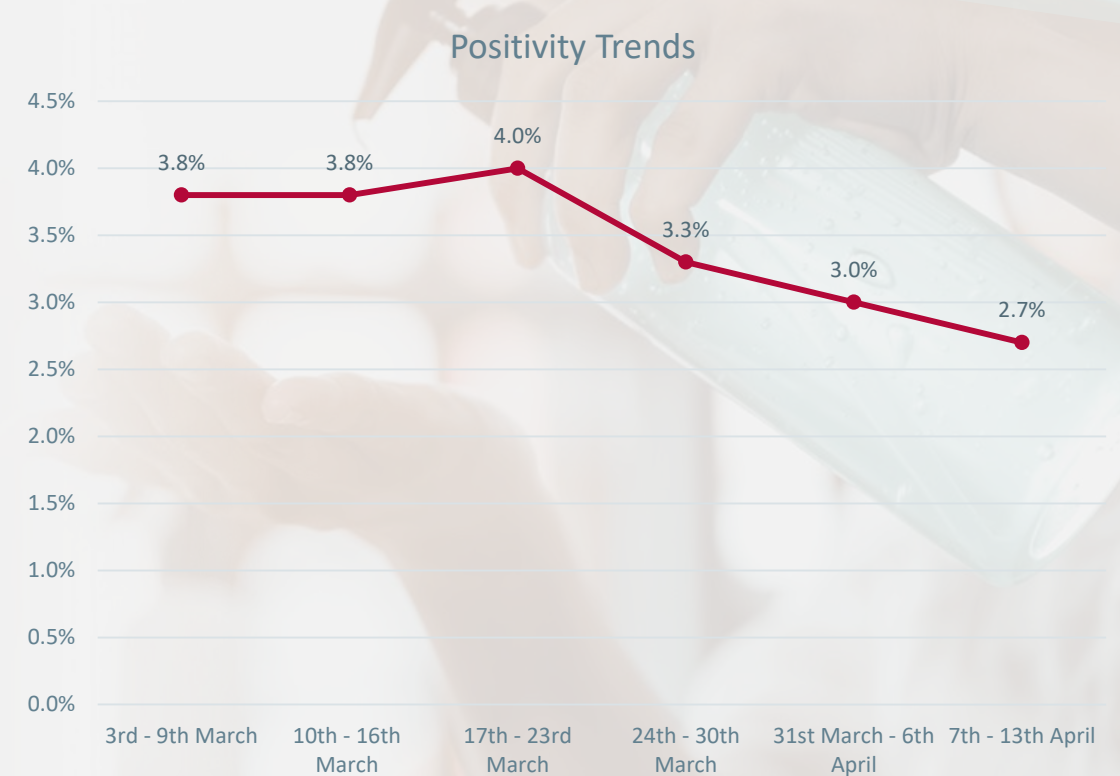




# Overall Positivity Trend

**c.2.7%**

- The positivity rate for the past seven days is **c.2.7%**
- This is a decrease from the positivity rate last week, where the average positivity rate was **3%**.





