



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Test and Trace

Weekly NHS Test and Trace bulletin, England: 18 – 24 June 2020

NHS Test and Trace – Week Four of contact tracing, England: 18 – 24 June 2020

The data in the tables below reflect the first four weeks of operation of the contact tracing element of NHS Test and Trace.

For testing, they include:

- People tested for Coronavirus
- People testing positive for Coronavirus
- Time taken for test results to become available

For contact tracing, they include:

- People transferred to the contact tracing system, and the time taken for them to be reached
- Close contacts identified for complex and non-complex cases, and the time taken for them to be reached

Main points

NHS contact tracing went live on 28 May.

Between 18 June and 24 June 2020:

- 297,427 people were tested for Coronavirus (COVID-19) under Pillars 1 and 2 in England.
- Of these, 5,185 people (1.7%) tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 6,183 people had their case transferred to the contact tracing system.¹
- Of these, 4,639 people (75.0%) were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts. 3,497 people (75.4%) provided details for one or more recent close contacts and 1,142 people (24.6%) said that they had no recent close contacts.
- 1,383 people (22.4%) could not be reached. An additional 161 people (2.6%) could not be reached at all because no communications details were provided for them.

As a result of this, between 18 June and 24 June 2020:

- 23,028 people were identified as close contacts. Of these 16,804 people (73.0%) were reached and asked to self-isolate.

In total, since 28 May 2020:

- 1,401,801 people have been tested for Coronavirus (COVID-19) under pillars 1 and 2 in England.
- Of these, 26,905 people (1.9%) have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 27,125 people had their case transferred to the contact tracing system², of whom 20,039 people (73.9%) were reached and asked to provide details of their recent close contacts.
- 132,525 (86.4%) people were identified as recent close contacts and reached through the contract tracing system out of 153,442 people reported.

Terminology

¹ Between 18-24 June, more people were transferred to the contact tracing system than tested positive because this includes some cases from the previous week. This is a result of the time between a sample being taken, tested and reported and being passed from PHE to the contact tracing system.

² Some people may have had their case transferred to the contact tracing system more than once. Currently, there is not a rigorous process for de-duplication of the data being passed into the contact tracing system each day, as the emphasis is on transferring these cases quickly. Therefore, there may be more people transferred to contact tracing than test positive for coronavirus within a given period.

People in England who have a positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) test are transferred to NHS Test and Trace. These are people who were tested under Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 of the government testing strategy³:

- Pillar 1: swab testing in Public Health England (PHE) labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care workers
- Pillar 2: swab testing for the wider population, through commercial partnerships⁴

Pillar 1 testing is conducted in hospitals and PHE laboratories; whilst Pillar 2 testing can be carried out through several different routes:

- Regional Test Sites, which includes drive-through and walk-through testing centres.
- Mobile Testing Units, which travel around the UK to increase access to coronavirus testing. They respond to need, travelling to test essential workers at sites including care homes, police stations and prisons.
- Satellite Test Centres, which includes test kits provided directly to 'satellite' centres at places like hospitals or care homes that have a particularly urgent or significant need.
- Home Test Kits, which are delivered to someone's door so they can test themselves and their family without leaving the house.

People tested refers to people who have newly been tested for Covid-19 and does not re-count people who have been tested more than once in either Pillar 1 or Pillar 2. People testing positive refers only to people who have newly tested positive for Covid-19 and does not include people who have had more than one positive test.

NHS Test and Trace has two ways of handling cases depending on their complexity:

- PHE Local Health Protection Teams to manage complex cases linked to outbreaks (referred to as complex cases hereafter) ⁵;
- Wider online and other call centre capacity for less complex cases (referred to as non-complex cases hereafter).

More details can be found in the methodology document.

