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

Week ending 02/01/2022

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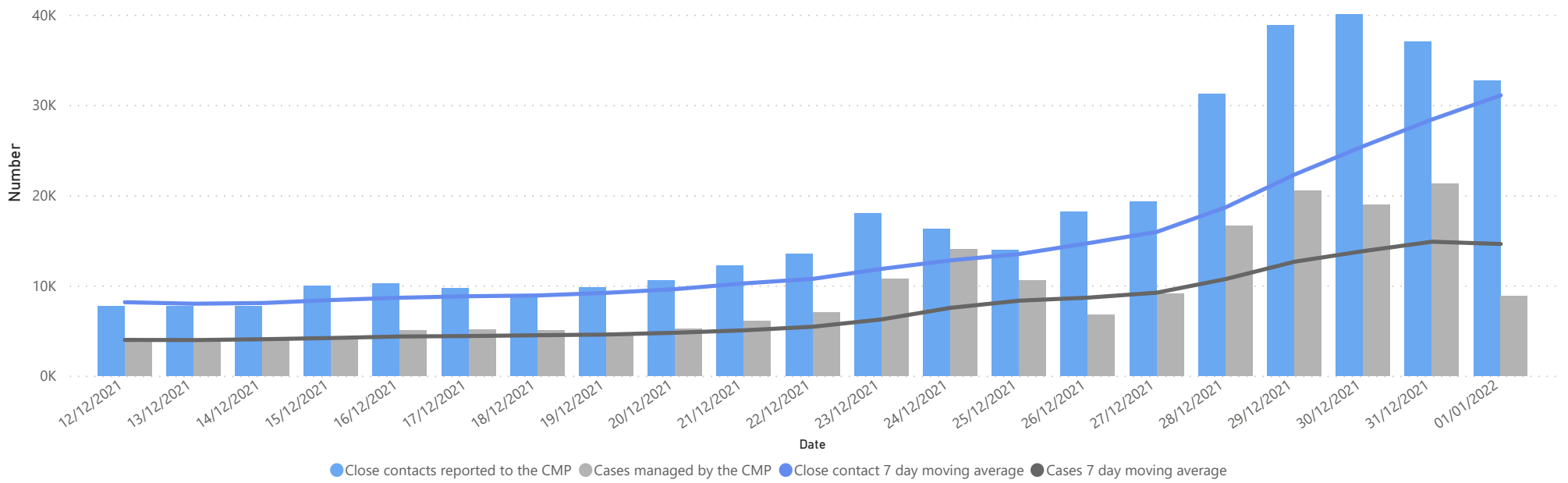
Key findings

CMP cases and close contacts

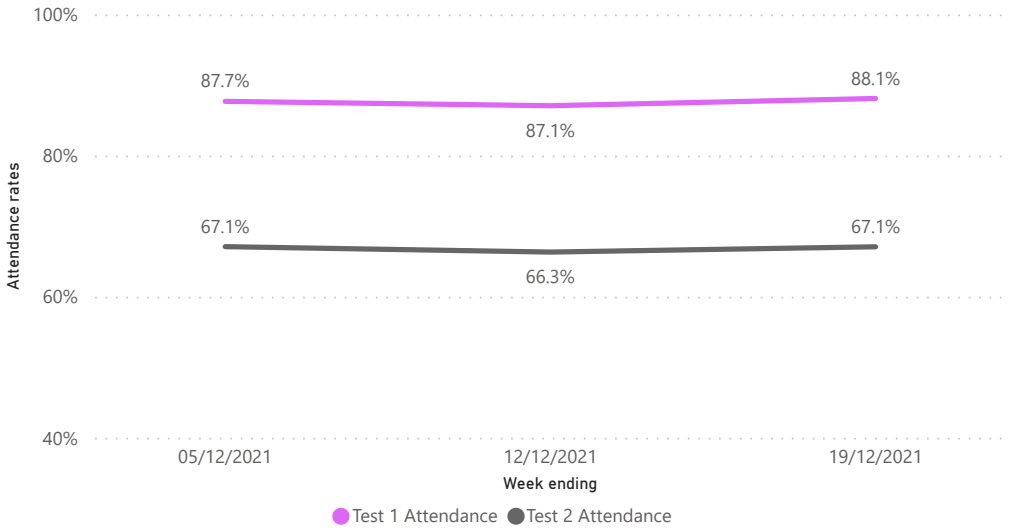


The average number of cases managed by the Contact Management Programme (CMP) per day during the week ending 02/01/2022 was 18367, an increase of 99% from 9200 cases the previous week.

The average number of close contacts reported to the CMP per day for the week ending 02/01/2022 was 32730, an increase of over 100% from 14679 recorded the previous week.

Key findings (2)

Attendance rate by week

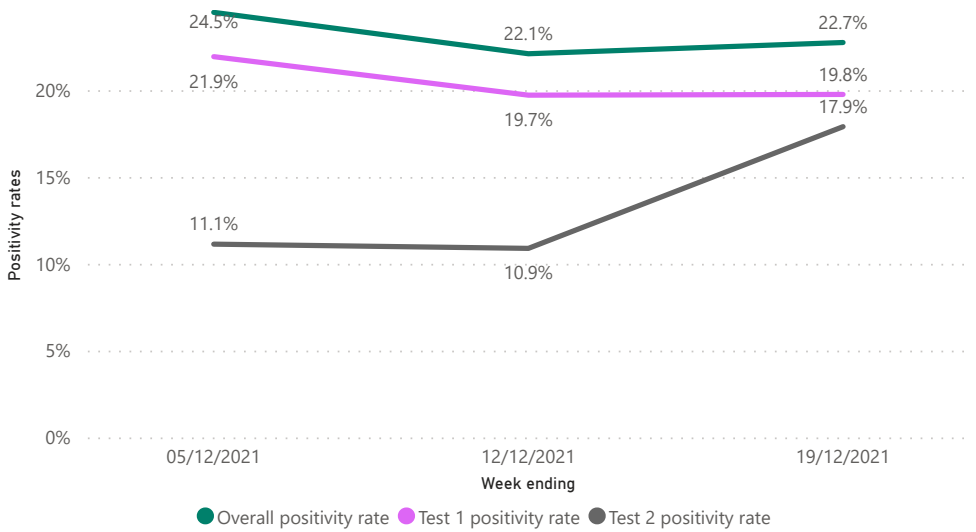


For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 :

88% (n= 13497) of those referred for a Test 1 appointment attended for testing, a 1% increase from 87% the previous week.

67% (n= 3519) of those referred for a Test 2 appointment attended for testing, a 1% increase from 66% the previous week.

Positivity rate by week



For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 :

Test 1 results were available at the time of report preparation for 12281 close contacts; 2426 (19.8%) of these had a positive result.

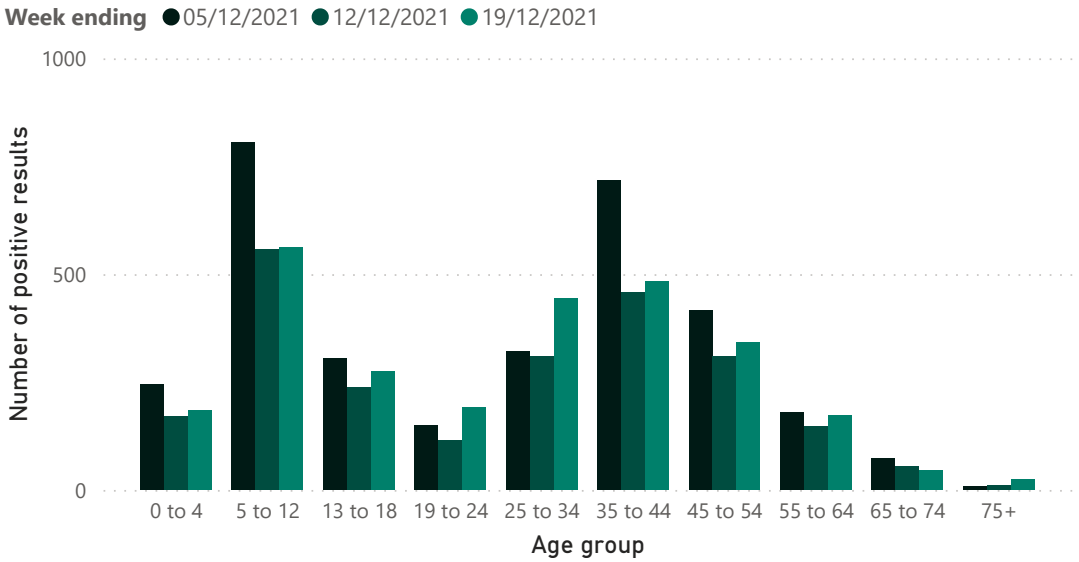
Test 2 results were available at the time of report preparation for 2274 close contacts; 407 (17.9%) of these had a positive result.