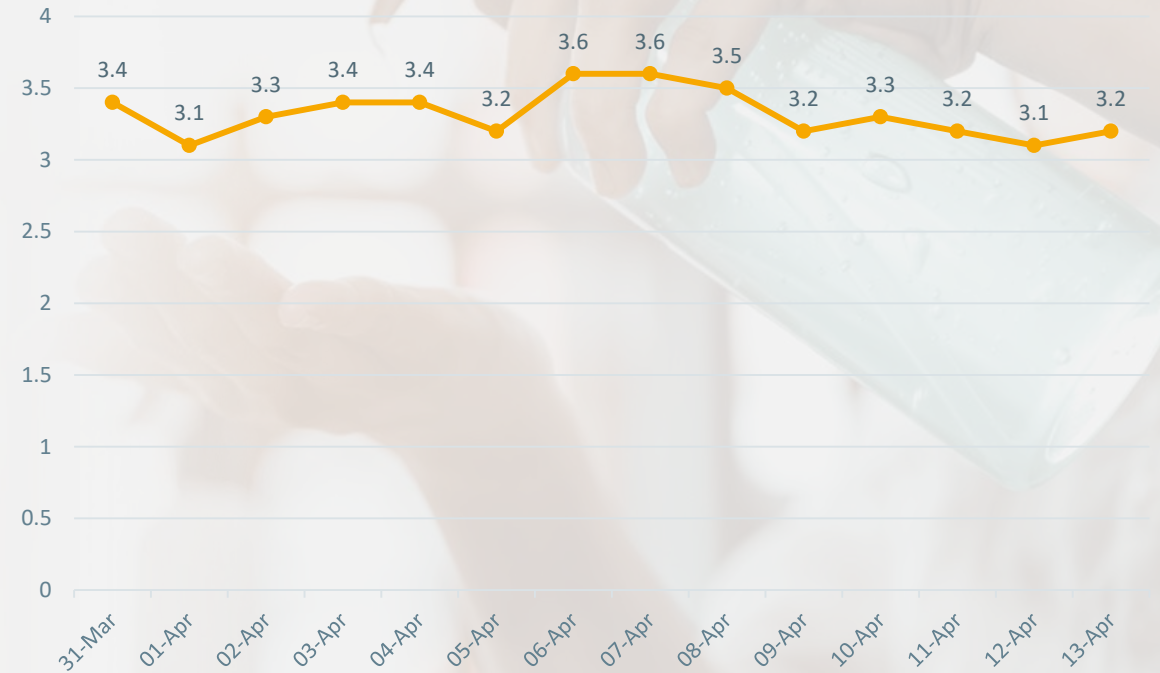
# Close Contacts Trend

3.2

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.2**

- Overall Close Contact Positivity Rate: **15%**
- Household Positivity: **26.9%**
- Social Positivity: **13%**

Mean Number of Close Contacts



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark, circular background that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

## Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

Cycle 10 of serial testing for Nursing Homes commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

## In Cycle 10;



**584 facilities** have been tested

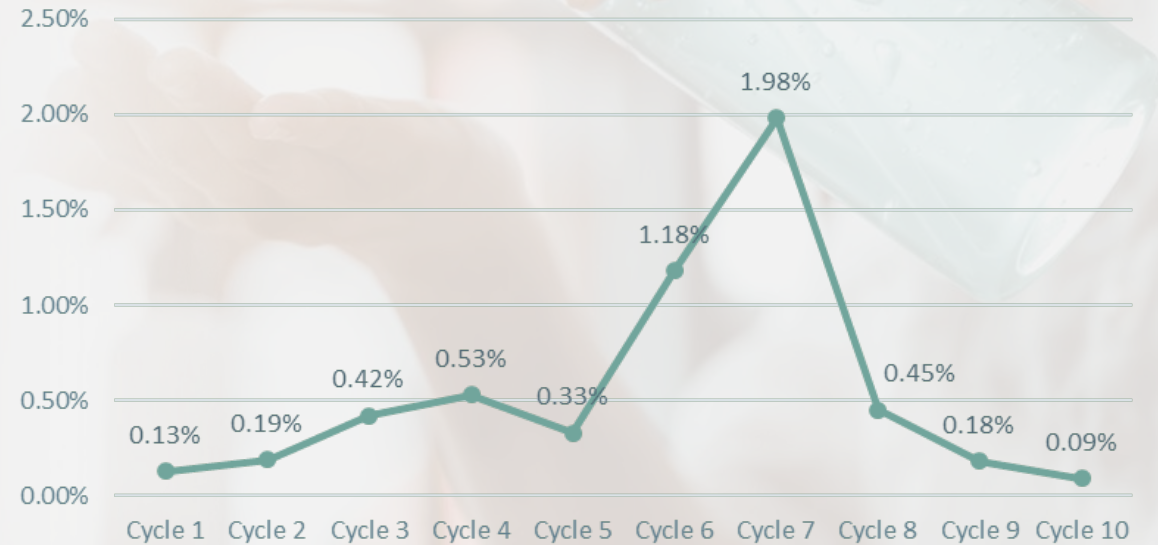


**32,878 tests** have been completed



**29 detected cases** identified  
(0.09% detected rate)

Nursing Home Detected Rate per Cycle





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 3 of serial testing for Mental Health Facilities commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