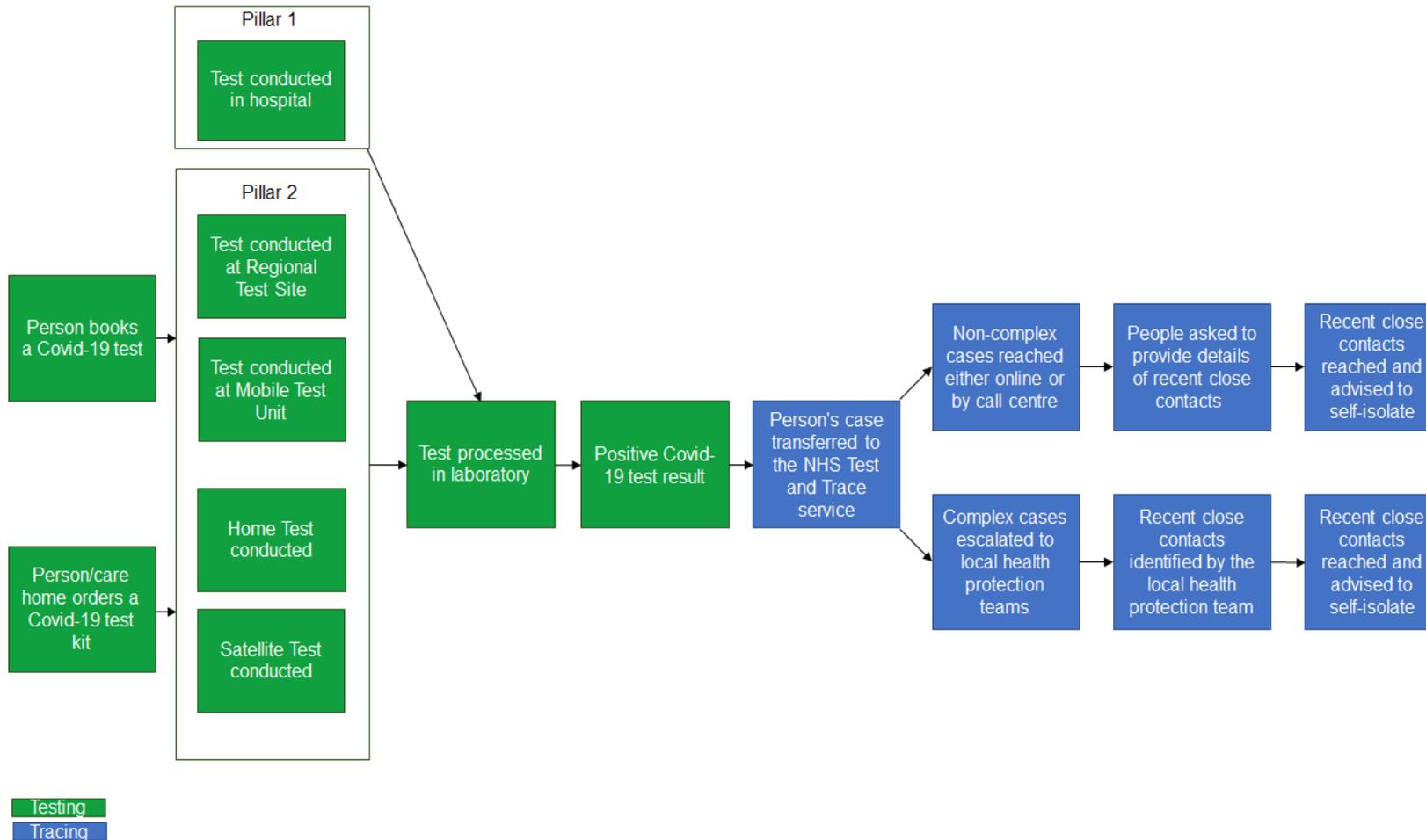
³ People tested under Pillar 3 (serology testing to show if people have antibodies from having had COVID-19) and Pillar 4 (serology and swab testing for national surveillance) do not have their cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace.

⁴ More detail can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scaling-up-testing-programmes/coronavirus-covid-19-scaling-up-our-testing-programmes>

⁵For example, if someone works in or has recently visited: • a health or care setting, such as a hospital or care home • a prison or other secure setting • a school for people with special needs • critical national infrastructure or areas vital for national security



Figure 1: Flowchart showing how people move through the NHS Test and Trace service





Revisions for the publication from 11 to 17 June

Figures for people testing positive for Coronavirus in previous releases have been revised. These revisions are because:

- There are sometimes delays in laboratories submitting data to PHE.
- Quality checks are conducted on the data to refine figures over time.

Figures for contact tracing in previous releases have been revised. These revisions are because:

- The figures presented are based on a data cut several days after the end of the reporting period, to give time for cases reported towards the end of the 7-day period to have an outcome. Some cases may continue to be in progress after this period, and therefore data may need to be revised over time (the methodology note gives more detail about this).

Testing

Between 18 June and 24 June 297,427 people were tested for COVID-19. Out of these 1.7% had a positive result (5,185 people)

Table 1: People tested for Covid-19 under pillars 1 and 2, England

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)
Pillar 1	120,465	120,095	477,972
Of which tested positive	1,890 (1.6%)	1,322 (1.1%)	8,148 (1.7%)
Pillar 2	201,173	177,332	923,829
Of which tested positive	4,355 (2.2%)	3,863 (2.2%)	18,757 (2.0%)
Total	321,638	297,427	1,401,801
Of which tested positive	6,245 (1.9%)	5,185 (1.7%)	26,905 (1.9%)

When combined, Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 give the total number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the given time period and these people should all have had their cases transferred to the contact tracing system⁶.

The number of positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system since the 28th May is slightly higher than this number due to the time between a sample being taken, tested and reported, and being passed from PHE to the contact tracing system⁷.

Note that these figures do not align with other published figures for people tested and people testing positive for Covid-19 under Pillars 1 and 2. This is due to:

- Differences in the date used for someone testing positive (this release uses the date the specimen was taken)
- Differences in geography (this figure is for England rather than the UK)

More details on how our figures compare to other published figures is given in the methodology document.

⁶ Figures for people testing positive have been de-duplicated so people who have multiple tests in both pillars 1 and 2 would only appear once.

⁷ The number of people testing positive in Pillar 1 may also include people tested anonymously as part of surveillance studies, and therefore will not have their case transferred to contact tracing.

Pillar 2 testing turnaround times

Time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result is only provided for Pillar 2 testing. We are working towards aligning methodologies across all pillars, including NHS and PHE laboratories, to add testing turnaround times for Pillar 1 into the publication

For Pillar 2, there are two measures of the time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result:

- **The time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result from time of booking** is measured from the time that a person books an appointment on the website to the time when the person receives a notification of their test result via an email or an SMS. This data is only available for Regional Test Sites and Mobile Testing Units, as test booking and registration processes for Home Testing and Satellite Test Centres are currently undertaken on different systems.
- **The time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result from time of test** is measured from the time a person completes a test registration until the time that they receive a notification of the result of their test via an email or an SMS.

