COVID-19
Contact Management Programme (CMP)
Public Health Report

Week ending 21/11/2021

Owner: Dr Greg Martin – Clinical Lead CMP, Medical Officer of Health (MCRN 409474)

Version 1.1

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<td>Household contacts - overall PCR Test results by age group</td>
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COVID-19
Contact Management Programme (CMP)
Public Health Report

Key findings

Week ending: 21/11/2021

The average number of cases managed by the Contact Management Programme (CMP) per day during the week ending 21/11/2021 was 4653, an increase of 10% from 4242 cases the previous week.

The average number of close contacts reported to the CMP per day for the week ending 21/11/2021 was 8587, an increase of 8% from 7943 recorded the previous week.
Test 1 is scheduled as soon as close contacts are informed of their close contact status by CMP. Test 1 results include some results from walk-in centres.

Test 2 is scheduled on Day 10. Close contact test attendance and results are reported a week in arrears.

Schools went on Midterm the week ending 31/10/21.
Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021

- Contacts aged 5 to 12 years (n=485) and 35 to 44 years (n=176) accounted for 33% and 12% respectively of the close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021 who tested positive.

- Household contacts accounted for 52.1% (n = 765) of the close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021 who tested positive followed by social contacts (n = 68) who accounted for 4.6%.

Schools went on Midterm the week ending 31/10/21.
The Contact Management Programme (CMP) was developed by the HSE to support Departments of Public Health by notifying results to people tested for COVID-19, and identifying and managing contacts of people known to have COVID-19. This consists of four steps:

**Step 1: Notification of result, surveillance data capture and provision of public health advice**

**Step 2: Contact identification**

**Step 3: Notification of close contacts and provision of public health advice**

**Step 4: Active follow-up of close contacts including referral for testing where appropriate**

This report provides an overview of close contacts created on the CovidCare Tracker for the week ending 21/11/2021. Close contacts are defined in Appendix 1. The testing approach for the current reporting period is as follows:

- Test 1 is scheduled as soon as possible after the contact is informed.
- Test 1 attendance and results are reported a week in arrears to improve completeness of data and allow for more meaningful interpretation of results.
- Test 2 is scheduled on the tenth day since last contact with the confirmed case. Test 2 is requested if Test 1 was earlier than ninth day since last contact with the confirmed case and if the result of Test 1 is “not detected” (negative) or inconclusive.
- Test 2 attendance and results are reported two weeks in arrears to improve completeness of data and allow for more meaningful interpretation of results.

Full details of the changing approaches to testing of close contacts can be found in Appendix 2.

Analysis is based on the following data sources as of 8.30 am 22/11/2021,
- CovidCare Tracker (CCT) - This is a web-based information system developed to support process associated with the Contact Management Programme (CMP).
- Swiftqueue - Software for scheduling appointments.
- Lablink – Electronic repository of all Covid-19 test results.
- These datasets are linked using COVID-19 IDs or a composite patient identifier encompassing first name, last name, date of birth, and phone number.
- The data used to calculate close contact rates per 100,000 population were taken from Census 2016.

Contact tracing for cases and contacts on the CovidCare Tracker is a collaborative effort between staff in the CMP and in regional Departments of Public Health.
The average number of cases managed by the Contact Management Programme (CMP) per day during the week ending 21/11/2021 was 4653, an increase of 10% from 4242 cases the previous week.

The average number of close contacts reported to the CMP per day for the week ending 21/11/2021 was 8587, an increase of 8% from 7943 recorded the previous week.
The regions with the highest absolute numbers of close contacts were the East (n= 19611), South (n=8734) and Northeast (n=5795).

The highest rates of close contacts per 100,000 population were reported in the South (1265 close contacts per 100,000 population) and Midlands (1259 close contacts per 100,000 population).