## In Cycle 3;



**21 facilities** have been tested

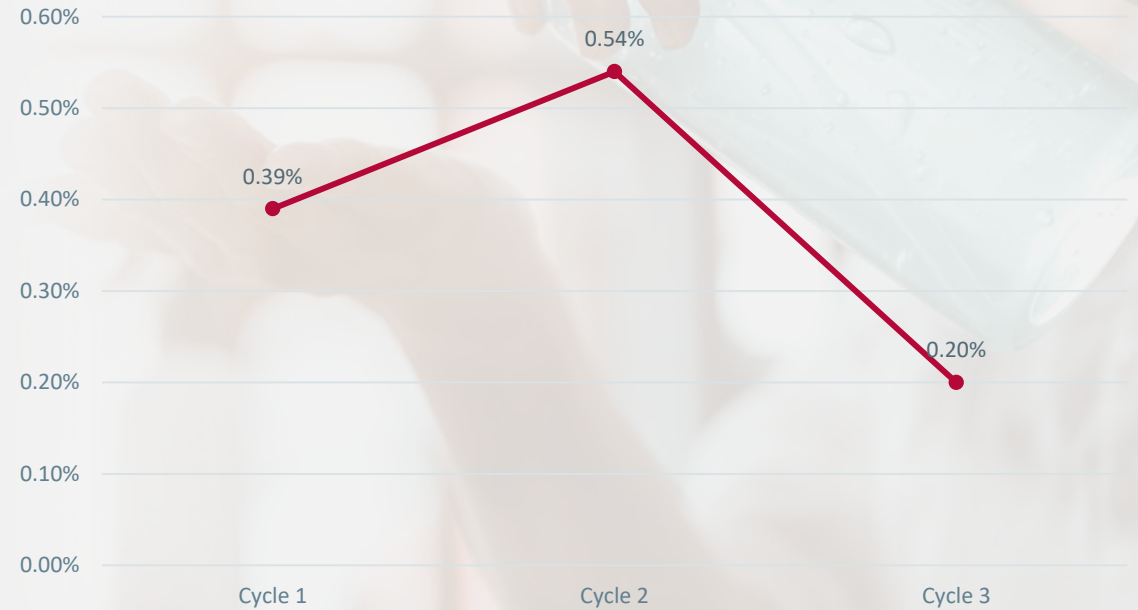


**987 tests** have been completed



**2 detected cases** identified  
(0.20% detected rate)

Mental Health Facilities Detected Rate per Cycle





# Serial Testing in Food Production Facilities

Cycle 8 of serial testing for Food Production Facilities commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> of April.

## In Cycle 8;



**33 facilities** have been tested

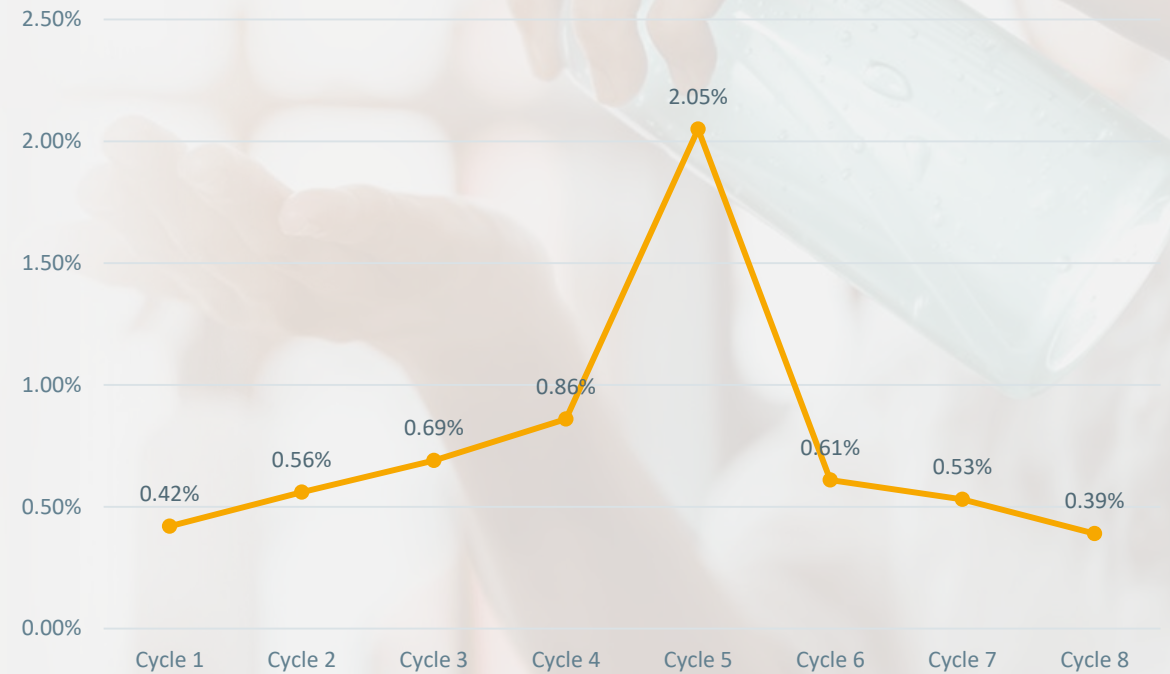


**7,350 tests** have been completed



**29 detected cases** identified  
(0.39% detected rate)

Food Production Detected Rate per Cycle





# Testing in Prisons

*A once off round of Asymptomatic Testing of Staff in “Key Contact Areas” in Prisons was rolled out on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 arranged in local Test Centres. Results of this round of testing will be assessed in order to determine any future testing requirements*