Overall, 22.7% (n = 2725) of the close contacts tested had a positive result.

Test 1 is scheduled for symptomatic close contacts as soon as they 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.

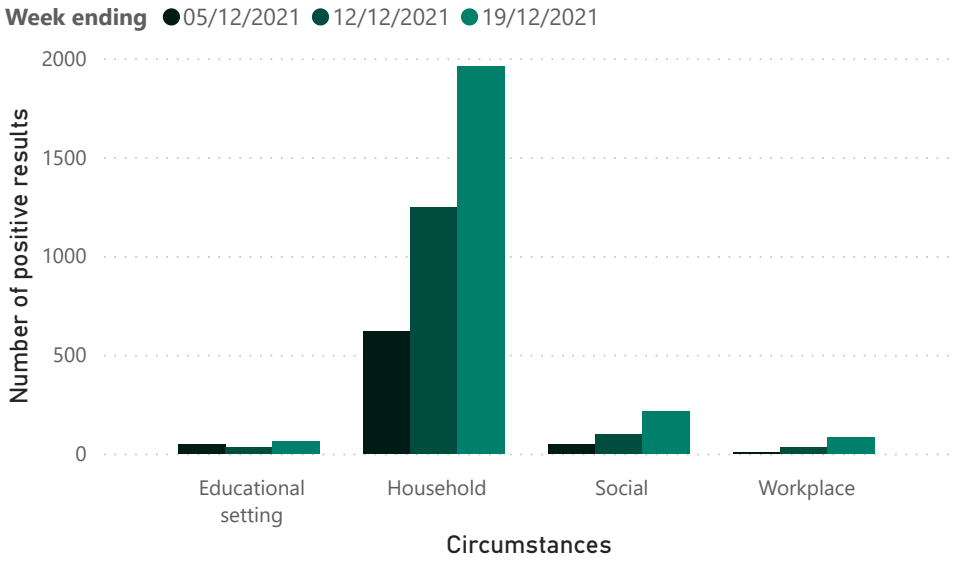
Key findings (3)

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



Contacts aged 5 to 12 years (n=561) and 35 to 44 years (n=484) accounted for 20.6% and 17.8% respectively of the close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 who tested positive.

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact- contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



Household contacts accounted for 72% (n = 1961) of the close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 who tested positive followed by social contacts (n = 215) who accounted for 7.9%.

Introduction

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:

This report provides an overview of close contacts created on the CovidCare Tracker for the week ending 02/01/2022 . 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 03/01/2022,

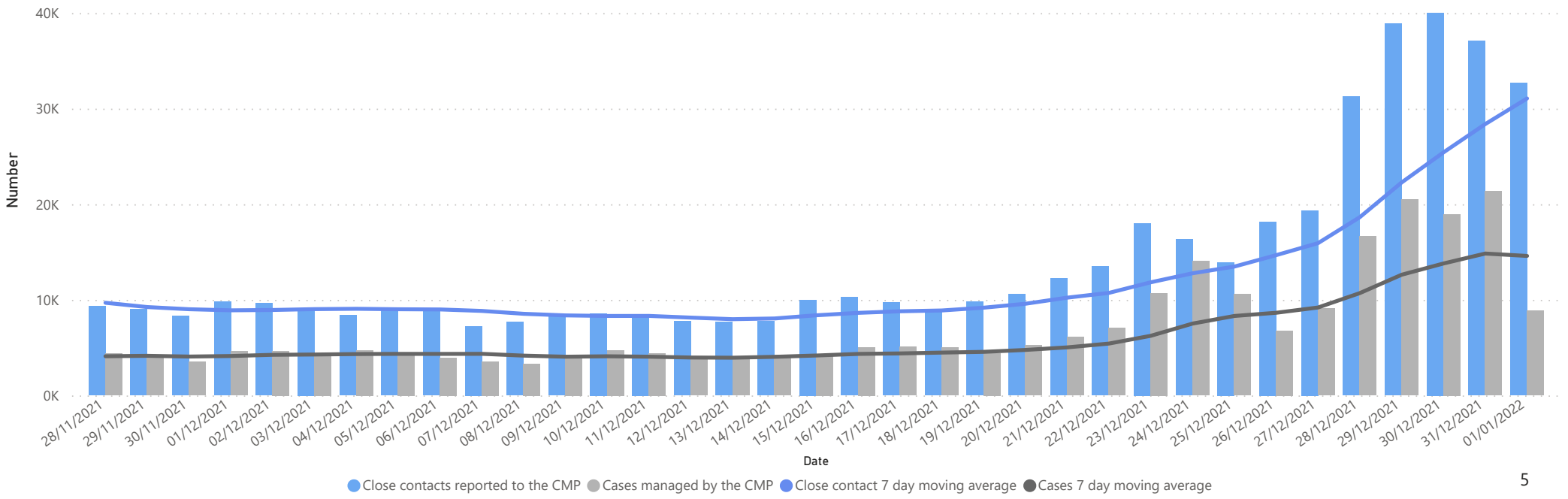
- CovidCare Tracker (CCT) - This is a web-based information system developed to support process associated with the Contact Management Programme (CMP).
- Swiftqueue - Software for scheduling appointments.
- Lablink – Electronic repository of all Covid-19 test results.
- These datasets are linked using 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.

Case and contacts overview

The average number of cases managed by the Contact Management Programme (CMP) per day during the week ending 02/01/2022 was 18367, an increase of 99% from 9200 cases the previous week.

The average number of close contacts reported to the CMP per day for the week ending 02/01/2022 was 32730, an increase of over 100% from 14679 recorded the previous week.

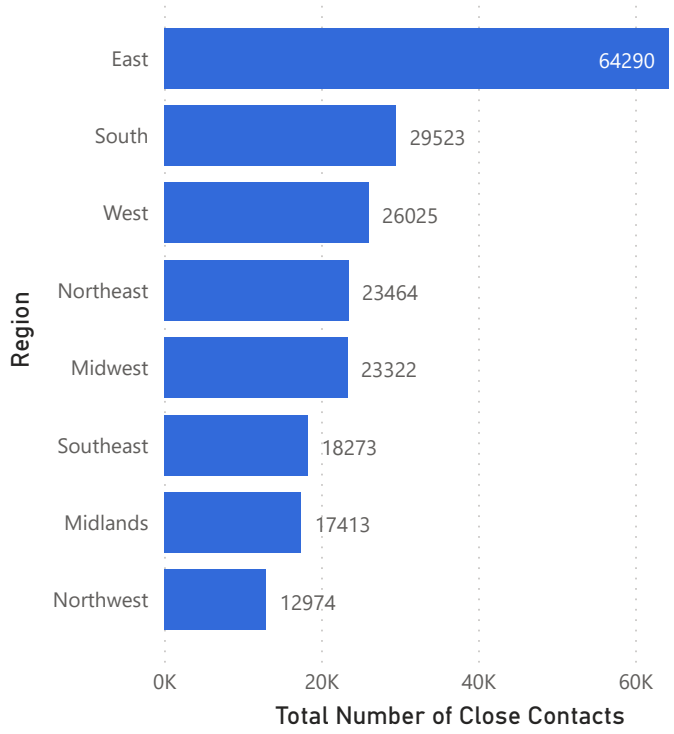


Close contact overview - region

The regions with the highest absolute numbers of close contacts were the East (n= 64290),South (n=29523) and West (n=26025).

The highest rates of close contacts per 100,000 population were reported in the Midlands (5957 close contacts per 100,000 population) and West (5744 close contacts per 100,000 population).

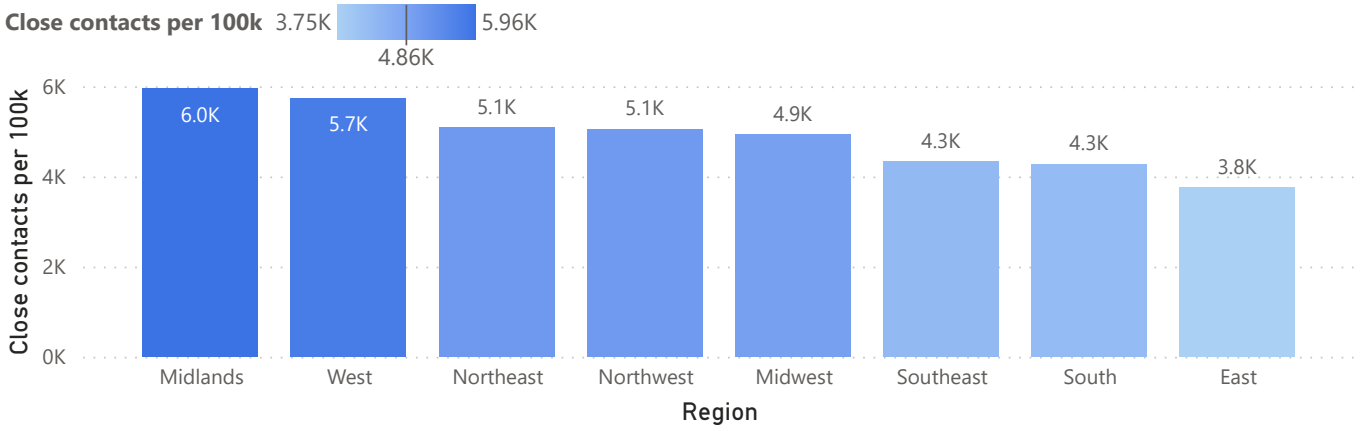
Number of close contacts by region - week ending 02/01/2022



