

# HSE COVID-19 Test and Trace Briefing

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29th of April, 2021

# Testing Volumes and Turnaround Times

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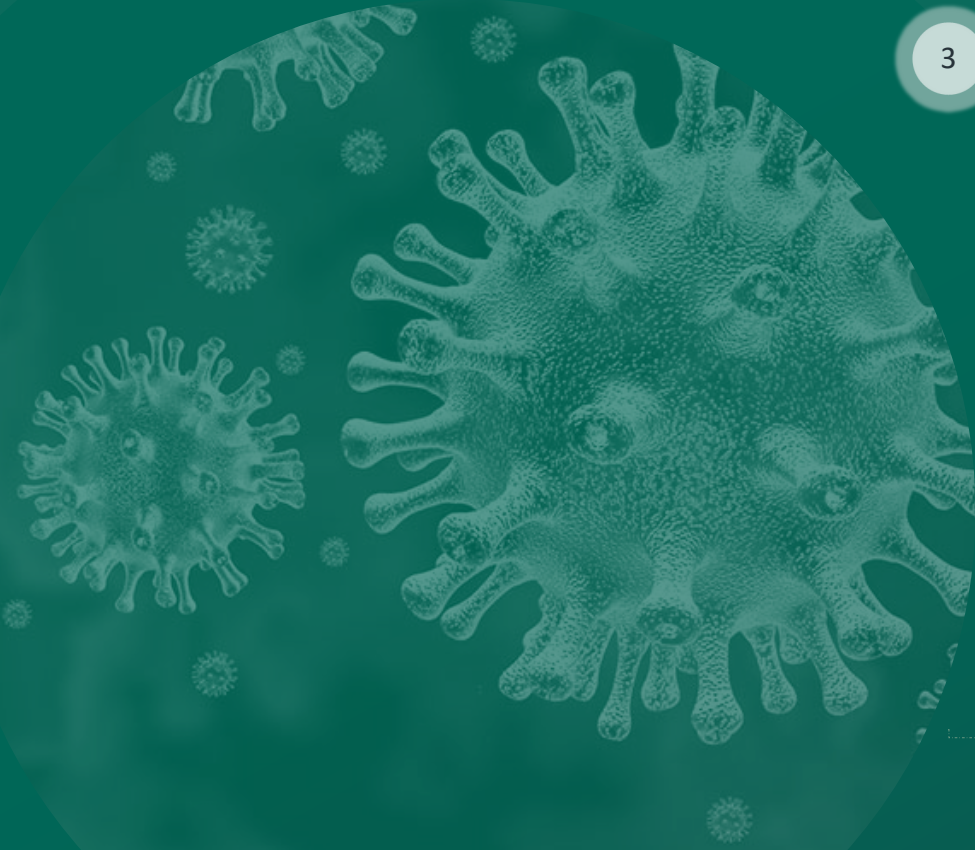
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## Test and Trace Headlines

Over 4,452,684  
Lab Tests Completed to Date



1.3 days

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



2.0 days

Community - median end to end for a detected result



130,710+

Total number of swabs taken last week



109,330+

Total number of laboratory tests last week



2,790+

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 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April.

A large, semi-transparent circular graphic on the left side of the slide. Inside the circle, there is a detailed, light-colored illustration of several virus particles, likely coronaviruses, showing their characteristic spherical shape and numerous spike-like protrusions. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with faint, concentric circular lines.



## Test and Trace Volumes

The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the seven days from 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April.



### Community Referrals and Total Swabs Taken

- **Community Referrals (GP and CTC)** were c.40,348, which has increased by 19% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April; c.34,040 community referrals)
- **Walk-In Referrals** were c.8,384, an increase of 16% in comparison to the same time-frame last week (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April; c.7,178 walk-in referrals)
- From the 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, over 130,713 swabs were taken across community, acutes and serial testing.
- **94.5%** of GP referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.
- From 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of April of those close contacts who were referred for Test 1, attendance was **87%**.
- From 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April, of those close contacts who were referred for Test 2, attendance was **85%**



### Laboratories

- Laboratories processed **109,338 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 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of April who underwent Test 1 and whose results were available, 14.6% were positive. By circumstances of contact, positivity rates remain highest in this cohort for household close contacts where it is 31%.
- Of those who recorded close contacts over the last 7 days, the average number **close contacts is 3.7 per person**.
- From 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of April a total of 3,055 calls were completed to individuals who received a confirmed COVID-19 detected test result.
- From 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of April, contact tracing was completed for c.2,793 individuals that had a confirmed COVID-19 case
- In addition, c.5,134 calls were made to close contacts.