East region consists of counties - Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow
Midlands region consists of counties - Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath
Midwest region consists of counties - Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary
Northeast region consists of counties - Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan
South region consists of counties - Cork and Kerry
Southeast region consists of counties - Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford
West region consists of counties - Galway, Mayo and Roscommon
Close contact overview - county

Map showing number of close contacts per 100k population by county

Close contacts per 100,000 by county week ending 21/11/2021

- County Westmeath: 1716
- County Carlow: 1609
- County Kilkenny: 1463
- County Meath: 1428
- County Cork: 1317
- County Dublin: 1309
- County Wicklow: 1293
- County Louth: 1281
- County Tipperary: 1264
- County Kildare: 1234
- County Mayo: 1182
- County Waterford: 1168
- County Offaly: 1144
- County Clare: 1120
- County Longford: 1111
- County Cavan: 1099
- County Roscommon: 1091
- County Kerry: 1074
- County Leitrim: 1070
- County Sligo: 1068
- County Galway: 1051
- County Wexford: 1029
- County Limerick: 1029
- County Donegal: 974
- County Laois: 959
The age groups with the highest absolute numbers of close contacts were 35 to 44 year-olds (n= 9127), 45 to 54 year-olds (n=7305) and 25 to 34 year-olds (n=6894).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Female Count</th>
<th>Male Count</th>
<th>Not recorded Count</th>
<th>Number of close contacts by age and gender</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>704</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2103</td>
<td>1740</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>2498</td>
<td>2390</td>
<td>989</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1289</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>3030</td>
<td>2070</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>4029</td>
<td>3055</td>
<td>2043</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>3140</td>
<td>2535</td>
<td>1630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1414</td>
<td>1203</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>680</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75+</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not recorded</td>
<td>2926</td>
<td>2844</td>
<td>4160</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23694</td>
<td>19571</td>
<td>16844</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Number of Close Contacts</th>
<th>% of Close Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>2215</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>5830</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
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<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>5877</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
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<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>4842</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>6894</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>9127</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>7305</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>4616</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>2381</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not recorded</td>
<td>9930</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60109</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The highest rates of close contacts per 100,000 population were reported in 13 to 18 year-olds (1774 close contacts per 100,000 population) and 5 to 12 year-olds (1569 close contacts per 100,000 population).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>24/10/2021</th>
<th>Close Contacts per 100k</th>
<th>31/10/2021</th>
<th>Close Contacts per 100k</th>
<th>07/11/2021</th>
<th>Close Contacts per 100k</th>
<th>14/11/2021</th>
<th>Close Contacts per 100k</th>
<th>21/11/2021</th>
<th>Close Contacts per 100k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>668</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>1045</td>
<td>1212</td>
<td>1243</td>
<td>1569</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>1020</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>1220</td>
<td>1544</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>734</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>923</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>1458</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>698</td>
<td>747</td>
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<td>1331</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>907</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>637</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>414</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Household contacts accounted for 59.7% (n=13602), Social contacts for 18.4% (n=4197) and Secondary school contacts accounted for 10.9% (n=2488) of the close contacts reported to the CMP where circumstances of contact were recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstances of Contact</th>
<th>21/11/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>13602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>4197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>2488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td>1225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transport</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special school</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Setting: Patie...</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare facility</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third level education</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Setting: Staff</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other educational setting</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of close contacts by circumstances of contact for week ending: 21/11/2021**

**Trends in circumstances of close contact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstances of Contact</th>
<th>24/10/2021</th>
<th>31/10/2021</th>
<th>07/11/2021</th>
<th>14/11/2021</th>
<th>21/11/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>14897</td>
<td>13960</td>
<td>15298</td>
<td>13103</td>
<td>13602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Setting*</td>
<td>1689</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>2052</td>
<td>3116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>6466</td>
<td>7174</td>
<td>7126</td>
<td>4712</td>
<td>4197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>1139</td>
<td>1449</td>
<td>1428</td>
<td>1225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Setting**</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Recorded***</td>
<td>5712</td>
<td>12345</td>
<td>24893</td>
<td>33511</td>
<td>37329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31427</td>
<td>36569</td>
<td>50554</td>
<td>55603</td>
<td>60109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Educational settings include childcare facilities, primary schools, secondary schools, special needs schools and universities. Routine contact tracing of close contacts under 13 years in childcare facilities and primary schools was discontinued from 27th September 2021.

**Healthcare settings include staff and patients in healthcare settings. The majority of patients and staff who are close contacts in a healthcare setting are managed by Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health teams off the CCT.