Trends in close contacts per 100,000 by region

Week ending	East	Midlands	Midwest	Northeast	Northwest	South	Southeast	West
05/12/2021	1205	1415	1158	1205	1020	1401	1355	1140
12/12/2021	1163	1303	1013	1119	809	1169	1164	863
19/12/2021	1444	1176	1167	1212	761	1265	1107	981
26/12/2021	2259	2022	1856	2109	1824	1664	1676	2093
02/01/2022	3755	5957	4928	5084	5053	4275	4329	5744

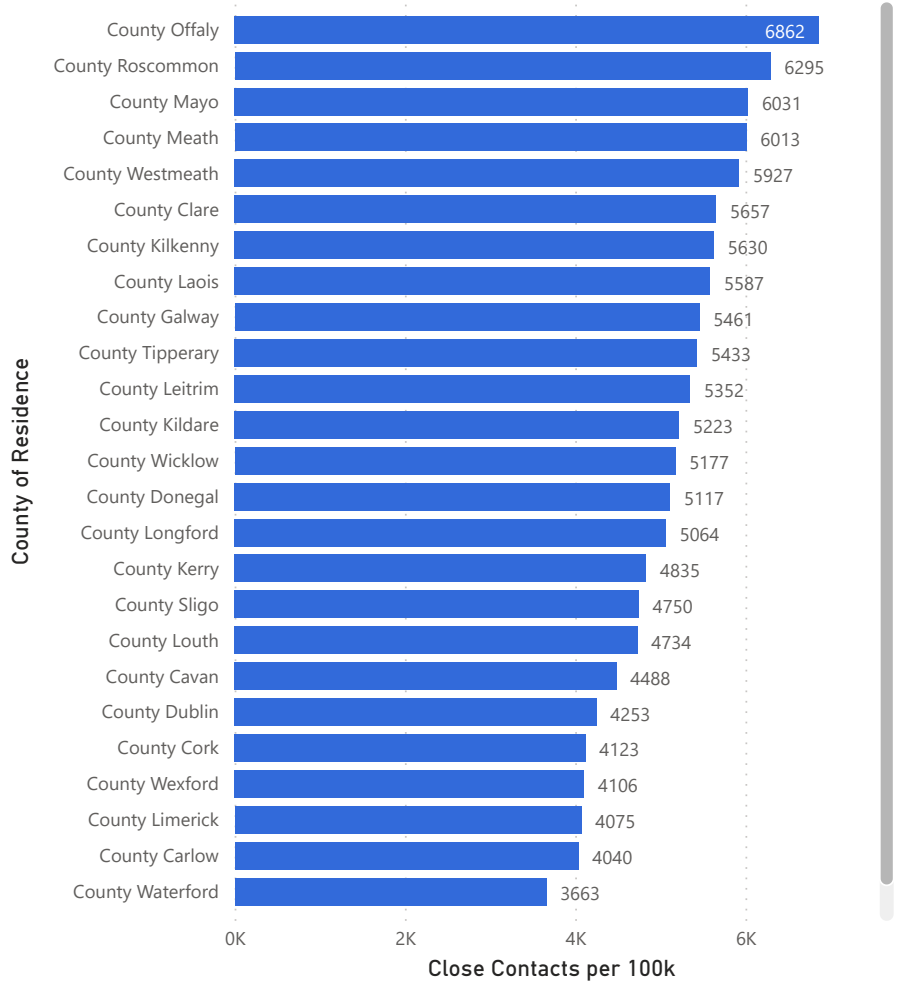
Close contacts per 100,000 by region - week ending 02/01/2022



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, Lomerick and North Tipperary
Northeast region consists of counties - Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan
Northwest region consists of counties - Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo
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

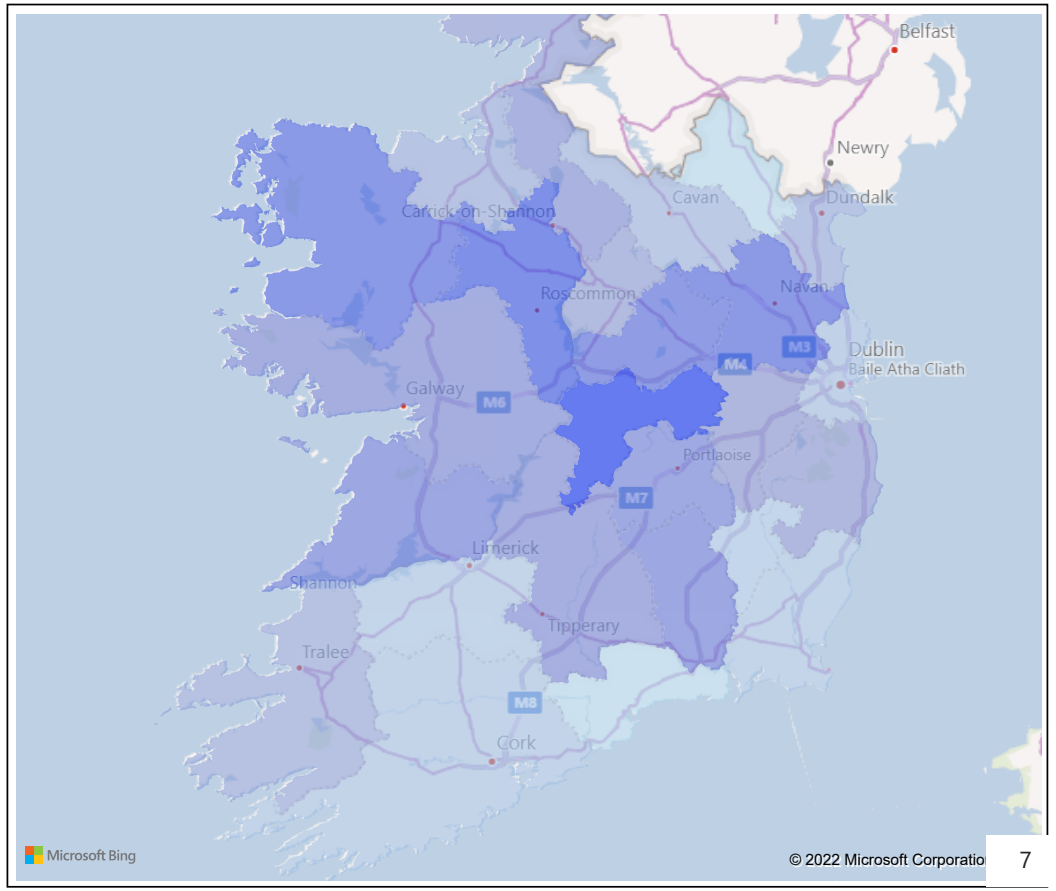
Close contact overview - county

Close contacts per 100,000 by county week ending 02/01/2022



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

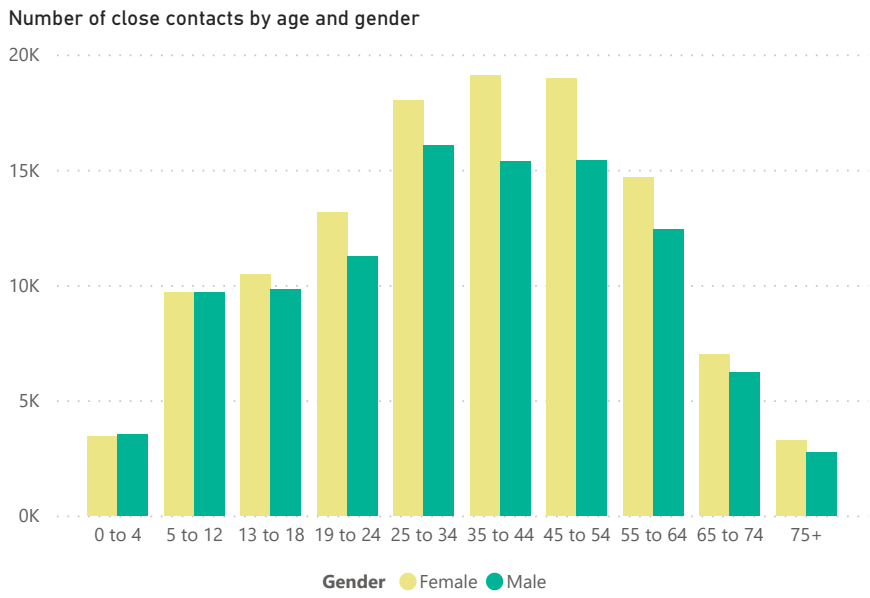
Lowest Highest



Close contact overview - age and gender

The age groups with the highest absolute numbers of close contacts were 35 to 44 year-olds (n= 34655), 45 to 54 year-olds (n=34535) and 25 to 34 year-olds (n=34311).