## Test and Trace Turnaround Times

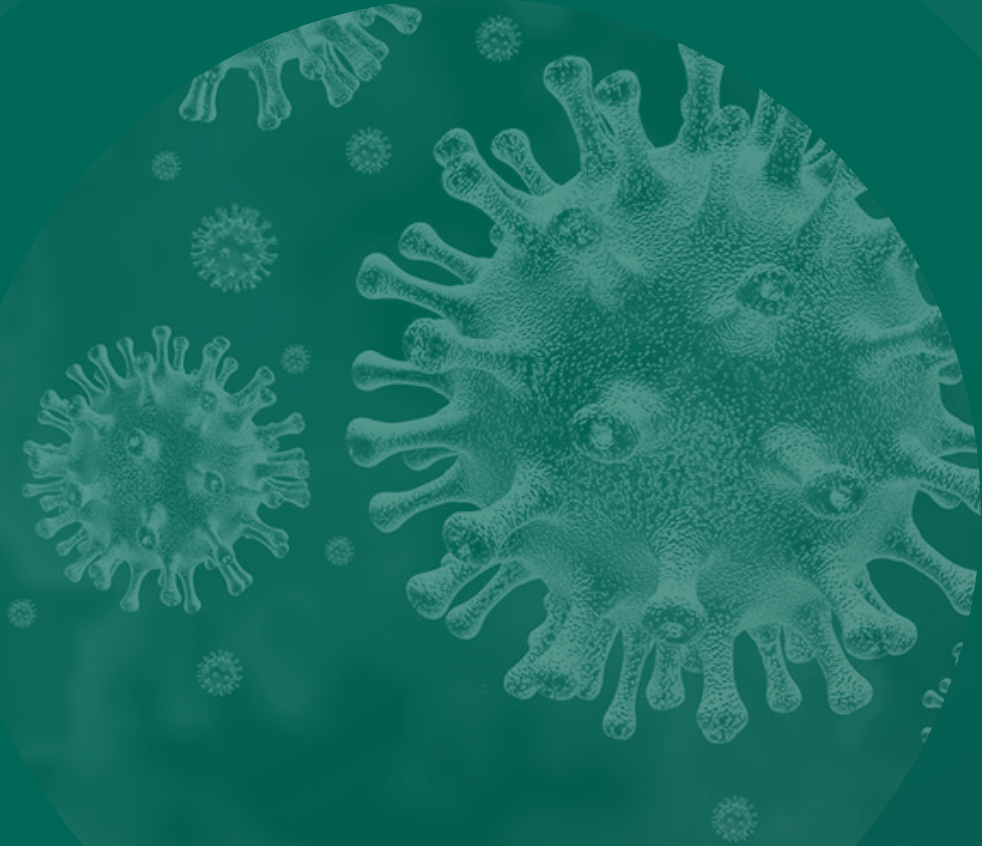
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The following metrics and turnaround times refer to the 7 day date range from 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April.



### 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 7.8 hours** and a **median of 5.3 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 2.0 days for detected results**.



## Walk In Test Centres



# Walk in - Test Centres (1/2)

## Symptom Free Walk-In COVID-19 Testing

- A further extension has been announced for the following Dublin-based walk-in test centres: Dublin 5, 8 and 15
- A new walk-in test centre has opened in Celbridge, Co. Kildare from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- Walk-in no appointment required testing will begin at the static testing centre in Tullamore, Co. Offaly from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- These walk-in test sites support the HSE's enhanced COVID-19 testing for local communities and allow further identification and understanding of any variants of concern within our communities.



HSE | 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.