**As of April 14<sup>th</sup>:**



Staff from **12 facilities** have been tested



**90** tests have been completed



**0 detected cases** identified  
(0.00% detected rate)





# Mandatory Hotel Quarantine Testing

- All passengers arriving into Ireland from designated states are now required to pre-book accommodation in a designated quarantine facility.
- Testing resources have been made available in Quarantine Facilities since 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and are available on a daily basis to accommodate the testing of all new arrivals.
- The scope of testing includes:
  - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 2 Countries on Day 0 and Day 10
  - Testing of passengers arriving into Ireland from Category 1 Countries that have not been able to produce a negative result
  - Testing of Quarantine Hotel Staff on a weekly basis

## Total Hotel Quarantine Swabs as of April 12th:

### Hotel Staff

**249** swabs complete

### Quarantine Residents

**818** swabs complete

### Detected Cases To Date

**18**



A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark, circular background with some faint, larger-scale patterns.

## Education and Childcare



## In the Last Week

**1.1 day**

from swab to  
communication of  
result

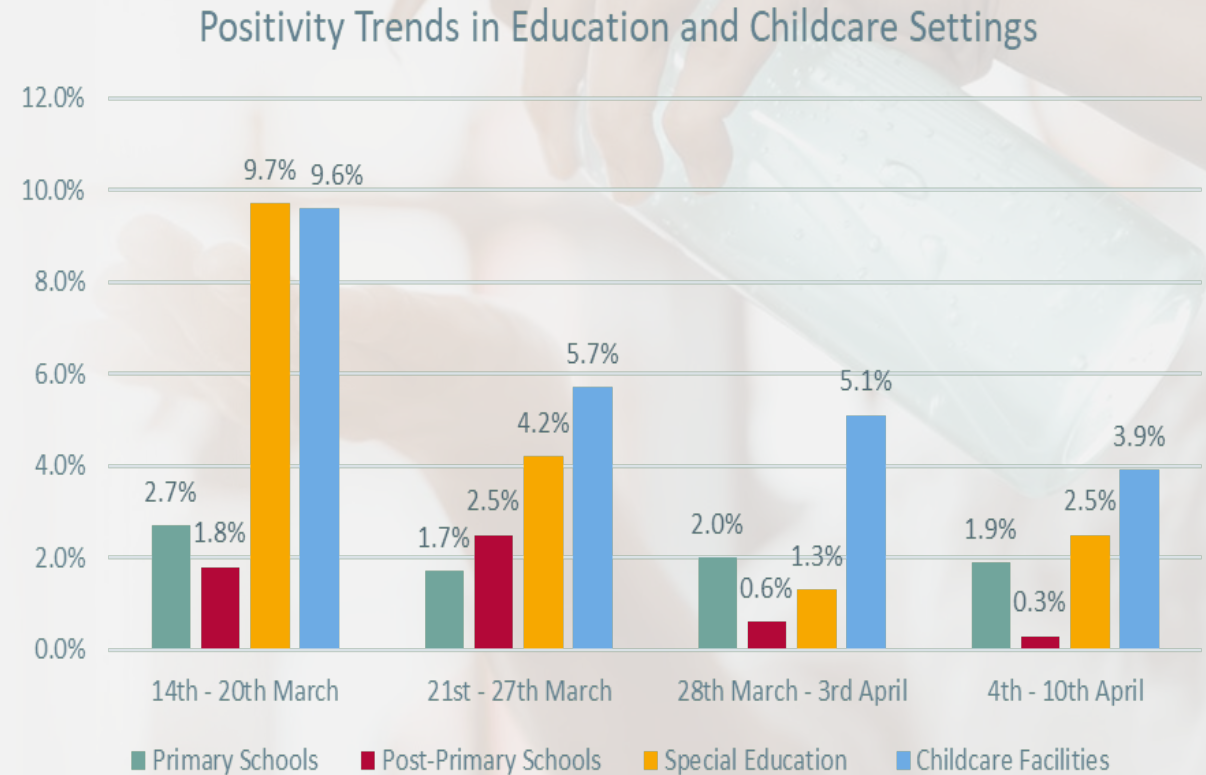
# Testing in Education and Childcare Facilities