Gender Age group	Female Count	Male Count	Not recorded Count
0 to 4	3435	3515	54
5 to 12	9689	9685	103
13 to 18	10456	9823	128
19 to 24	13149	11270	173
25 to 34	18003	16079	229
35 to 44	19112	15388	155
45 to 54	18979	15423	133
55 to 64	14666	12440	84
65 to 74	6984	6230	34
75+	3286	2735	23
Not recorded	2273	2305	3072
Total	**120032**	**104893**	**4188**



Age group	Number of Close Co...	% of Close Contacts
0 to 4	7004	3.1%
5 to 12	19477	8.5%
13 to 18	20407	8.9%
19 to 24	24592	10.7%
25 to 34	34311	15.0%
35 to 44	34655	15.1%
45 to 54	34535	15.1%
55 to 64	27190	11.9%
65 to 74	13248	5.8%
75+	6044	2.6%
Not recorded	7650	3.3%
Total	**229113**	**100.0%**

Trends in close contacts per 100,000 by age

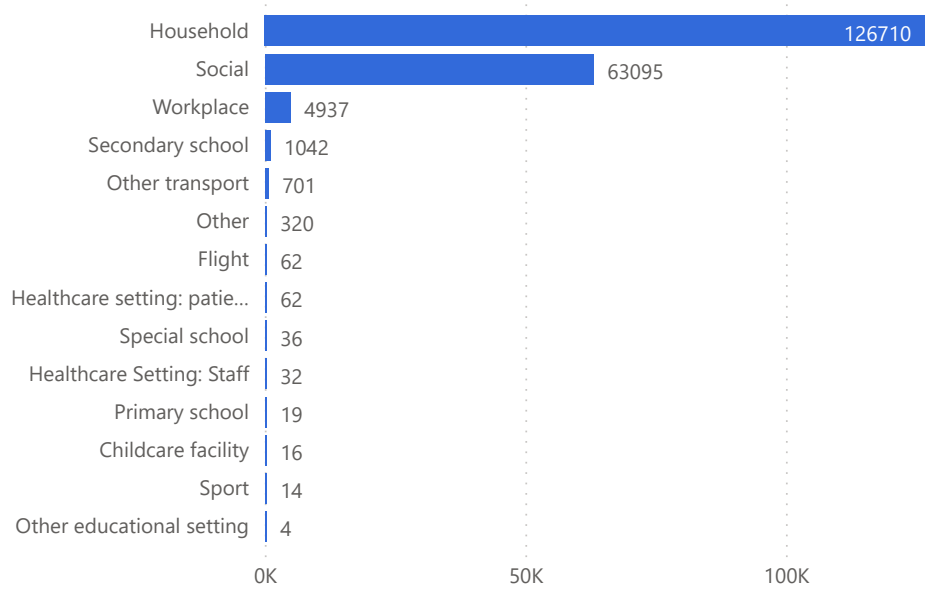
The highest rates of close contacts per 100,000 population were reported in 45 to 54 year-olds (6294 close contacts per 100,000 population) and 13 to 18 year-olds (6161 close contacts per 100,000 population).

Week ending	05/12/2021	12/12/2021	19/12/2021	26/12/2021	02/01/2022
Age group	Close Contacts per 100k	Close Contacts per 100k	Close Contacts per 100k	Close Contacts per 100k	Close Contacts per 100k
0 to 4	642	567	554	835	2113
5 to 12	2016	1715	1562	2119	5242
13 to 18	2036	1723	1775	2810	6161
19 to 24	704	633	764	1692	3729
25 to 34	994	975	1296	2203	4594
35 to 44	1750	1528	1496	2254	5536
45 to 54	1606	1393	1377	2588	6294
55 to 64	937	863	1070	2319	5342
65 to 74	691	621	647	1235	3547
75+	421	373	390	695	2289
National	1326	1197	1350	2158	4811

Close contacts overview - circumstances of contact

Household contacts accounted for 64.3% (n=126710), Social contacts for 32% (n=63095) and Workplace contacts accounted for 2.5% (n=4937) of the close contacts reported to the CMP where circumstances of contact were recorded.

Number of close contacts by circumstances of contact for week ending: 02/01/2022



Trends in circumstances of close contact

Week ending	05/12/2021	12/12/2021	19/12/2021	26/12/2021	02/01/2022
Circumstances	Number of Close Contacts	Number of Close Contacts	Number of Close Contacts	Number of Close Contacts	Number of Close Contacts
Household	9552	23803	35776	62049	126710
Educational Setting*	2100	1961	3049	2474	1113
Social	2096	4934	8283	14164	63095
Workplace	623	2348	4122	5475	4937
Other	247	394	743	1022	1039
Healthcare Setting**	72	106	89	132	94
Flight***	184	630	343	108	62
Not Recorded****	48256	22837	11862	17330	32063
Total	**63130**	**57013**	**64267**	**102754**	**229113**

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.

From 29th November 2021 to 16th December 2021, contact tracing was undertaken for flights arriving into Ireland with a confirmed COVID-19 case who recently travelled from or transited through a Scheduled Country in the 14 days prior to onset of symp

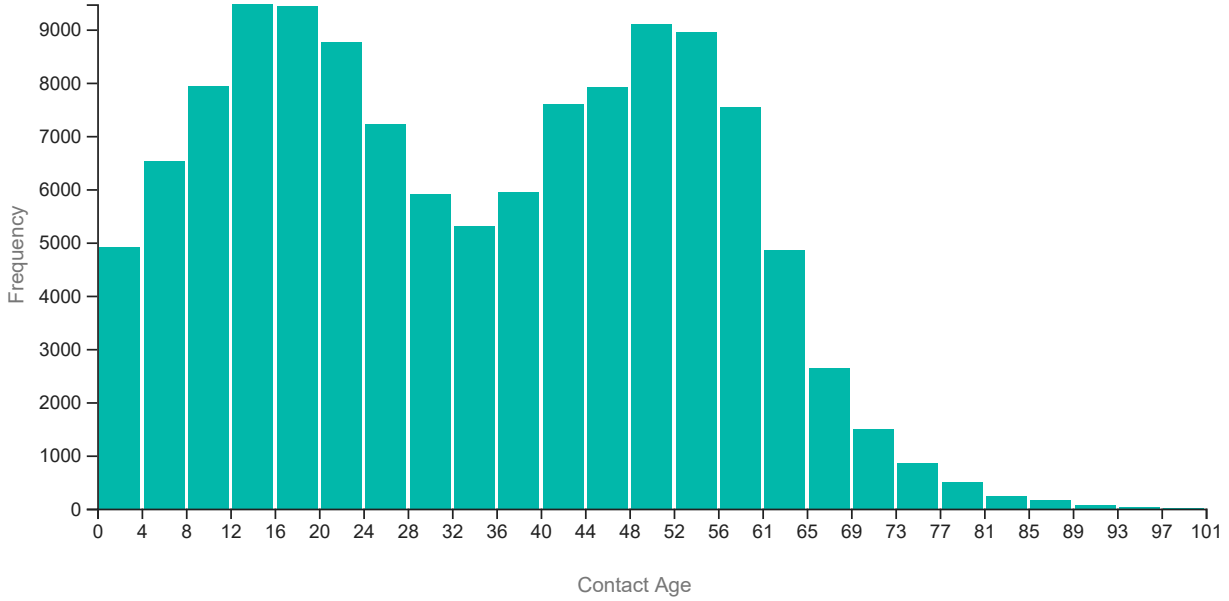
Circumstances of contact were not recorded for contacts identified via the 'List Your Contacts' portal until the 9th of December 2021. During periods of increased contact tracing activity, cases are encouraged to use the portal.

Close contact - overview of household contacts by age

64.3% (n=126710) of the close contacts reported to the CMP with a circumstance of contact recorded during the week ending 02/01/2022 were household contacts.

The age groups with the highest number of household contacts were 45 to 54 year-olds (n=21645) and 55 to 64 year-olds (n=16709).