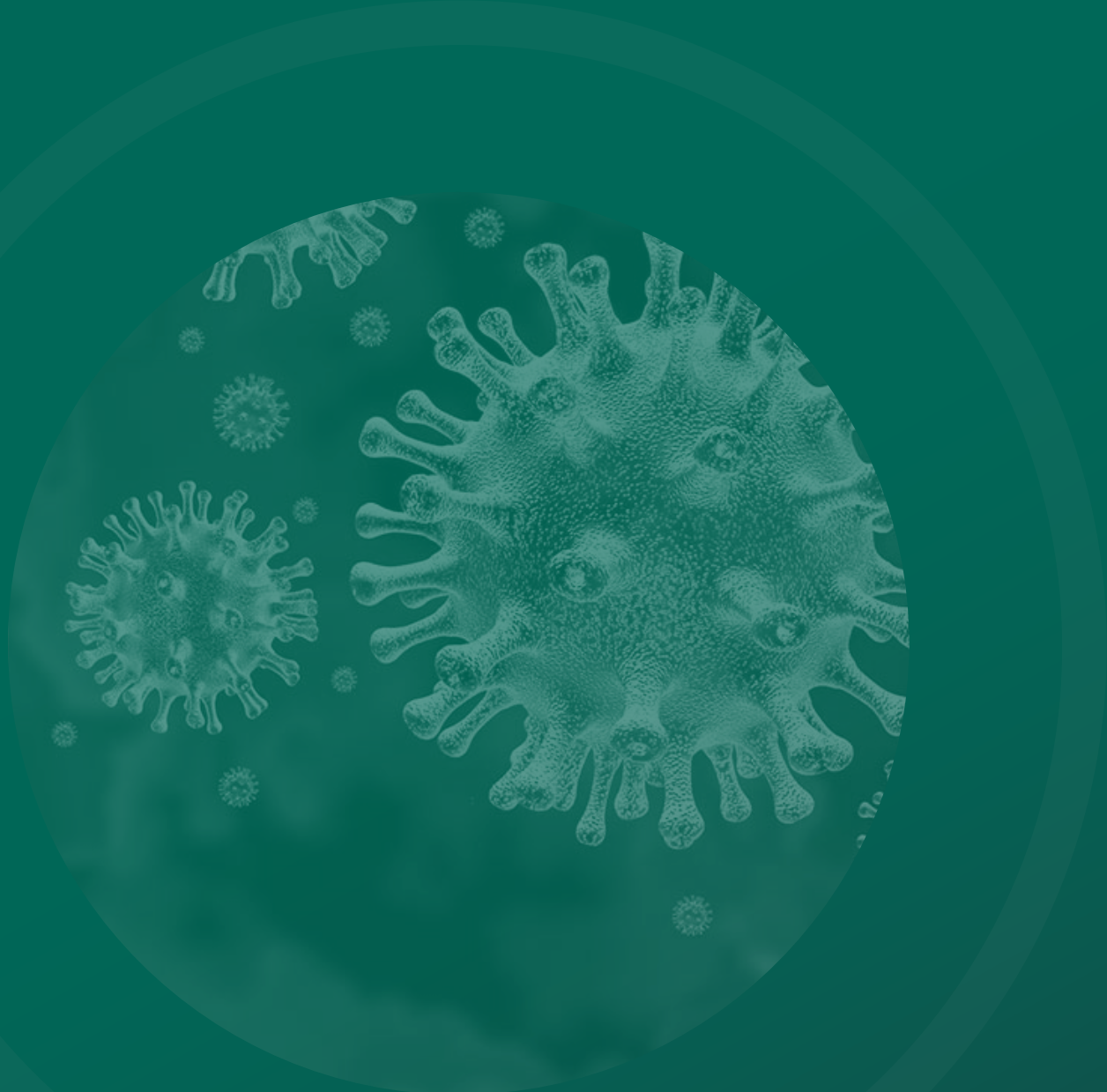


# Walk in - Test Centres (2/2)

## 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 27<sup>th</sup>:
  - A total of 46,229 people have attended
  - Overall positivity rate for walk-in test centres is 3.4%
    - Coolock and Letterkenny sites had the highest positivity levels – over 6%
  - The positivity rate was highest among the younger age groups (under 30)
  - To date **1,520 detected cases** have been identified

The advertisement features the HSE logo and the Government of Ireland logo on the left. On the right, it includes the Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice logo. The central text reads: "Don't have symptoms of COVID-19 but want to be tested?". Below this, it says: "Try our new free, walk-in COVID-19 testing service." To the right of the text is an illustration of a smartphone displaying a thermometer icon with a red line indicating a temperature reading.

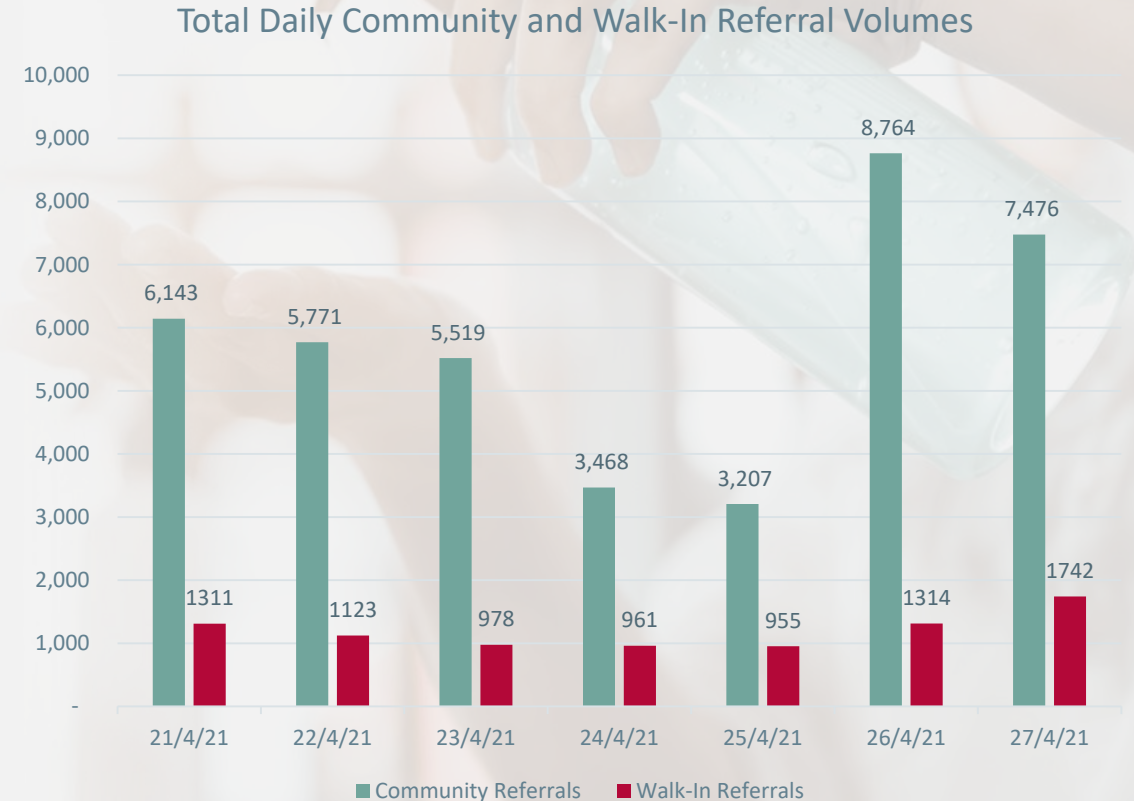


## Testing and Trace Trends



# Community & Walk-In Referrals

- From the 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, there were **c. 40,348** referrals in **community settings**. This weekly total has **increased by 19%** in comparison to the same time-period last week (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April; c.34,040 community referrals).
- From the 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, there were **c.8,384** referrals for **walk-in test centres**. This weekly total has **increased by 16%** since the same time-period last week (14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April; c.7,178 walk-in referrals)
- The graph to the right shows a breakdown of **total daily community and walk-in referrals** over the past 7 days.