For all measures of time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result, there are a number of tests that were not completed. This covers any test where the results were not communicated, which may be because communication details (e.g. phone number or email address) were not provided or were incorrect, or because the test was cancelled or abandoned, or no result was available.

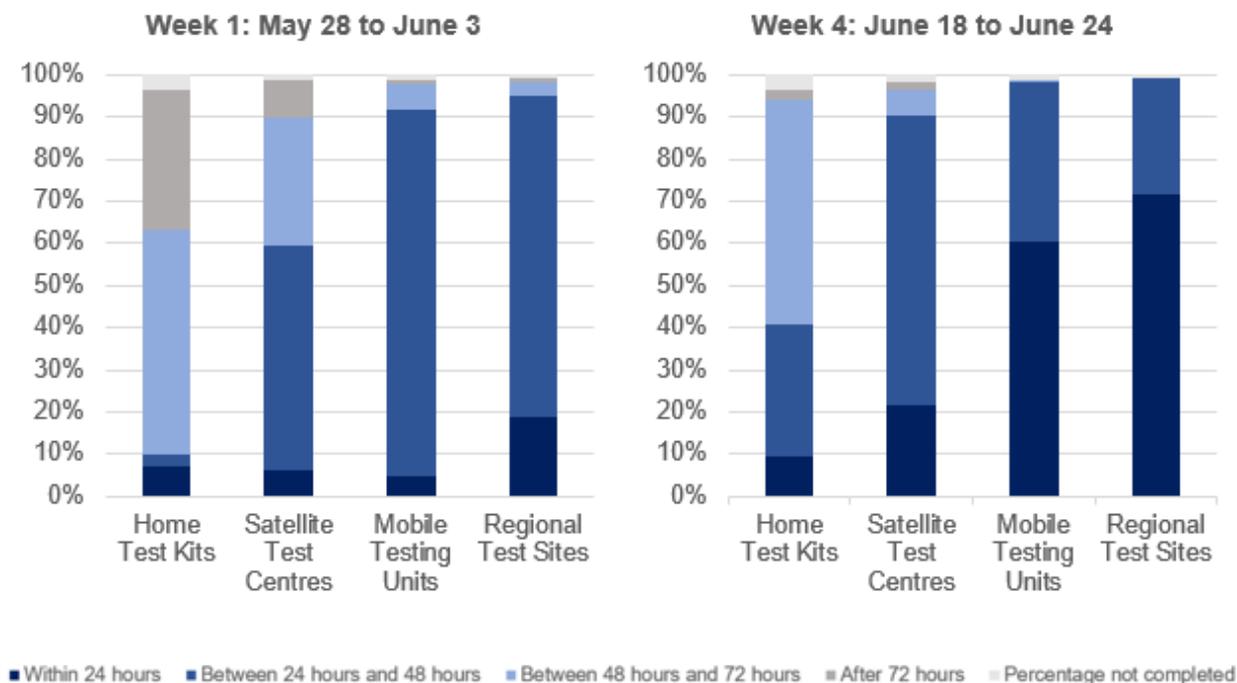
Data on the time taken to receive a Covid-19 test result is split up to show the different routes for getting tested, as this will have an impact upon the time taken. The four routes for taking a test through Pillar 2 are:

- Regional Test Sites, which includes drive-through and walk-through testing centres.
- Mobile Testing Units, which travel around the UK to increase access to coronavirus testing. They respond to need, travelling to test essential workers at sites including care homes, police stations and prisons.
- Satellite Test Centres, which includes test kits provided directly to 'satellite' centres at places like hospitals or care homes that have a particularly urgent or significant need.
- Home Test Kits, which are delivered to someone's door so they can test themselves and their family without leaving the house.

More details can be found in the methodology document.

Since the 28 May when Test and Trace launched, the time taken to receive a test result after taking a test has improved (decreased) in Pillar 2.

Figure 2: Time taken from taking a test to receiving the results by method of testing, England



In comparison to week 1 of Test and Trace, in week 4 a larger proportion of tests results were received within 24 hours of a test being taken, for all methods of testing. The largest improvements (decrease in time taken) were for Regional Testing Sites and Mobile Testing Units.

Regional Test Sites

In the week 18 June to 24 June, 71.8% of test results were received within 24 hours of the test being taken. If we consider the day the test was taken, this means that 98.0% of tests results were received the next day after the test was taken. 96.1% of test results were received within 48 hours of booking a test.

Table 2a: Time from taking a test to receiving test results, Pillar 2 Regional Test Sites, England

	28 May – 3 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	11 June – 17 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of tests (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	14,108 (18.8%)	18,798 (19.9%)	27,485 (35.1%)	54,815 (71.8%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	56,942 (76.0%)	71,331 (75.6%)	49,245 (62.8%)	20,724 (27.2%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	2,709 (3.6%)	2,784 (3.0%)	962 (1.2%)	127 (0.2%)
After 72 hours	515 (0.7%)	837 (0.9%)	87 (0.1%)	118 (0.2%)
Not completed	671 (0.9%)	642 (0.7%)	643 (0.8%)	556 (0.7%)
Total	74,945	94,392	78,422	76,340

Mobile Testing Units

In the week 18 June to 24 June, 60.6% of test results were received within 24 hours of the test being taken. If we consider the day the test was taken, this means that 96.7% of tests results were received the next day after the test was taken. 95.8% of test results were received within 48 hours of booking a test.