primary schools	Post primary schools	Special schools	Childcare facilities
<b>1,669</b> individuals	<b>291</b> individuals	<b>40</b> individuals	<b>1,168</b> individuals
<b>19</b> primary schools	<b>169</b> post- primary schools	<b>4</b> special schools	<b>80</b> childcare facilities
<b>1.9%</b> Positivity rate	<b>0.3%</b> Positivity rate	<b>2.5%</b> Positivity rate	<b>3.9%</b> Positivity rate

# HE Positivity Trend in Education and Childcare Settings

- This graph shows the positivity trend in primary schools, post primary schools, special education and childcare facilities over the past four weeks.
- The positivity rate in **childcare facilities** has been decreasing over the past four weeks and last week was **3.9%**.
- In the last week the positivity rate in;
  - **Special education** schools was **2.5%**
  - **Post-primary** schools was **0.3%**
  - **Primary schools** was **1.9%**

This positivity rate will continue to be monitored, on the return of the remaining post-primary students to school settings.





A circular inset image showing a microscopic view of coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions. They are set against a dark, circular background with a subtle grid pattern.

## Recruitment



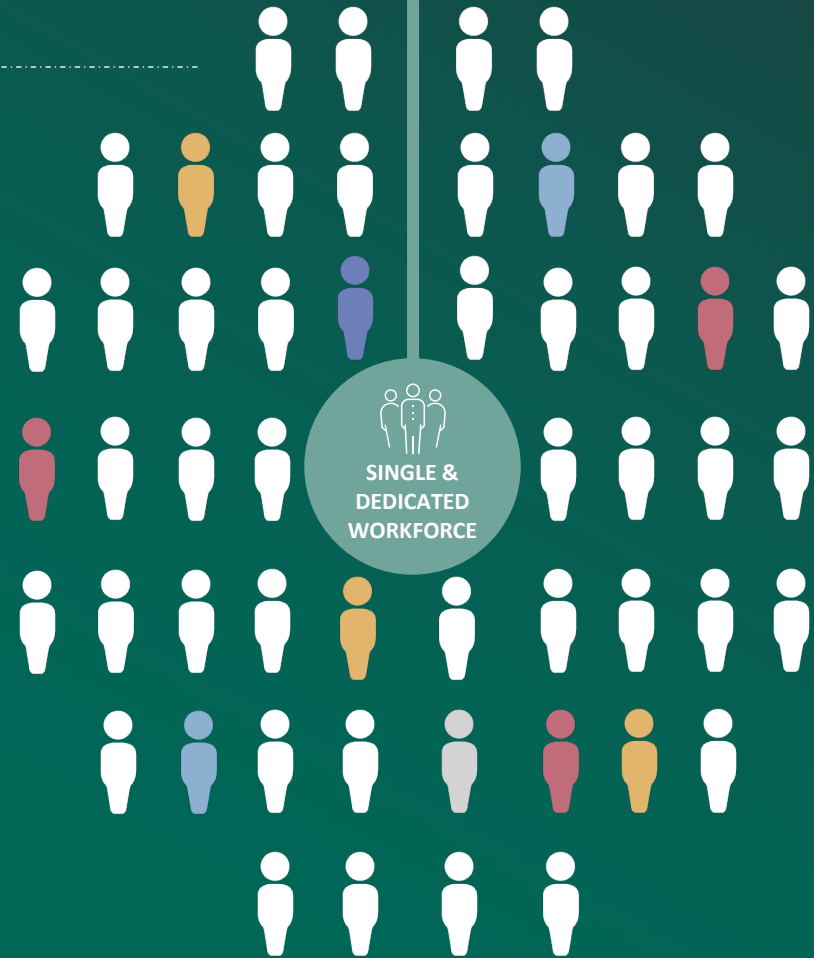
**782**  
**Community Swabbers**

Recruited and Onboarded

**867**  
**Staff supporting Contact Tracing**

Of these 867 staff;  
826 of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining 41 staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles





# Conclusion

1

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March, there are **over 4,226,847 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.

2

Our median end to end turnaround time is **1.9 days for detected cases** and **1.3 days for not detected cases**.

3

**Referral volumes in the community overall** since this time last week.