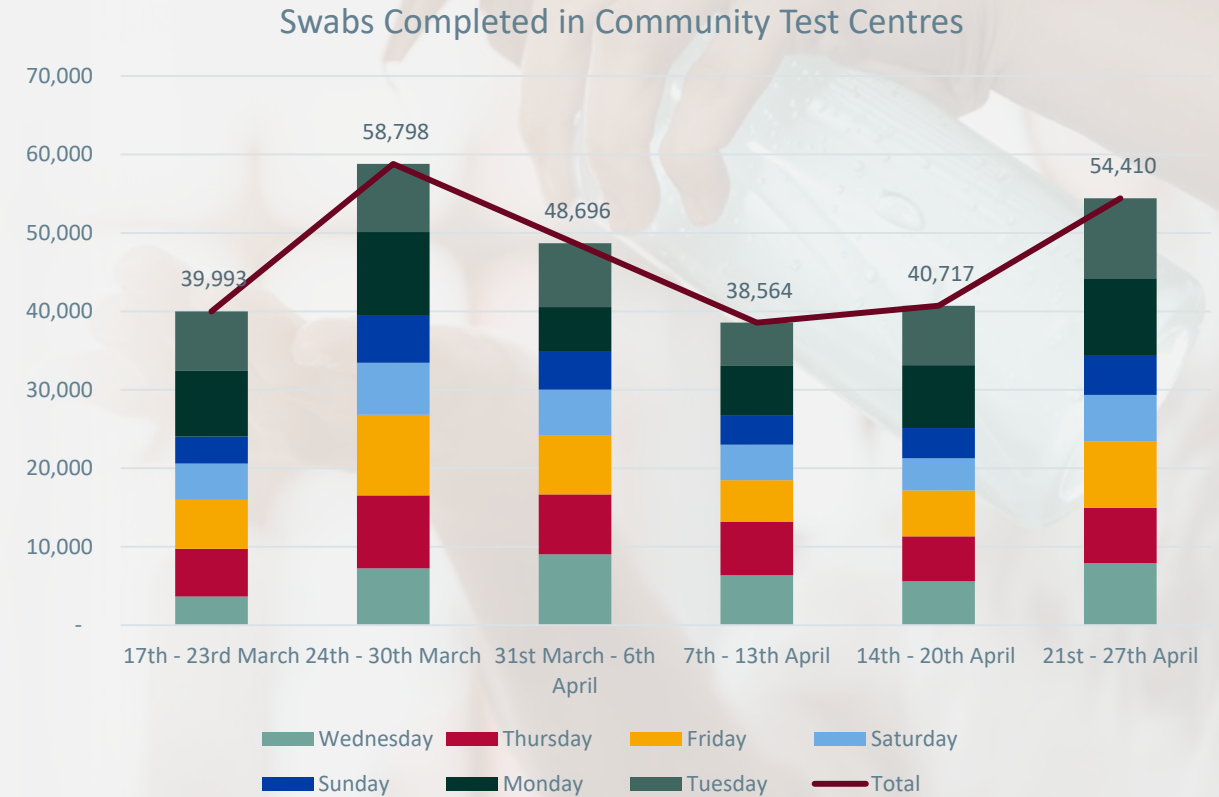




# Swabs Completed in Community Test Centres

*Including Walk-in Test Centres*

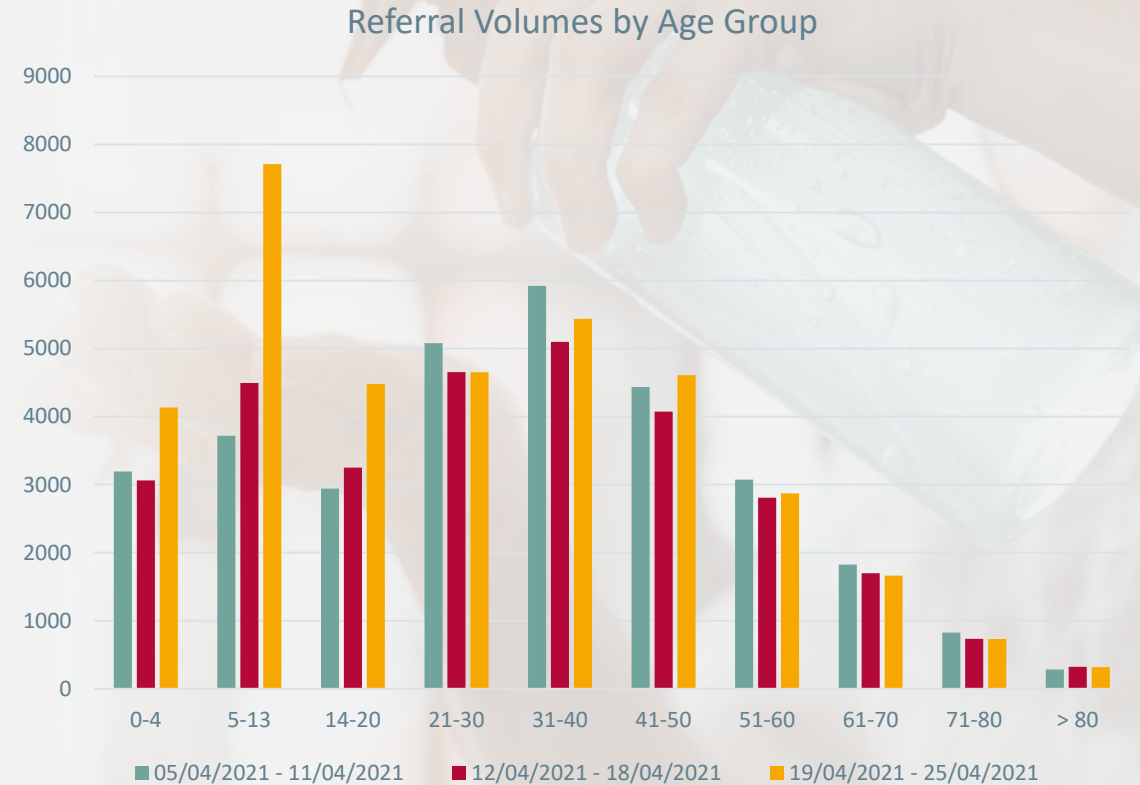
Over the 7 day period, 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, there has been **c.54,410** swabs completed in community test centres (including walk-in test centres)





# Community Referrals by Age Group

- From the 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the age group with the highest percentage of referrals was the **5-13** age group.
- The **5-13** age group made up **21.1%** of all referrals.
- The detected rate for the **5-13** age group was **c.4.5%**.