Number of household contacts by age group (where recorded) for week ending: 02/01/22



Number of household contacts by age group (where recorded) for WE 19/12/21 to WE 02/01/22

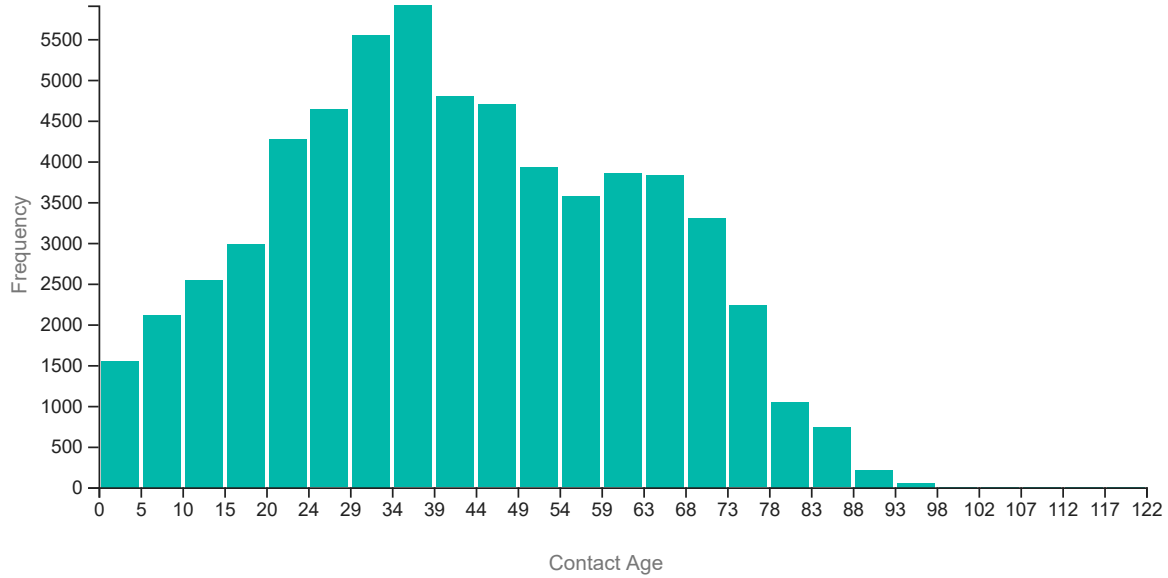
Week ending Age group	19/12/2021 Count	26/12/2021 Count	02/01/2022 Count
0 to 4	1420	2156	4910
5 to 12	4460	6446	14455
13 to 18	3453	6356	14285
19 to 24	2660	6079	13386
25 to 34	4322	7838	15772
35 to 44	5384	7991	16206
45 to 54	4733	9977	21645
55 to 64	3259	8308	16709
65 to 74	955	2100	4641
75+	315	586	1353
Total	**30961**	**57837**	**123362**

Close contact - overview of social contacts

32% (n=63095) of the close contacts reported to the CMP with a circumstance of contact recorded during the week ending 02/01/2022 were social contacts.

The age groups with the highest number of social contacts were 35 to 44 year-olds (n=11780) and 25 to 34 year-olds (n=10186).

Number of social contacts by age group (where recorded) for week ending: 02/01/22



Number of social contacts by age group (where recorded) for WE 19/12/21 to WE 02/01/22

Week ending	19/12/2021	26/12/2021	02/01/2022
Age group	Count	Count	Count
0 to 4	181	300	1546
5 to 12	371	578	3596
13 to 18	279	554	3352
19 to 24	530	1167	4963
25 to 34	1403	2522	10186
35 to 44	1221	2207	11780
45 to 54	765	1500	8236
55 to 64	860	1656	7458
65 to 74	892	1661	6919
75+	455	876	3758
Total	**6957**	**13021**	**61794**

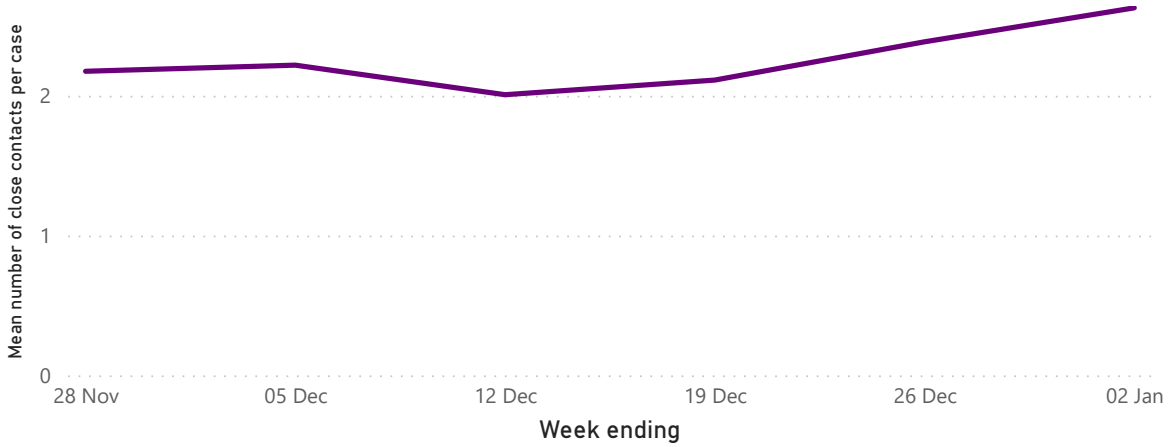
Close contacts per case (including cases with zero close contacts)

The mean number of close contacts per case (including cases with zero close contacts) was 2.6 for the week ending 02/01/2022, an increase from 2.4 the previous week.

Numbers of close contacts* per case (including those with zero close contacts)

Week ending	Mean	Median	Min	Max	IQR
28/11/2021	2.2	1	0	32	0-3
05/12/2021	2.2	2	0	27	0-3
12/12/2021	2.0	1	0	34	0-3
19/12/2021	2.1	1	0	30	0-3
26/12/2021	2.4	2	0	40	0-3
02/01/2022	2.6	2	0	36	1-3

Mean number of close contacts* per case (including cases with zero close contacts) by week



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.*

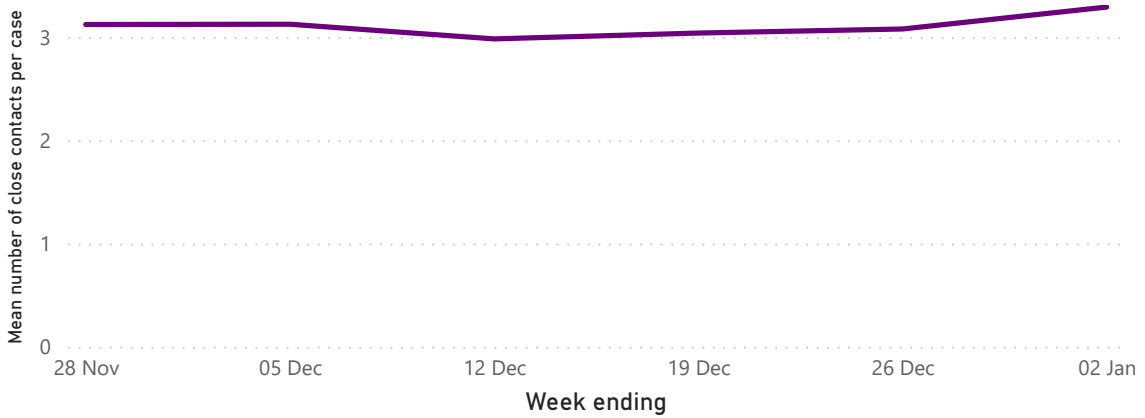
Close contacts per case (excluding those with zero close contacts)

The mean number of close contacts per case (excluding cases with zero close contacts) for the week ending 02/01/2022 was 3.3, an increase from 3.1 the previous week.

Numbers of close contacts* per case (excluding those with zero close contacts)

Week ending	Mean	Median	Min	Max	IQR
28/11/2021	3.1	3	0	32	1-4
05/12/2021	3.1	3	0	27	1-4
12/12/2021	3.0	2	0	34	1-4
19/12/2021	3.0	2	0	30	1-4
26/12/2021	3.1	3	0	40	1-4
02/01/2022	3.3	3	0	36	1-4

Mean number of close contacts per case* (excluding those with zero close contacts) by week



