



Serial Testing of all staff in Residential Care Facilities (Older People)

Summary Paper - Week One

July 1st 2020

Background

Serial testing of all staff in residential care facilities, which is a very significant undertaking being delivered by the HSE and nursing homes at the request of NPHET began on June 24th, 2020. This serial testing is planned to run for five weeks, ensuring all residential care facilities are tested for four weeks concurrently, unless otherwise advised by public health due to outbreaks.

It is complex to ensure that all tests are referred, tested, tracked and traced accurately across this group of geographically dispersed individuals who need to be tested at their place of work.

Each nursing home has been assigned a designated date between Wednesday and Sunday inclusive and this day will remain fixed for each nursing home for each of their four tests. Testing is being completed using a combination of facilities including self-swabbing, CHO support and NAS support.

Week 1 Overview

Testing commenced in 11 nursing homes on June 24th. Due to the need to begin testing without undue delay, all facilities were not tested in the first 5 days. Where the required information (name, address, mobile phone number etc.) was provided for staff to be tested, these facilities have been included in the first week of testing, while allowing other facilities more time to prepare for this testing programme.

The first cycle of serial testing was completed from June 24th – 28th with 5 days testing. 136 Residential Care Facilities have now completed this first cycle. We anticipate a higher number will be tested in the second cycle beginning July 1st, with all facilities having 4 weeks of concurrent testing. A total of 6,329 swabs were taken in week 1.

This testing is being completed via self-swabbing of facilities where possible. Where this is not possible, support is being provided by the National Ambulance Service. The continued support of NAS is critical to its success.

Summary Results - Week One

All staff were requested to be tested across the 131 facilities. 7,697 were referred for testing and 6,329 were swabbed. This equates to 82% participation. The shortfall is due to staff being unavailable on the day of testing and some opting out of this testing programme.

The below table summarises the results received to date.



Results Summary	Week One
Results received	6,061
Detected	14 (0.2%)
Not Detected	6,044 (99.7%)
Inhibitory	2 (0.03%)
Indeterminate	0
Invalid	1 (0.02%)
Pending	268*

Table 1: Summary Results for Serial Testing Week One

Note: Additional testing is ongoing in Residential Care Facilities (Older People) where outbreaks are currently being managed. Results from these facilities is not included in this report.

*These are pending as the swabbing took place later than planned. It doesn't represent a laboratory delay.

A total of 14 tests with a result of COVID-19 detected have been received to date. These are further broken down below;

Nursing Home Location	Nursing Home Number	Total Est. Staff in Facility	Total Staff tested	Number Detected
West (CHO2)	Facility 1	34	33	1 (3%)
Mid-West (CH03)	Facility 1	30	41	1 (2.4%)
	Facility 2	57	56	1 (1.8%)
	Facility 3	21	7	1 (4.7%)
East (CHO9)	Facility 1	170	93	5 (5.4%)
	Facility 2	100	31	2 (6.4%)
	Facility 3	170	103	1 (0.6%)
	Facility 4	114	100	1 (0.9%)
	Facility 5	185	68	1 (1.5%)
Total				14

Table 2: Summary Results for Serial Testing Week One by location

These facilities will continue to be included in the serial testing programme unless otherwise advised by Public Health.

The below map presents the geographical spread of the detected cases identified to date.



Figure 1: Geographical spread of COVID-19 detected cases. Data source - all data for this report was provided from the HSE Integration and Information Service.

Close Contacts information

All positive cases were informed within a range of 2.1 to 3.2 days from when they were swabbed. Contact tracing was complete on the same day as being informed, with the exception of 2 cases which are ongoing – one due to the extensive range of contacts (58) and the second as it was lab resulted yesterday evening.

The below table presents a summary of the close contacts for the 14 COVID-19 detected cases.

There was a total number of 91 contacts from the 14 confirmed cases.

Number of Close Contacts	Number of Cases
1 – 3 close contacts	8
4 - 6 close contacts	2
< 10	1
> 50	1
Unknown (<i>contact tracing ongoing on 1st July</i>)	2
	14

Table 3: Close Contact Information for detected cases.



Outbreak Management

Where COVID-19 detected results have been received within the serial testing programme Public Health have undertaken risk assessments to determine if additional testing is required. To date two facilities have undergone additional mass testing.

Facility 1: Five detected tests were found in one facility in CHO9 from testing June 24th. This facility had an additional 70 tests undertaken June 27th. All tests were COVID-19 not detected.

Facility 2: Two detected cases were found in a second facility in CHO9 from testing June 24th. Testing of 10 residents was completed June 27th with one detected and 9 not detected results received.

Plan for Week Two

Serial Testing week two commenced July 1st and will test all staff over a 5 day period. The testing timetable now includes c.100 facilities for Wednesday July 1st and c.100 facilities on Thursday July 2nd. Facilities will continue to undertake self-swabbing. Where this is not possible the National Ambulance Service will continue to provide support.

We will provide a summary report on testing activity and results to you on July 8th.



Appendix

Additional Information on Detected Results Received

For the 14 positive cases additional information has been captured and is presented below;

Gender	Number	%
Female	11	79
Male	3	21
Unknown	0	0
Total	14	100

Table 3: Breakdown of positive cases by gender

Age	Number	%
15-24	3	21
25-34	2	14
35-44	5	36
45-54	3	21
55-64	1	7
65-74	0	0
Not Specified	0	0
Total	14	100

Table 4: Breakdown of positive cases by Age

Type of HCW	Number	%
Healthcare Assistant	9	64
Nurse	2	14
Admin/Clerical Worker	1	7
Physiotherapist	1	7
Unknown	1	7
Total	14	100

Table 5: Breakdown of positive cases by Type of HCW

Ethnicity	Number	%
Black African	4	29
Indian subcontinent	3	21
White	4	29
Other	1	7
Unknown	2	14
Total	14	100

Table 6: Breakdown of positive cases by Ethnicity

Symptomatic?	Number	%	Symptoms Presented
Symptomatic	4	29	1 with diarrhoea, 1 with headaches & back pain
Not Symptomatic	9	64	
Unknown	1	7	
Total	14	100	

Table 7: Breakdown of positive cases by Symptomatic or not



Likely Transmission Source	Number	%
Healthcare Setting Acquired	7	50
Community	4	29
Unknown	3	21
Total	14	100

Table 8: Breakdown of positive cases by Likely Transmission Type

Use of PPE	Number	%
<i>Eye Protection</i>		
Always	4	29
Infrequently	1	7
Never	2	14
Often	1	7
Unknown	6	43
	14	100
<i>Mask</i>		
Always	3	21
Infrequently	1	7
Never	2	14
Often	0	0
Unknown	8	57
	14	100
<i>Gloves</i>		
Always	8	57
Infrequently	0	0
Never	0	0
Often	0	0
Unknown	6	43
	14	100
<i>Gown</i>		
Always	5	36
Infrequently	3	21
Never	0	0
Often	0	0
Unknown	6	43
	14	100
<i>Surgical Mask</i>		
Always	7	50
Infrequently	1	7
Never	0	0
Often	0	0
Unknown	6	43
	14	100

Table 9: Breakdown of positive cases by HSW use of PPE