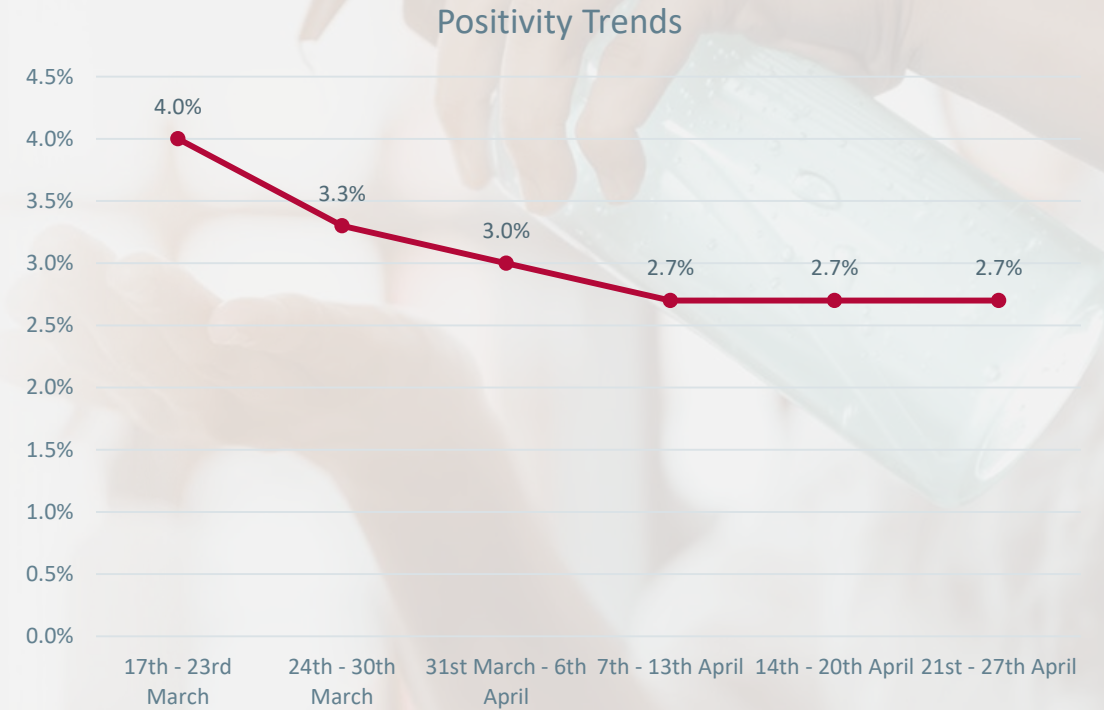




# Overall Positivity Trend

**c.2.7%**

- The positivity rate for the past seven days is **c.2.7%**
- The positivity rate has remained stable for the third consecutive week in a row.





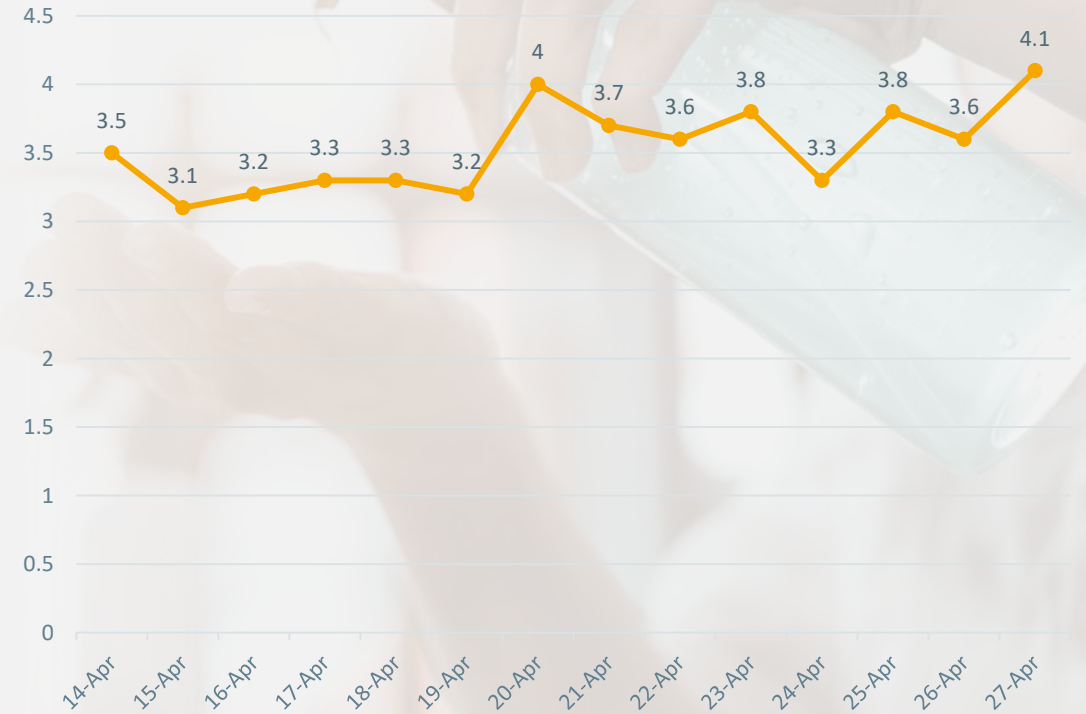
# Close Contacts Trend

3.7

Of those tested with at least one close contact, the mean number of close contacts per person was **3.7 over the last 7 days**