***Circumstances of contact are not recorded for contacts identified via the ‘List Your Contacts’ portal which went live on the 11th of August. During periods of increased contact tracing activity, cases are encouraged to use the portal.
59.7% (n=13602) of the close contacts reported to the CMP with a circumstance of contact recorded during the week ending 21/11/2021 were household contacts.

The age groups with the highest number of household contacts were 35 to 44 year-olds (n=1800) and 5 to 12 year-olds (n=1776).

Number of household contacts by age group (where recorded) for week ending: 21/11/21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Age</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>1689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>1162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>1666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>1318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of household contacts by age group (where recorded) for WE 14/11/21 and WE 21/11/21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/11/2021</td>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>1689</td>
<td>1776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>1231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>817</td>
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<td></td>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>1666</td>
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<td>45 to 54</td>
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<td>1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75+</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>9003</td>
<td>9304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
18.4% (n=4197) of the close contacts reported to the CMP with a circumstance of contact recorded during the week ending 21/11/2021 were social contacts.

The age groups with the highest number of social contacts were 35 to 44 year-olds (n=523) and 25 to 34 year-olds (n=384).
The mean number of close contacts per case (including cases with zero close contacts) was 2.2 for the week ending 21/11/2021, a decrease from 2.4 the previous week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>IQR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17/10/2021</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/11/2021</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/11/2021</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results presented above are for cases where contact tracing was recorded as complete on the CCT, including cases with zero close contacts, for close contacts which are linked directly to an index case.

*Call3S close contacts (ie close contacts in childcare facilities, primary school, special schools and flights) are not included when calculating the number of close contacts per case.
The mean number of close contacts per case (excluding cases with zero close contacts) for the week ending 21/11/2021 was 3.3, a decrease from 3.5 the previous week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>IQR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17/10/2021</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/11/2021</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/11/2021</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results presented above are for cases where contact tracing was recorded as complete on the CCT and the case was linked with one or more associated close contacts (i.e. excluding cases with zero close contacts). *Call3S close contacts (ie close contacts in childcare facilities, primary school, special schools and flights) are not included when calculating the number of close contacts per case.*
Close contact attendance at PCR testing

Attendance rates by week ending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>Count of cases</th>
<th>Test 1 Attendance</th>
<th>Test 2 Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>8228</td>
<td>6511</td>
<td>2691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>7742</td>
<td>7742</td>
<td>2033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>7511</td>
<td>5984</td>
<td>2074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test 1 is scheduled as soon as close contacts are informed of their close contact status by CMP.

Test 2 is scheduled on Day 10. Attendance and results are reported two weeks in arrears.
For close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021:

Test 1 results were available at the time of report preparation for 5665 close contacts; 1314 (23.2%) of these had a positive result.

Test 2 results were available at the time of report preparation for 1501 close contacts; 165 (11%) of these had a positive result.

Overall, 26.2% (n = 1468) of the close contacts tested had a positive result.

### Close contact positivity rate* by week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Positivity Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Positivity rates (number of people with positive results relative to number of people who were close contacts and had a test result) are based on the results for close contacts where it was possible to link the close contact episode to a lab result, including results from walk-in centre appointments where key variables matched across data sources and linkages were possible.

** Overall positivity rates refer to the cumulative proportion of close contacts with a positive result at Test 1 or Test 2.

Test 1 is scheduled as soon as close contacts are informed of their close contact status by CMP. Test 2 is scheduled on Day 10. Attendance and results are reported two weeks in arrears.
The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts created on the week ending 07/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

The highest proportions of close contacts testing positive by region were the Midlands (27.9%) and South (27.6%).

Contacts in the East accounted for 34.5% (n = 507) of the close contacts who tested positive.

### Overall SARS-CoV-2 results by region - contacts created week ending: 07/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive result</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>1876</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not recorded</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>5608</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts created on the week ending 07/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

The highest proportions of close contacts testing positive by age group were amongst those aged 5 to 12 (33.8%), 65 to 74 (31.7%) and 0 to 4 (31.3%).

Contacts aged 5 to 12 years (n=485) and 35 to 44 years (n=176) accounted for 33% and 12% respectively of the close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021 who tested positive.