Table 2b: Time from taking a test to receiving test results, Pillar 2 Mobile Testing Units, England

	28 May – 3 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	11 June – 17 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of tests (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	2,311 (4.6%)	3,015 (5.0%)	6,593 (14.0%)	22,658 (60.6%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	43,399 (87.0%)	51,514 (86.1%)	38,431 (81.8%)	14,014 (37.5%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	3,155 (6.3%)	4,201 (7.0%)	1,178 (2.5%)	144 (0.4%)
After 72 hours	325 (0.7%)	523 (0.9%)	153 (0.3%)	76 (0.2%)
Not completed	703 (1.4%)	598 (1.0%)	642 (1.4%)	473 (1.3%)

	28 May – 3 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	11 June – 17 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of tests (Percentage)
Total	49,893	59,851	46,997	37,365

Satellite Test Centres

In the week 18 June to 24 June, 90.3% of test results were received within 48 hours of the test being taken. If we consider the day the test was taken, this means that 73.9% of tests results were received the next day after the test was taken.

Table 2c: Time from taking a test to receiving test results, Pillar 2 Satellite Test Centres⁸, England

	28 May – 3 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	11 June – 17 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of tests (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	6,191 (6.4%)	7,876 (11.8%)	4,190 (13.7%)	12,717 (21.5%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	51,497 (52.9%)	40,302 (60.4%)	20,049 (65.5%)	40,773 (68.8%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	29,941 (30.8%)	13,955 (20.9%)	4,996 (16.3%)	3,710 (6.3%)
After 72 hours	8,294 (8.5%)	3,535 (5.3%)	720 (2.4%)	861 (1.5%)
Not completed	1,427 (1.5%)	1,064 (1.6%)	644 (2.1%)	1,190 (2.0%)
Total	97,350	66,732	30,599	59,251

Home Testing Kits

In the week 18 June to 24 June, 40.6% of test results were received within 48 hours of the test being taken. If we consider the day the test was taken, this means that 25.6% of tests results were received the next day after the test was taken.

⁸ This data does not include Randox tests, as these are handled through a different system. Randox tests make up a significant proportion of the tests conducted in care homes, which form part of the Satellite Test Centres

Table 2d: Time from taking a test to receiving test results, Pillar 2 Home Testing Kits, England

	28 May – 3 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	11 June – 17 June: Number of tests (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of tests (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	3,509 (7.1%)	4,559 (5.7%)	6,025 (8.1%)	5,458 (9.3%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	1,463 (2.9%)	3,239 (4.0%)	15,329 (20.5%)	18,306 (31.3%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	26,416 (53.2%)	36,838 (45.7%)	46,602 (62.3%)	31,210 (53.4%)
After 72 hours	16,360 (32.9%)	32,873 (40.8%)	4,168 (5.6%)	1,483 (2.5%)
Not completed	1,918 (3.9%)	3,113 (3.9%)	2,672 (3.6%)	2,043 (3.5%)
Total	49,666	80,622	74,796	58,500

Contact Tracing

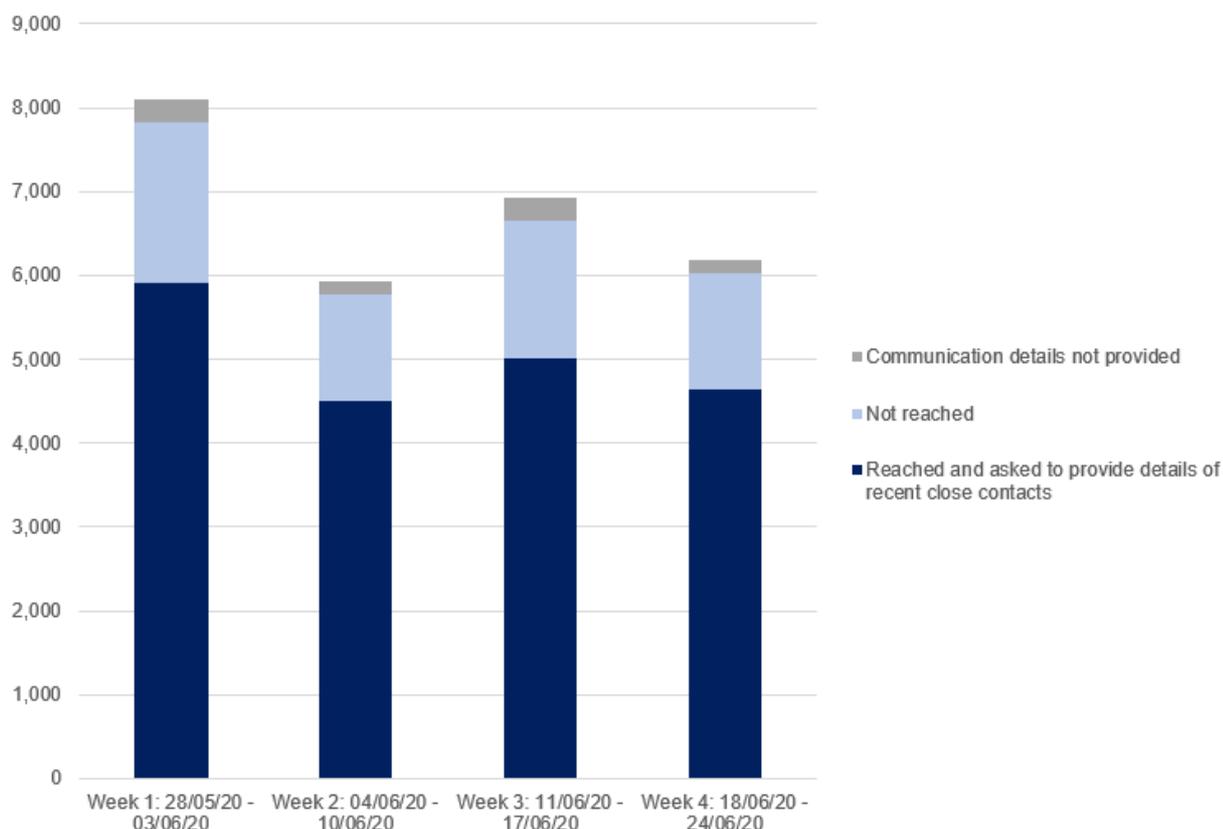
Between 18 June and 24 June around 3 in every 4 people transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts

Table 3: People transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England⁹

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)
People who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts	5,005 (72.3%)	4,639 (75.0%)	20,039 (73.9%)
People who were not reached	1,656 (23.9%)	1,383 (22.4%)	6,245 (23.0%)
People whose communication details were not provided	263 (3.8%)	161 (2.6%)	841 (3.1%)
Total	6,924	6,183	27,125

⁹ Between 11-24 June, more people were transferred to the contact tracing system than tested positive because this includes some cases from the previous week. This is a result of the time between a sample being taken, tested and reported and being passed from PHE to the contact tracing system.

Figure 3: Number of people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020¹⁰



After a person’s coronavirus test is confirmed as positive, they will be transferred to the contact tracing system to be contacted. The number of these people who were reached and provided details of recent close contacts includes complex cases investigated by local public health teams and people who said that they had no recent close contacts.

People who had no communication details provided are those people for whom there were no contact details (e.g. phone number or email address). This information is only available for people whose cases were non-complex and handled through the contact tracing system, because those handled by local public health teams are managed at a situation rather than individual level.

The number of people who were not reached includes those people who the service has been unable to reach because there has been no response to text, email and call reminders. It also includes people who were reached but declined to give details of close

¹⁰ Note: Data has been split to show those cases whose communication details were not provided. Previous publication included cases where communication details not provided under 'Not reached and asked to provide contact details'. Numbers have been revised for previous weeks to account for new methodology.

contacts. There may also be a small number of people who have not been reached but where contact tracers are still in the process of trying to make contact.

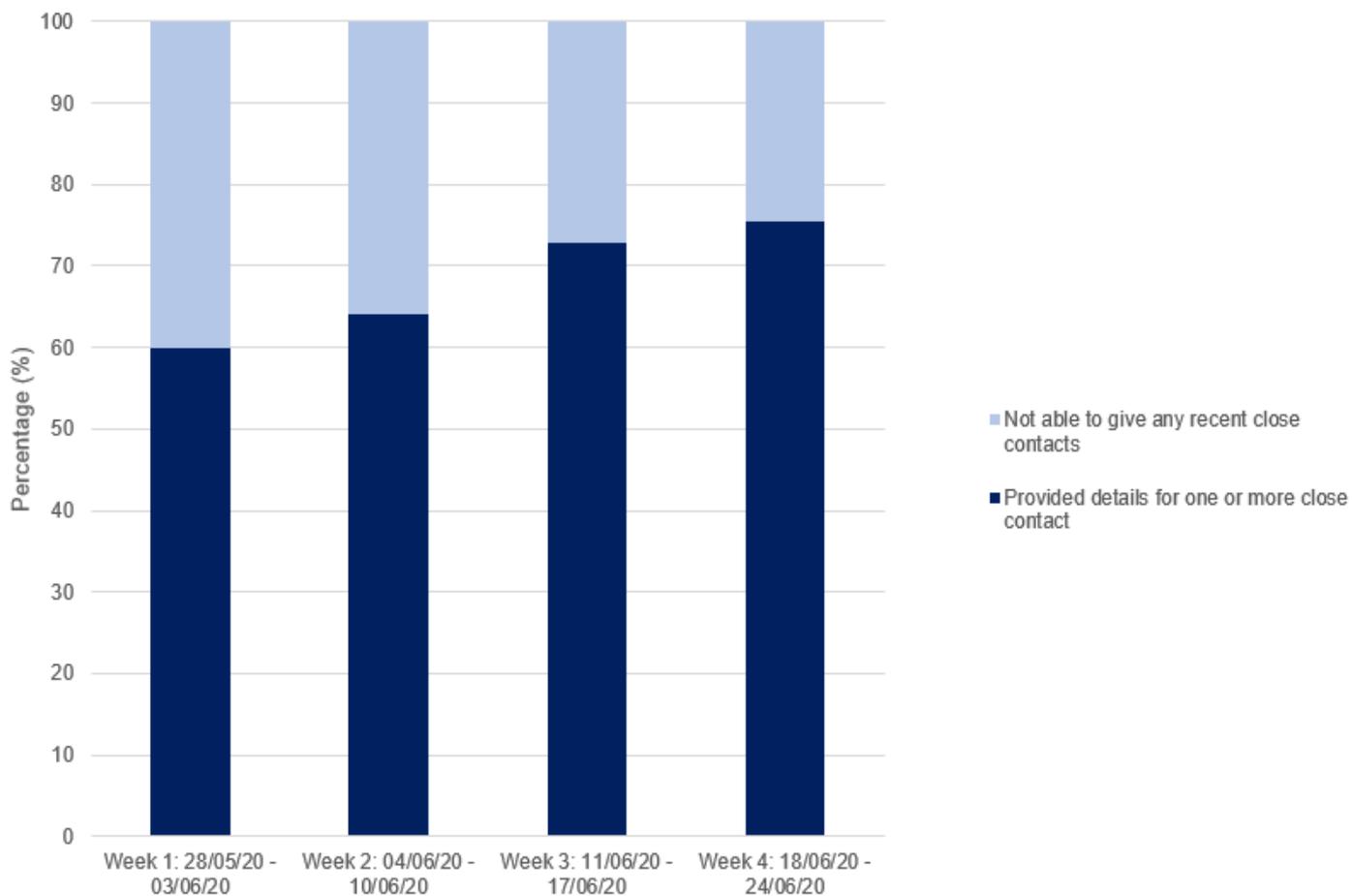
Between 18 June and 24 June three-quarters of people who were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts, provided one or more close contacts