- Overall Close Contact Positivity Rate: **14.6%**
- Household Positivity: **31%**
- Social Positivity: **12.5%**

Mean Number of Close Contacts



A large, semi-circular graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark teal background with several white, spherical virus particles of varying sizes. The most prominent virus in the center has a textured surface and numerous spike-like protrusions, resembling a coronavirus. Other smaller, smoother spherical particles are scattered around it. The entire graphic is framed by a thin, light teal circular border.

## Testing Programmes



# Serial Testing in Nursing Homes

Cycle 11 of serial testing for Nursing Homes commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

## In Cycle 11;



**56 facilities** have been tested

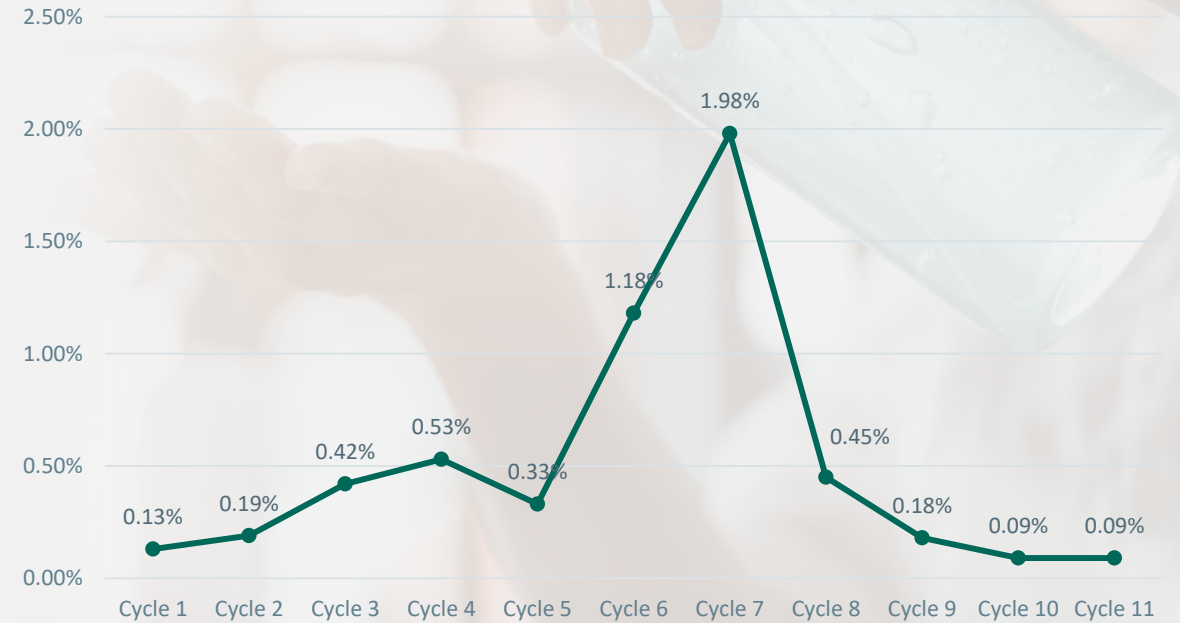


**2,202 tests** have been completed



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

Nursing Home Detected Rate per Cycle





# Serial Testing in Mental Health Facilities

Cycle 4 of serial testing for Mental Health Facilities commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