### Overall SARS-CoV-2 results by age - contacts created week ending: 07/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive result</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 12</td>
<td>1437</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 18</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not recorded</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td><strong>5608</strong></td>
<td><strong>1468</strong></td>
<td><strong>26.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

### Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created WE 24/10/2021 - WE 7/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>0 to 4</th>
<th>5 to 12</th>
<th>13 to 18</th>
<th>19 to 24</th>
<th>25 to 34</th>
<th>35 to 44</th>
<th>45 to 54</th>
<th>55 to 64</th>
<th>65 to 74</th>
<th>75+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.
The positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

### Trends in the proportion of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created WE 24/10/2021 - WE 7/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>0 to 4</th>
<th>5 to 12</th>
<th>13 to 18</th>
<th>19 to 24</th>
<th>25 to 34</th>
<th>35 to 44</th>
<th>45 to 54</th>
<th>55 to 64</th>
<th>65 to 74</th>
<th>75+</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The positivity rates are presented for various age groups with the following breakdown:

- **0 to 4**
- **5 to 12**
- **13 to 18**
- **19 to 24**
- **25 to 34**
- **35 to 44**
- **45 to 54**
- **55 to 64**
- **65 to 74**
- **75+**

### Trend Diagram

A trend diagram illustrating the positivity rates by age group over the weeks ending 24/10/2021, 31/10/2021, and 07/11/2021.
Close contact - overall PCR test results by circumstances of contact

The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts created on the week ending 07/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

The highest proportion of close contacts testing positive by circumstances of contact was amongst Household contacts (32.5%).

Household contacts accounted for 52.2% (n = 765) of the close contacts who tested positive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstances</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive result</th>
<th>Positivity Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>2356</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third level education</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare facility</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special school</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight**</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not recorded***</td>
<td>2580</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>5603</td>
<td>1466</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Routine testing of closed contacts aged 13 and under in primary schools ceased from 27th September. Testing is only performed if indicated on public health grounds.

**From 9th September 2021, routine testing of close contacts on flights ceased. Testing is only performed if indicated on public health grounds.

***Circumstances of contact are not recorded for contacts identified via the ‘List Your Contacts’ portal which went live on the 11th of August. During periods of increased contact tracing activity, cases are encouraged to use the portal.
Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact - contacts created WE 24/10/2021 - WE 7/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Educational setting</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Workplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.
COVID-19
Contact Management Programme (CMP)
Public Health Report

Trends in the proportion of positive PCR test results by circumstances of contact

The positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

Trends in the proportion of positive SARS-Cov-2 results by circumstances of contact - contacts created WE 24/10/2021 - WE 7/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Educational setting</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Workplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trends in the proportion of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact - contacts created WE 24/10/2021 - WE 7/11/2021

Circumstances

Educational setting  Household  Social  Workplace

Week ending  24/10/2021  31/10/2021  07/11/2021

The positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 24/10/2021 and 7/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.
COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP)
Public Health Report

Household contact PCR test positivity rates

For close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021:

32.4% (n = 764) of the household contacts tested had a positive result.

### Household contact positivity rate* by week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Positivity Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Positivity rates (number of people with positive results relative to number of people who were close contacts and had a test result) are based on the results for close contacts where it was possible to link the close contact episode to a lab result, including results from walk-in centre appointments where key variables matched across data sources and linkages were possible.

Test 1 is scheduled as soon as close contacts are informed of their close contact status by CMP. Test 2 is scheduled on Day 10. Attendance and results are reported two weeks in arrears.

**Overall positivity rates refer to the proportion of close contacts with a positive result at Test 1 or Test 2.

### Overall Test Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>3892</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>3223</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>2355</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9470</td>
<td>2883</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test 1 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>3925</td>
<td>1071</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>3266</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>2385</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9576</td>
<td>2447</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test 2 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>1322</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2916</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for Household contacts created on the week ending 07/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive result</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 11</td>
<td>1075</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 18</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 64</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2358</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-reported vaccination status is defined as follows:
- Fully vaccinated with significant protection: received the full schedule of vaccines and considered to be significantly protected based on the time elapsed since vaccine administration and their medical history.
- Partially vaccinated: full schedule of vaccines not yet received
- Contact contacts categorised as unvaccinated include those who are not eligible for vaccination including children aged 0 to 11 years and may include individuals who have been vaccinated but where vaccination data were not captured by CMP.
- Vaccinated but not significantly protected: received the full schedule of vaccines but were not considered significantly protected due to insufficient time post-vaccination, or because of a medical condition or treatment which may reduce the level of protection conferred.
**Social contact PCR test positivity rates**

For close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021:

15.3% (n = 66) of the social contacts tested had a positive result.