The resuts 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.*

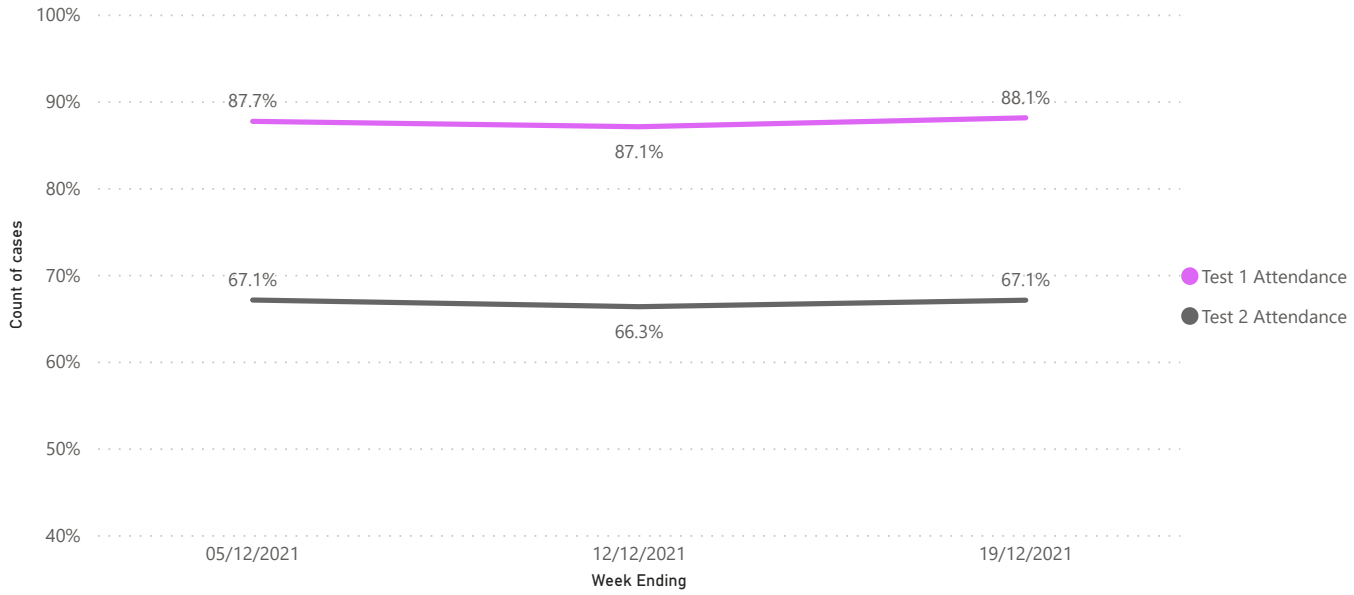
Close contact attendance at PCR testing

For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 :

88% (n= 13497) of those referred for a Test 1 appointment attended for testing, a 1% increase from the previous week. 87%

67% (n= 3519) of those referred for a Test 2 appointment attended for testing, a 1% increase from the previous week. 66%

Attendance rates by week ending



Test 1

Week ending	Attended - Test 1	Referred - Test 1	Test 1 %
05/12/2021	14330	16344	87.7%
12/12/2021	11760	13511	87.0%
19/12/2021	13497	15326	88.1%

Test 2

Week ending	Attended - Test 2	Referred - Test 2	Test 2 %
05/12/2021	4203	6265	67.1%
12/12/2021	3562	5372	66.3%
19/12/2021	3519	5248	67.1%

Test 1 is scheduled for symptomatic close contacts as soon as they 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.

Close contact PCR Test positivity rates

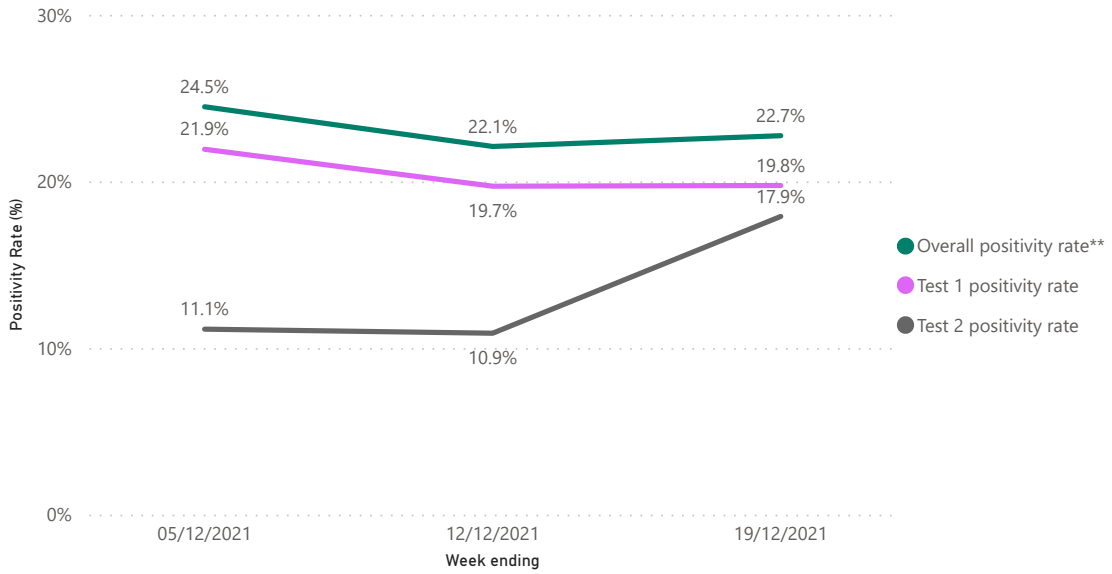
For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 :

Test 1 results were available at the time of report preparation for 12281 close contacts; 2426 (19.8%) of these had a positive result.

Test 2 results were available at the time of report preparation for 2274 close contacts; 407 (17.9%) of these had a positive result.

Overall, 22.7% (n = 2725) of the close contacts tested had a positive result.

Close contact positivity rate* by week



Overall Test Results

Week ending	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive results	Positivity rate
05/12/2021	13145	3218	24.5%
12/12/2021	10707	2366	22.1%
19/12/2021	11981	2725	22.7%
Total	**35833**	**8309**	**23.2%**

Test 1 Results

Week ending	Test 1 results reported	Number of positive Test 1 results	Test 1 positivity rate
05/12/2021	13315	2920	21.9%
12/12/2021	10922	2153	19.7%
19/12/2021	12281	2426	19.8%
Total	**36518**	**7499**	**20.5%**

Test 2 Results

Week ending	Test 2 results reported	Number of positive Test 2 results	Test 2 positivity rate
05/12/2021	3126	348	11.1%
12/12/2021	2654	289	10.9%
19/12/2021	2274	407	17.9%
Total	**8054**	**1044**	**13.0%**

**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 for symptomatic close contacts as soon as they 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.

Close contact - overall PCR test results by region

The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts created on the week ending 19/12/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

The highest proportions of close contacts testing positive by region were the Midwest (25.7%) and East (24.6%).

Contacts in the East accounted for 45.9% (n = 1252) of the close contacts who tested positive.

Overall SARS-CoV-2 results by region - contacts created week ending: 19/12/2021

Region	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive result	Positivity rate
East	5098	1252	24.6%
Midlands	759	142	18.7%
Midwest	915	235	25.7%
Northeast	1101	247	22.4%
Northwest	388	61	15.7%
South	1671	352	21.1%
Southeast	611	131	21.4%
West	727	153	21.0%
Not recorded	711	152	21.4%
National	**11981**	**2725**	**22.7%**

Close contact - overall PCR test results by age group

The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts created on the week ending 19/12/2021 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 0 to 4 (29.0%), 5 to 12 (27.4%) and 45 to 54 (23.3%).

Contacts aged 5 to 12 years (n=561) and 35 to 44 years (n=484) accounted for 20.6% and 17.8% respectively of the close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 who tested positive.

Overall SARS-CoV-2 results by age - contacts created week ending: 19/12/2021

Age group	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive result	Positivity rate
0 to 4	639	185	29.0%
5 to 12	2049	561	27.4%
13 to 18	1363	275	20.2%
19 to 24	928	191	20.6%
25 to 34	1925	444	23.1%
35 to 44	2278	484	21.2%
45 to 54	1465	342	23.3%
55 to 64	922	173	18.8%
65 to 74	295	46	15.6%
75+	107	24	22.4%
Not recorded	10	<5	*
Overall	**11981**	**2725**	**22.7%**

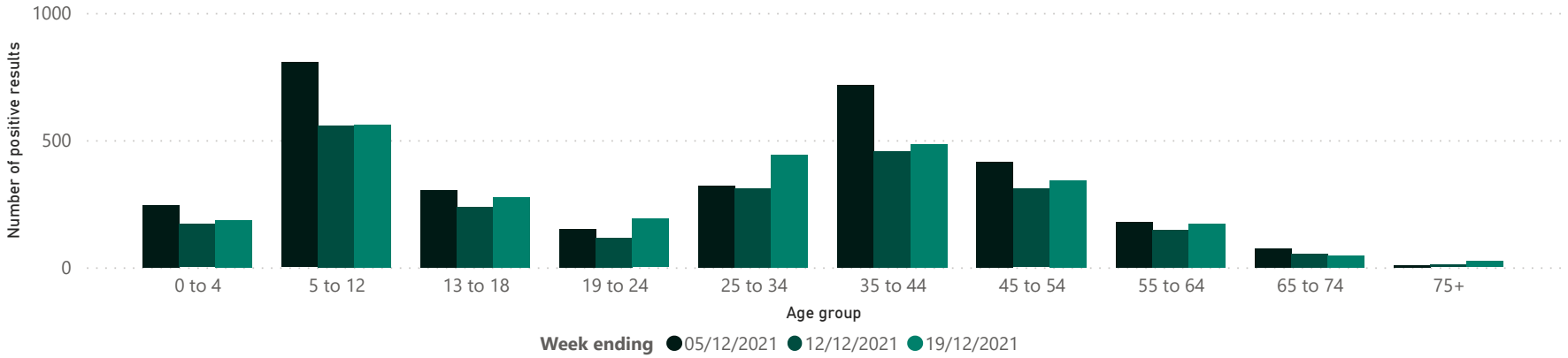
Trends in the number of positive PCR test results by age group