## In Cycle 4;



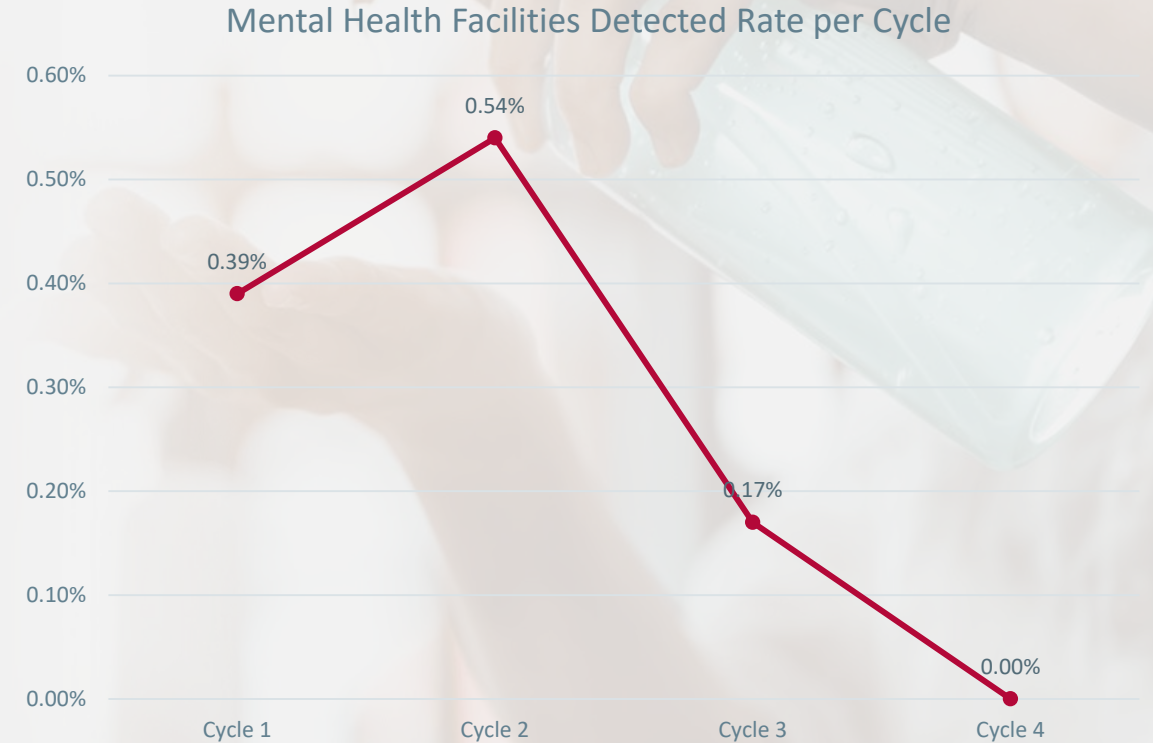
**3 facilities** have been tested



**53 tests** have been completed



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





# 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;



**75 facilities** have been tested

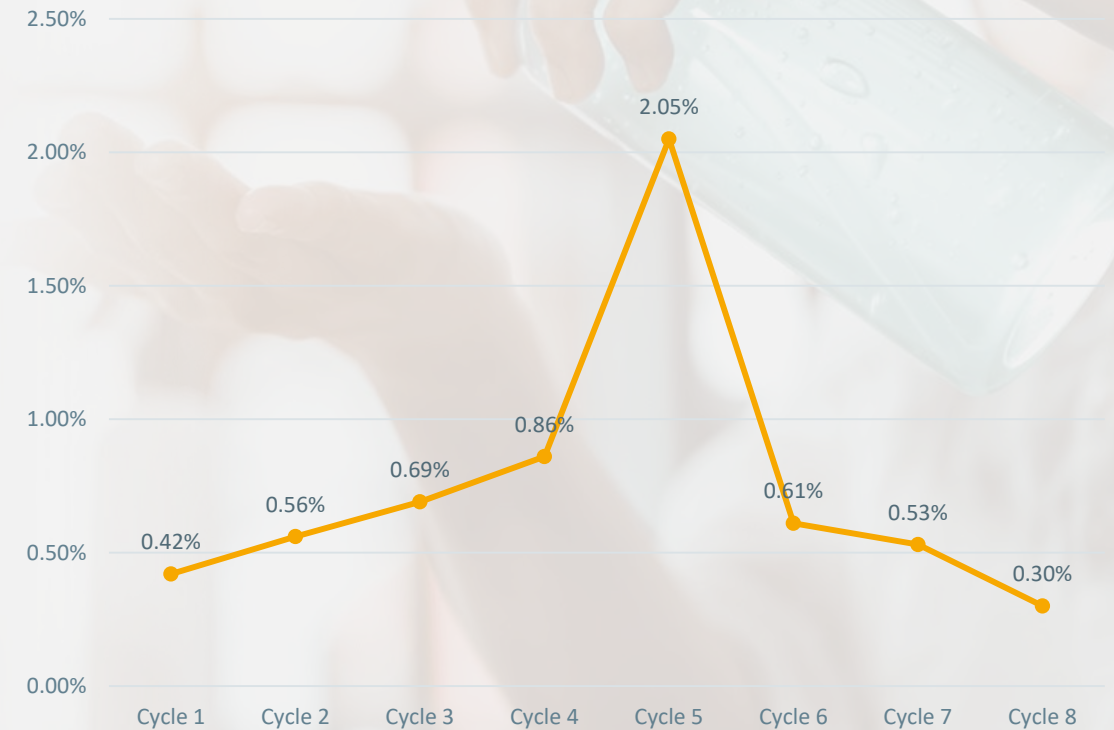


**18,941 tests** have been completed



**57 detected cases** identified  
(0.30% detected rate)

Food Production Detected Rate per Cycle





# 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 27th:

### Hotel Staff

468 swabs complete

### Quarantine Residents

2,321 swabs complete

### Detected Cases To Date

60



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 some smaller, less distinct particles scattered around. The entire image is overlaid on a teal gradient background.