### Social contact positivity rate* by week

- **Overall positivity rate**
- **Test 1 positivity rate**
- **Test 2 positivity rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2061</strong></td>
<td><strong>268</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test 1 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2078</strong></td>
<td><strong>232</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test 2 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive results</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/10/2021</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/2021</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/2021</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>514</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Positivity rates (number of people with positive results relative to number of people who were close contacts and had a test result) are based on the results for close contacts where it was possible to link the close contact episode to a lab result, including results from walk-in centre appointments where key variables matched across data sources and linkages were possible.

Test 1 is scheduled as soon as close contacts are informed of their close contact status by CMP. Test 2 is scheduled on Day 10. Attendance and results are reported two weeks in arrears.

** Overall positivity rates refer to the proportion of close contacts with a positive result at Test 1 or Test 2.
The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for Social contacts created on the week ending 07/11/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

### Overall SARS-CoV-2 PCR results by age for social contacts - contacts created week ending: 07/11/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Close contacts with test result reported</th>
<th>Number of close contacts with positive result</th>
<th>Positivity rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 11</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 18</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 64</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>432</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asymptomatic fully vaccinated close contacts with significant protection have been referred for antigen testing since the 28th October. Antigen test referrals and confirmatory PCR tests are reported two weeks in arrears.

Close contacts with a positive antigen test result are advised to seek a confirmatory PCR test. As these tests are not booked via the CCT, the results are presented for close contacts where it was possible to link the close contact episode to a confirmatory PCR test result.

For close contacts created the week ending 07/11/2021:

14953 were referred for antigen testing.

Of these, a confirmatory PCR test result was identified for 242 close contacts. 176 (72.7%) of these tests were positive.
Cases are asked to identify contacts during their infectious period based on symptom onset or date of test if asymptomatic. If symptomatic, cases are asked to list contacts from 48 hours before symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. If asymptomatic, cases are asked to list their contacts from 24 hours before the date of their positive test to 10 days after the date of the positive test.

Close Contacts are defined as follows:

a) Anyone that the Case has had face to face contact for longer than 15 minutes in any setting (less than 2 meters or six and half feet contact)

b) Household contacts defined as living or sleeping in the same house, individuals in shared accommodation that share kitchen and bathroom facilities as well as sexual partners

c) Anyone with whom the Case has shared a closed space with for longer than 2 hours in any setting. (A setting is the place or location where you may have had close contact with other people e.g. a household, workplace, school, social venue, transport).

Contact tracers select one of the following circumstances of contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance of Contact</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Close contacts living or sleeping in the same house, individuals in shared accommodation sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities, and sexual partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td>Close contacts from the workplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Close contacts who they met on a household visit, those they met with for social reasons and those who attended a social gathering with the case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Close contacts from sporting and recreational activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare facility</td>
<td>Close contacts include staff and students in crèches, pre-schools and after-schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>Close contacts include staff and students in primary schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>Close contacts include staff and students in secondary schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special educational needs school</td>
<td>Close contacts include staff and students in schools that provide education for children with special educational needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third level education</td>
<td>Close contacts from third-level institutes and universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>Close contacts who were seated within two rows of a case on a flight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transport</td>
<td>Close contacts from public transport, taxis and cars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare setting: patients</td>
<td>Close contacts who were patients in healthcare settings where the contact has only occurred in that setting. Most close contacts who are patients in healthcare settings are managed by Infection Prevention &amp; Control who do not currently use the CCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare setting: staff</td>
<td>Close contacts who work in healthcare settings and the contact was limited to those settings. Most staff who come into contact with a case while working in healthcare settings are managed by Occupational Health who do not currently use the CCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Close contacts where the circumstances of contact are known but not included in one of the categories above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Not recorded                     | Close contacts with no circumstances of contact recorded. This includes contacts identified via the COVID Tracker App where the index case is not linked to the close contact so the circumstances of contact cannot be determined. Circumstances of contact are also not captured for close contacts identified on the ‘list your Contacts’ portal.
Appendix 2: Revisions to management of close contacts over time

Symptomatic close contacts were referred for testing by the CMP from 17th March 2020 (when the Contact Tracing module of the CovidCare Tracker went live) to 18th May 2020.