The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 05/12/2021 and 19/12/2021 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 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021

Week ending	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+	**Total**
05/12/2021	244	806	304	150	321	716	416	180	74	7	**3218**
12/12/2021	170	557	237	115	310	457	309	146	55	10	**2366**
19/12/2021	185	561	275	191	444	484	342	173	46	24	**2725**

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



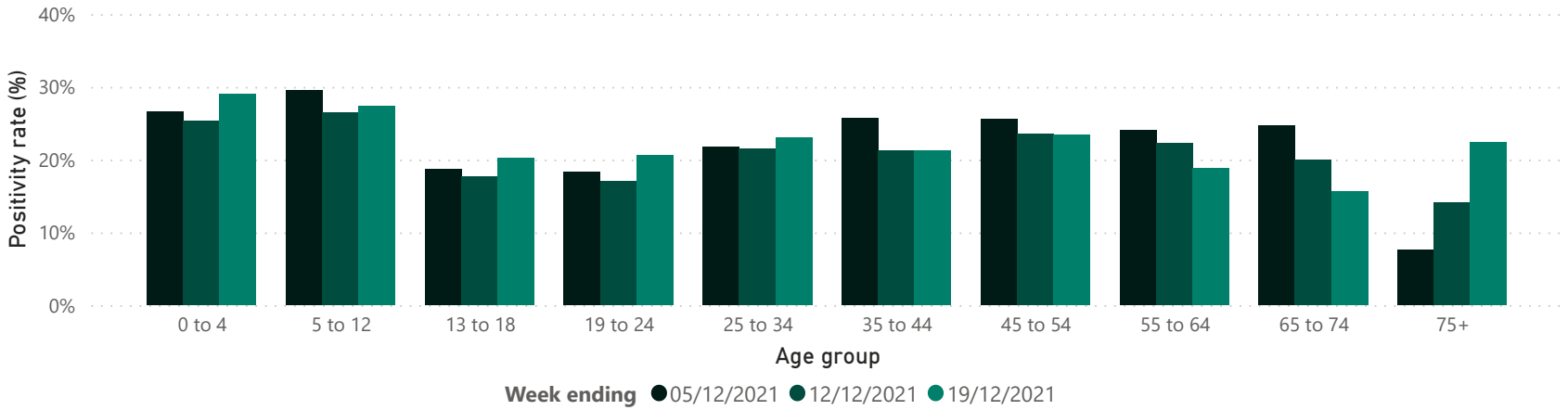
Trends in the proportion of positive PCR test results by age group

The positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 05/12/2021 and 19/12/2021 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 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021

Week ending	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+	**Overall**
05/12/2021	26.6%	29.5%	18.7%	18.3%	21.7%	25.7%	25.5%	24.0%	24.7%	7.5%	**24.5%**
12/12/2021	25.3%	26.5%	17.7%	17.0%	21.5%	21.2%	23.5%	22.2%	19.9%	14.1%	**22.1%**
19/12/2021	29.0%	27.4%	20.2%	20.6%	23.1%	21.2%	23.3%	18.8%	15.6%	22.4%	**22.8%**

Trends in the proportion of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by age group - contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



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 19/12/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

The highest proportion of close contacts testing positive by circumstances of contact (where recorded) was amongst Household contacts (25.3%).

Household contacts accounted for 72% (n = 1961) of the close contacts who tested positive.

Overall SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact- contacts created week ending: 19/12/2021

Circumstances	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive result	Positivity Rate
Household	7752	1961	25.3%
Social	1217	215	17.7%
Secondary school	430	51	11.9%
Workplace	528	84	15.9%
Other	97	19	19.6%
Primary school*	117	11	9.4%
Sport	<5	<5	*
Third level education	<5	<5	*
Childcare facility	9	<5	*
Special school	106	<5	*
Flight**	31	7	22.6%
Not recorded***	1691	376	22.2%
Overall	**11981**	**2725**	**22.7%**

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

***From 29th November 2021 to 16th December 2021, contact tracing was undertaken for flights arriving into Ireland with a confirmed COVID-19 case who recently travelled from or transited through a Scheduled Country in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms*

****Circumstances of contact were not recorded for contacts identified via the 'List Your Contacts' portal until the 9th of December 2021.. During periods of increased contact tracing activity, cases are encouraged to use the portal*

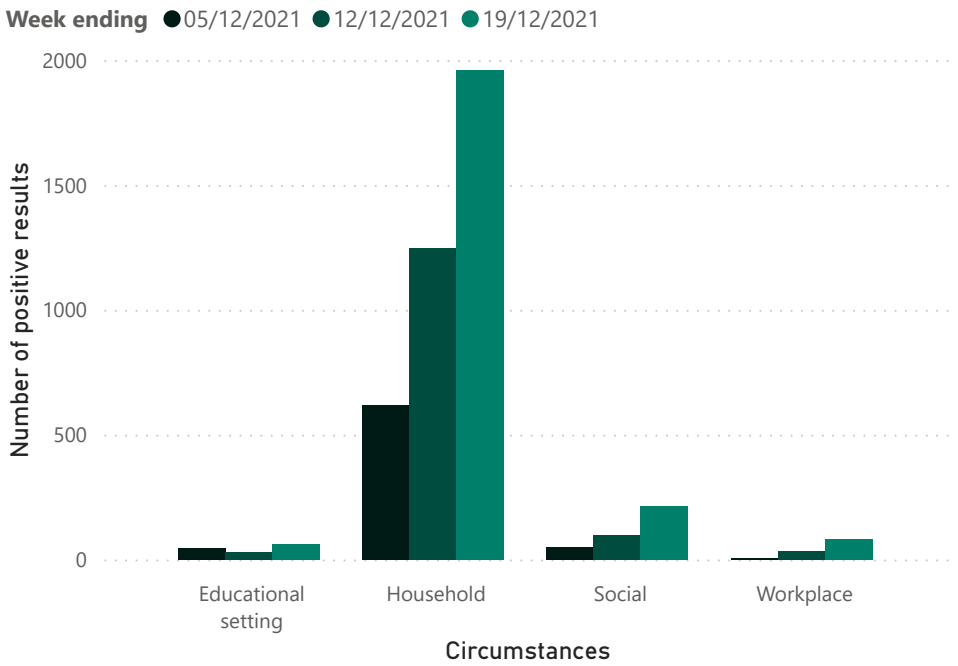
Trends in the number of positive PCR test results by circumstances of contact

The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for close contacts between the weeks ending 05/12/2021 and 19/12/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact- contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021

Week ending	Educational setting	Household	Social	Workplace
05/12/2021	46	620	50	7
12/12/2021	32	1248	97	35
19/12/2021	62	1961	215	84

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact- contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



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 05/12/2021 and 19/12/2021 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 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021

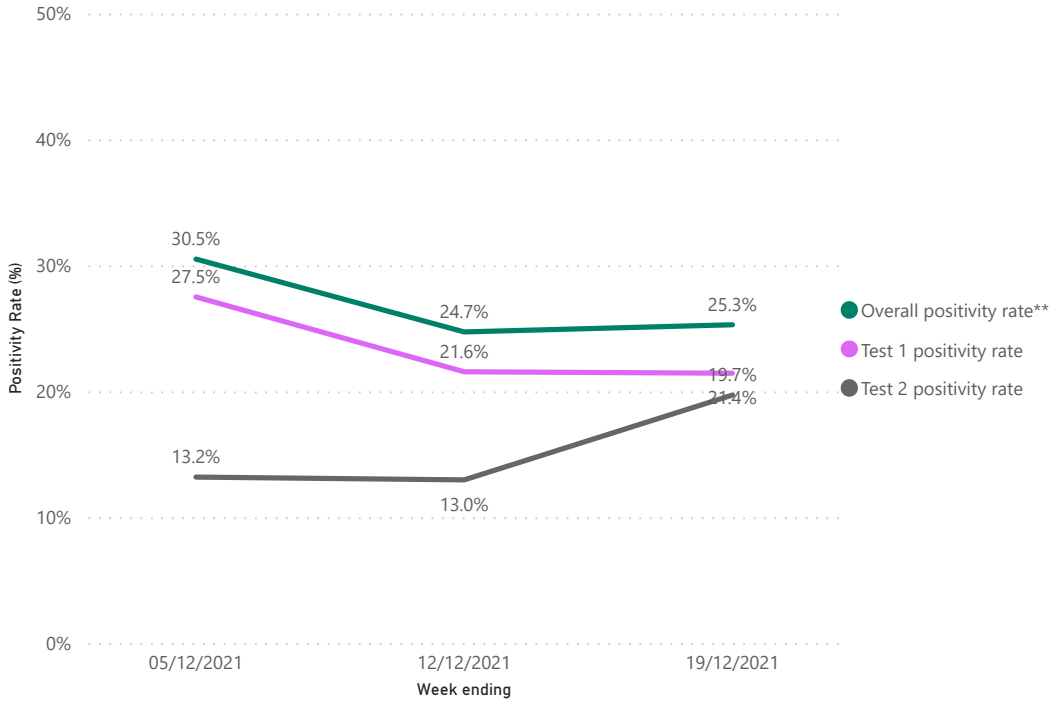
Week ending	Educational setting	Household	Social	Workplace
05/12/2021	10.7%	30.5%	18.4%	8.4%
12/12/2021	8.0%	24.7%	15.6%	11.2%
19/12/2021	11.2%	25.3%	17.7%	15.9%