## Education and Childcare



## In the Last Week

**1 day**

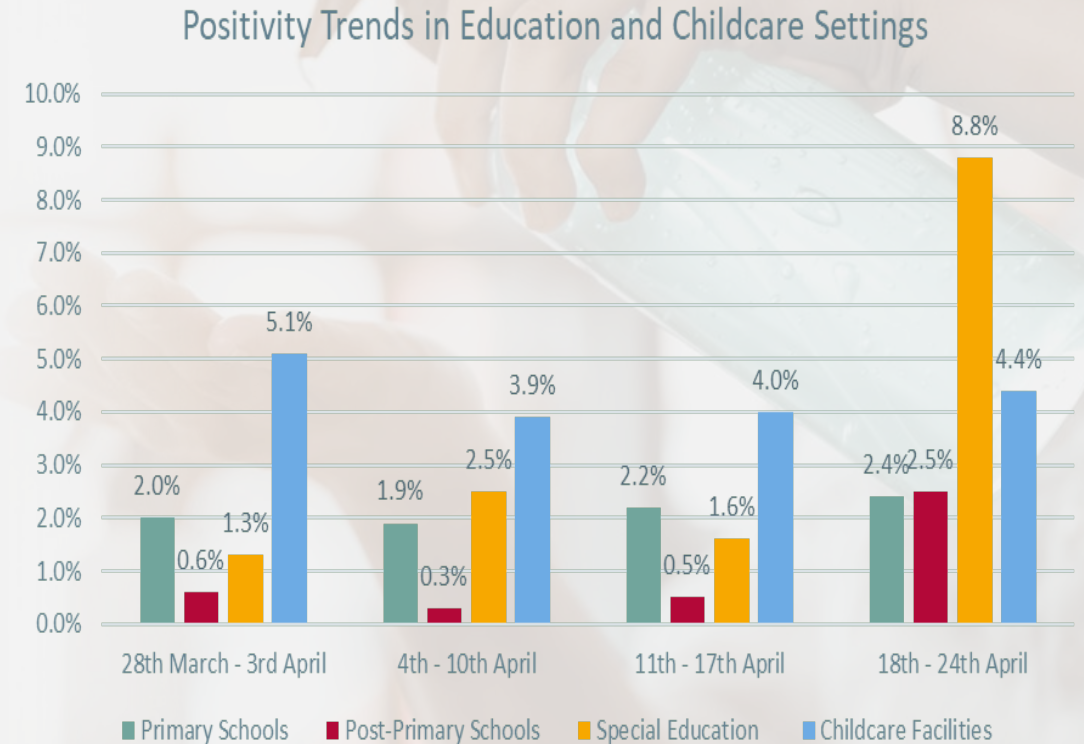
from swab to  
communication of  
result

# Testing in Education and Childcare Facilities

primary schools	Post primary schools	Special schools	Childcare facilities
<b>2,795</b> individuals	<b>1,810</b> individuals	<b>34</b> individuals	<b>1,179</b> individuals
<b>109</b> primary schools	<b>70</b> post- primary schools	<b>4</b> special schools	<b>61</b> childcare facilities
<b>2.4%</b> Positivity rate	<b>2.5%</b> Positivity rate	<b>8.8%</b> Positivity rate	<b>4.4%</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.
- In the last week the positivity rate in;
  - **Primary schools** was **2.4%**
  - **Post-primary** schools was **2.5%**
  - **Special education** schools was **8.8%**
  - **Childcare facilities** was **4.4%**



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 that is part of a larger, faint circular graphic on the slide.

## Recruitment





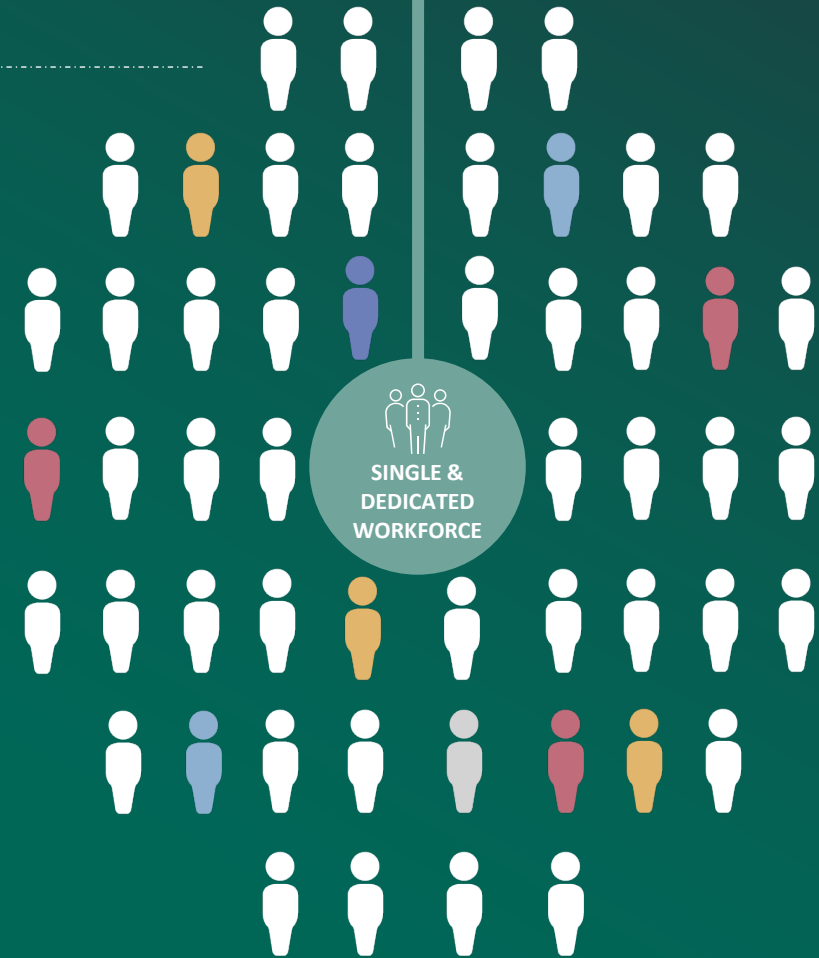
**788**  
Community  
Swabbers

Recruited and Onboarded

**980**  
Staff supporting  
Contact Tracing

Of these 980 staff;  
925 of these staff have been hired  
and retained as part of  
dedicated workforce to support  
the contact tracing function

The remaining 55 staff are redeployed  
from the HSE and other Public Service  
Roles





# Conclusion

1

As of 27<sup>th</sup> of April, there are **over 4,452,684 COVID-19 Tests** completed to date.

2

Our median end to end turnaround time is **2.0 days for detected cases** and **1.3 days for not detected cases**.

3

**Referral volumes** in the **community increased by 19%** in comparison to the same time-period last week.

**Referral volumes** for **walk-in test centres** also **increased by 16%** in comparison to the same time-period last week.