Testing of all close contacts by the CMP commenced on 19th May 2020. From this date Test 1, initially called the Day 0 Test, was arranged as soon as a contact was informed that they had been in close contact with a confirmed case. Test 2, previously called the Day 7 Test, commenced on 28th May when it was arranged on the true seventh day from last contact with the confirmed case. This approach remained unchanged during the second surge in CMP activity in October 2020. However, while testing was offered to all close contacts identified to CMP, there was a cohort of 1,901 cases who were advised to self-trace due to the surge in activity. As their contacts were never identified to CMP, they were not contacted or referred for testing by CMP.

Due to the rapid increase in test and trace activity in late December 2020, a number of changes were made to the management of close contacts to optimise the use of CMP resources. These changes were as follows:

• From 23rd December 2020 at 5pm, Test 1 was scheduled either on Day 5 or the date that the close contact was informed, depending on which was earlier; and Test 2 was suspended.
• Referral for SARS-CoV-2 testing by the CMP was suspended for close contacts from 1st to 28th January 2021. Symptomatic close contacts were advised to organise testing via their GP during this period.
• Test 1 was reinstated from 29th January 2021, either on day 5 or the date that the close contact was informed, depending on which was earlier. The ‘Book a Test’ portal was also re-implemented.
• From 10th February 2021, the following approach to testing of close contacts was implemented:
  • Test 1 was arranged as soon as a contact was informed that they had been in close contact with a confirmed case.
  • Test 2 was arranged on the tenth day from last contact with the confirmed case where a Test 1 was earlier than the ninth day since last contact with case and the contact did not have a positive Test 1 result.

Walk-in test centres were introduced by the HSE in March 2021. Close contacts are referred for testing by the CMP where clinically indicated, however, close contacts may choose to attend a walk-in testing centre for convenience. Outcomes for close contacts tested in walk-in centres are presented in this report provided that the data captured in walk-in centres allows for linkages with CCT data. The impact of close contacts electing to attend a walk-in centre instead of the test(s) organised by CMP on attendance and positivity rates has yet to be ascertained.

On 14th May 2021, the HSE was the target of a ransomware attack. To mitigate the risk of data loss, the HSE shut down its servers and network systems, and directed that its hardware is powered-off until further notice. While the CovidCare Tracker remained functional following the attack, many of the IT applications and services used by the Contact Management Programme to process data from COVID-19 testing laboratories, notify patients of their test results, collect data required by the HPSC, identify and trace close contacts and schedule their COVID-19 tests were adversely effected. From 14th to 24th May, Close Contacts were advised to attend their nearest ‘walk-in’ test centre for a COVID-19 test. The usual referral process for close contacts resumed on 25th May.

People who have completed vaccination have not been referred for testing since 20th May 2021, unless they are symptomatic in which case they are referred for Test 1. From the 10th August 2021, the definition of a close contact was expanded to include any person that the case had face to face contact with that has been within two metres for more than a total of 15 minutes (even if not consecutive) over a 24-hour period in any setting.

From 23rd August 2021, the CMP has collected details on the ‘Circle of Friends’ for any case who attended secondary school during their infectious period. These close contacts are included in calculations of the number of close contacts per case, unlike most other educational settings. From 9th September 2021, routine contact tracing for close contacts on flights was suspended by CMP.

From 27th September 2021, routine testing of non-household close contacts aged between 3 months and 13 years was suspended by CMP. Routine contact tracing of children in childcare facilities and primary schools, excluding children in special educational needs schools or classes, also ceased on this date.

Authors: Dr Ciara Carroll, Ms Onyinye Chudi-Iwueze, Dr Danko Stamenic, Professor Shane Allwright, Professor Patricia Kearney, Dr Claire Buckley, Dr Greg Martin.