Table 4: People transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts by how many contacts they provided details for, England

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of people (percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)
People who provided details of one or more close contacts	3,643 (72.8%)	3,497 (75.4%)	13,554 (67.6%)
People who were not able to give any recent close contacts	1,362 (27.2%)	1,142 (24.6%)	6,485 (32.4%)
Total	5,005	4,639	20,039

Not everyone who was reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts will have had any recent close contacts. The number who were not able to give any recent close contacts therefore refers to people who were successfully reached by NHS test and trace, but could not provide details of close recent contacts to pass on for further contact tracing (for example, recent close contact with strangers on the bus).

Figure 4: Proportion of people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts by how many contacts they provided details for, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020



For non-complex cases most people continued to be successfully reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts within 24 hours of their case being transferred to contact tracing

Figure 5: Proportion of people who were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts by time taken to reach them, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020, this excludes complex cases

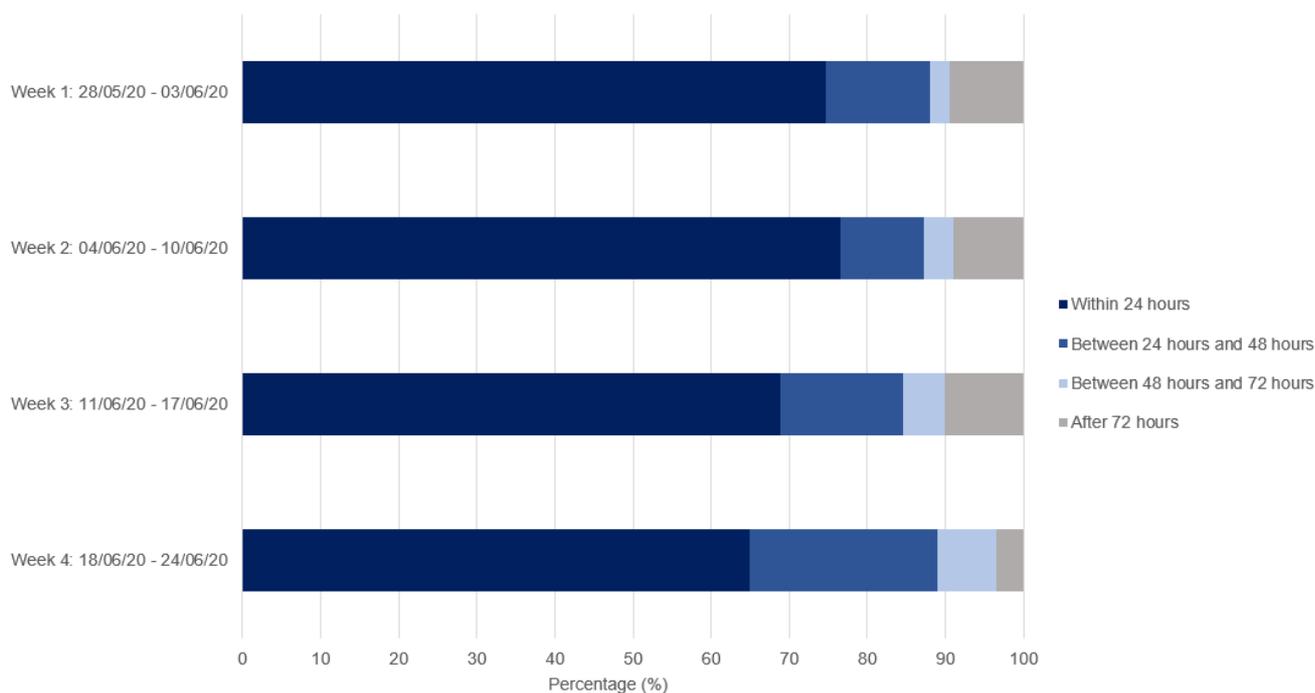


Table 5: People who were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts by time taken to do so, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020, this excludes complex cases

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	3,070 (68.8%)	2,748 (65.0%)	11,903 (71.1%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	704 (15.8%)	1,011 (23.9%)	2,700 (16.1%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	238 (5.3%)	320 (7.6%)	798 (4.8%)
After 72 hours	451 (10.1%)	150 (3.5%)	1,350 (8.1%)
Total	4,463	4,229	16,751

Number of recent close contacts identified through the contact tracing system

Close contacts are those people who have been identified as being in recent close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus.