Trends in the proportion of positive SARS-CoV-2 results by circumstances of contact - contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021

Household contact PCR test positivity rates

For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 : 25.3% (n = 1961) of the household contacts tested had a positive result.

Household contact positivity rate* by week



Overall Test Results

Week ending	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive results	Positivity rate
05/12/2021	2032	620	30.5%
12/12/2021	5047	1248	24.7%
19/12/2021	7752	1961	25.3%
Total	**14831**	**3829**	**25.8%**

Test 1 Results

Week ending	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive results	Positivity rate
05/12/2021	2054	565	27.5%
12/12/2021	5152	1111	21.6%
19/12/2021	7940	1703	21.4%
Total	**15146**	**3379**	**22.3%**

Test 2 Results

Week ending	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive results	Positivity rate
05/12/2021	462	61	13.2%
12/12/2021	1271	165	13.0%
19/12/2021	1623	320	19.7%
Total	**3356**	**546**	**16.3%**

**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 for symptomatic close contacts as soon as they 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.*

Household contacts - overall PCR test results by age group

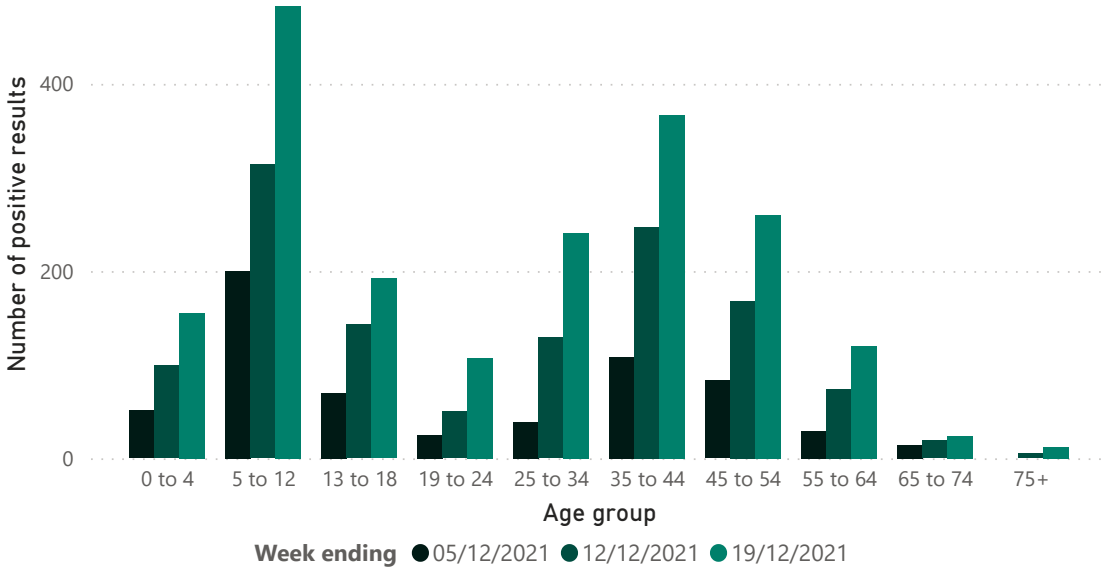
The results and positivity rates presented below reflect the overall results for Household contacts created on the week ending 19/12/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

Overall SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results by self-reported vaccination status for household contacts - contacts created week ending:

Age group	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive result	Positivity rate
0 to 4	525	155	29.5%
5 to 12	1608	483	30.0%
13 to 18	768	192	25.0%
19 to 24	551	107	19.4%
25 to 34	992	241	24.3%
35 to 44	1539	367	23.8%
45 to 54	1013	260	25.7%
55 to 64	583	120	20.6%
65 to 74	133	24	18.0%
75+	40	12	30.0%
Not recorded	<5	<5	*
Total	**7752**	**1961**	**25.3%**

The positive results presented below reflect the overall results for Household contacts between the weeks ending 05/12/2021 and 19/12/2021 based on combined results for Test 1 and Test 2.

Trends in the number of positive SARS-CoV-2 results for household contacts by age groups - contacts created WE 05/12/2021 - WE 19/12/2021



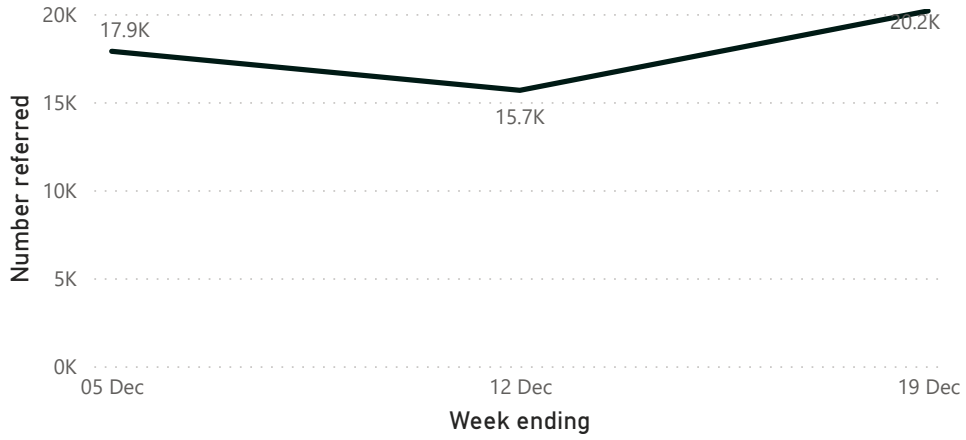
Close contact antigen testing overview

For close contacts created the week ending 19/12/2021 :

20178 were referred for antigen testing.

Of these, a confirmatory PCR test result was identified for 1402 close contacts. 1005 (71.7%) of these tests were positive.

Number referred for antigen test by week



Referred for Antigen Test

Week ending	Number referred
05/12/2021	17884
12/12/2021	15667
19/12/2021	20178

Overall Results

Week ending	Close contacts with test result reported	Number of close contacts with positive results	Positivity rate
05/12/2021	1123	781	69.5%
12/12/2021	954	662	69.4%
19/12/2021	1402	1005	71.7%
Total	**3479**	**2448**	**70.4%**

Asymptomatic fully vaccinated close contacts aged 13 or over were referred for antigen testing from the 28th October to the 21st of December 2021. From the 22nd of December 2021, all asymptomatic close contacts have been referred for antigen testing, regardless of vaccination status. 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.

Appendix 1: Close contact definitions

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:

Circumstance of Contact	Description
Household	Close contacts living or sleeping in the same house, individuals in shared accommodation sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities, and sexual partners
Workplace	Close contacts from the workplace.
Social	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.
Sport	Close contacts from sporting and recreational activities.
Childcare facility	Close contacts include staff and students in crèches, pre-schools and after-schools.
Primary school	Close contacts include staff and students in primary schools.
Secondary school	Close contacts include staff and students in secondary schools.
Special educational needs school	Close contacts include staff and students in schools that provide education for children with special educational needs.
Third level education	Close contacts from third-level institutes and universities.
Flight	Close contacts who were seated within two rows of a case on a flight.
Other transport	Close contacts from public transport, taxis and cars.
Healthcare setting: patients	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 & Control who do not currently use the CCT.
Healthcare setting: staff	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.
Other	Close contacts where the circumstances of contact are known but not included in one of the categories above.
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.
From 28th October 2021, asymptomatic fully vaccinated close contacts have been referred for antigen testing.
From the 22nd of December 2022, all asymptomatic close contacts aged 13 or over have been referred for antigen testing regardless of vaccination status. Symptomatic close contacts and all household contacts aged 13 or under have been referred for PCR testing from this date.

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