For complex cases, the number of close contacts identified has fallen by approximately 75% since the start of contact tracing

In complex cases, the number of close contacts identified in week 4 of contact tracing is approximately a quarter of the number that were identified in week 1. In contrast, the number of close contacts identified in non-complex cases has seen a slight increase over the same period. As non-complex cases have a higher proportion of contacts who are unable to be reached, this has caused the overall percentage of contacts who were reached and asked to self-isolate to decrease from 90.6% in week 1 to 73.0% in week 4.

Table 6: Number of people identified as recent close contacts by whether they were reached and asked to self-isolate, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020. Includes contacts related to both complex and non-complex cases.

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)
People who were identified as recent close contacts and asked to self-isolate (total)	26,066 (82.4%)	16,804 (73.0%)	132,525 (86.4%)
Complex cases	20,264	10,456	110,358
Non-complex cases	5,802	6,348	22,167
People who were identified as recent close contacts but not reached (total)	2,798 (8.8%)	3,340 (14.5%)	10,644 (6.9%)
Complex cases	252	410	920
Non-complex cases	2,546	2,930	9,724
People who were identified as recent close contacts but had no communication details (Non-complex cases only)	2,759 (8.7%)	2,884 (12.5%)	10,273 (6.7%)
Total (complex and non-complex)	31,623	23,028	153,442

Of the people who were identified as recent close contacts but not reached, some of these could not be reached because no communication details were provided for them (for example a phone number or email address). This information is only available for those recent close contacts related to non-complex cases. This data is not available for recent close contacts relating to complex cases because these are usually managed at a situation (e.g. care home) rather than individual level.

Out of all the non-complex contacts that were identified between 18 June and 24 June 23.7% did not have communication details. Out of all the non-complex contacts that were identified between 28 May to 24 June 24.4% did not have communication details.

The number who were not reached also includes those people who the service has been unable to reach because there has been no response to text, email and call reminders, or those for which no contact details were provided to NHS Test and Trace (e.g. phone number or email address). Further, there are some contacts who were reached but have not agreed to self-isolate.

Figure 6: Number of recent close contacts identified from non-complex cases by whether they were reached and asked to self-isolate, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020.

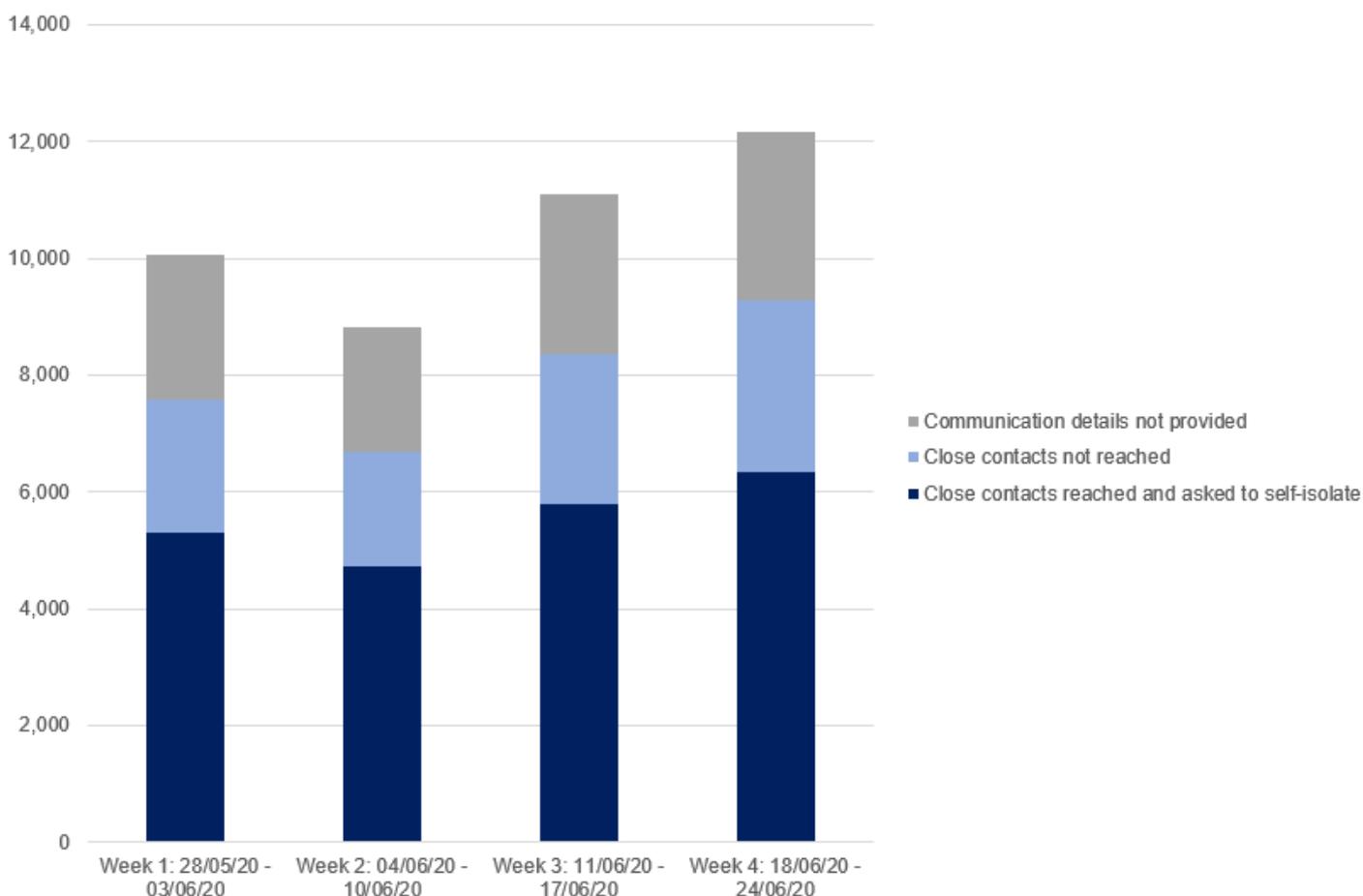
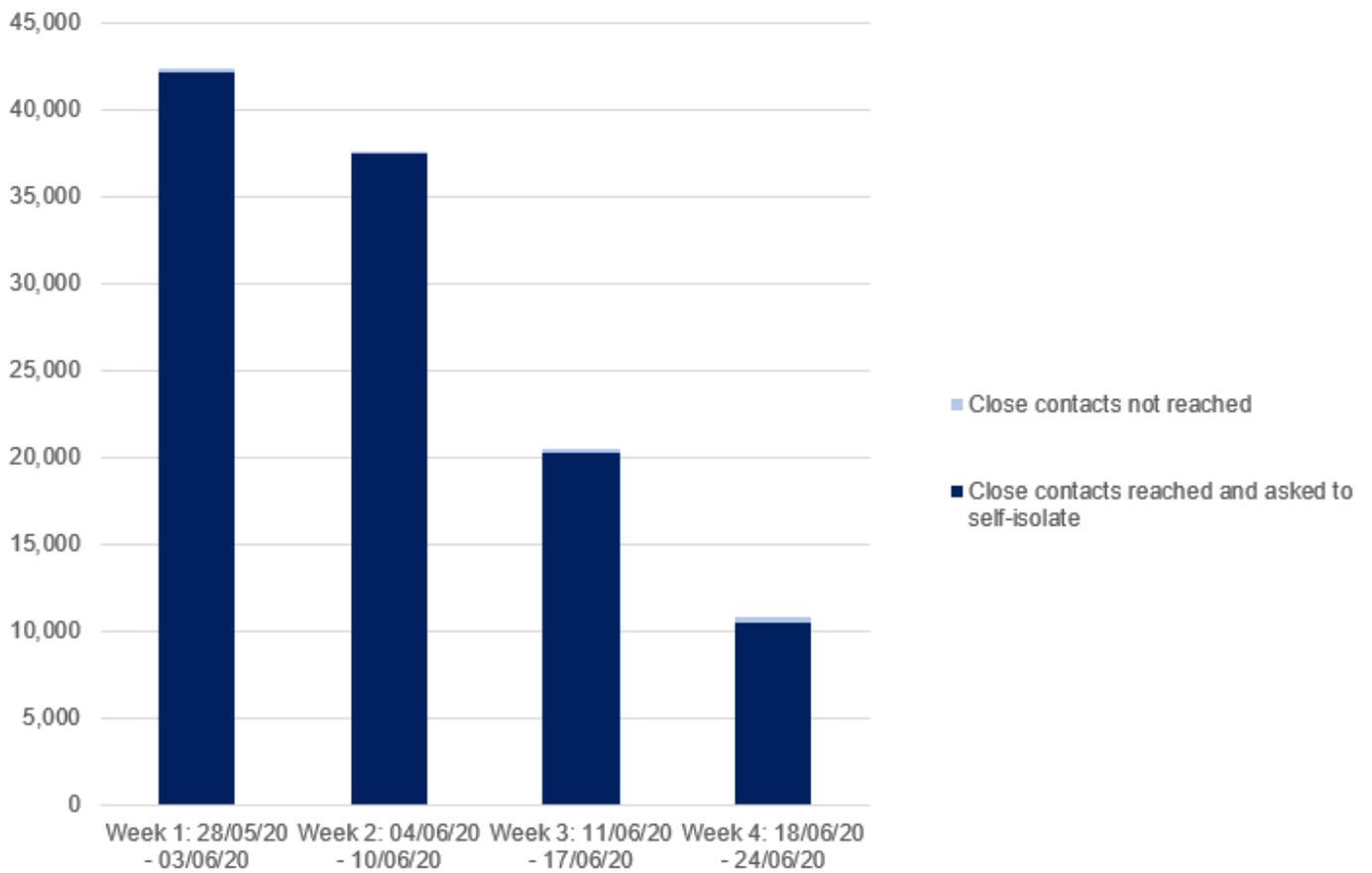


Figure 7: Number of recent close contacts identified from complex cases by whether they were reached and asked to self-isolate, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020.



For non-complex cases, where recent close contacts have been advised to self-isolate, more than 4 out of 5 of them were reached within 24 hours of being identified

Figure 8: Proportion of recent close contacts who were advised to self-isolate by time taken to reach them, England, 28 May to 24 June 2020. This does not include complex cases.

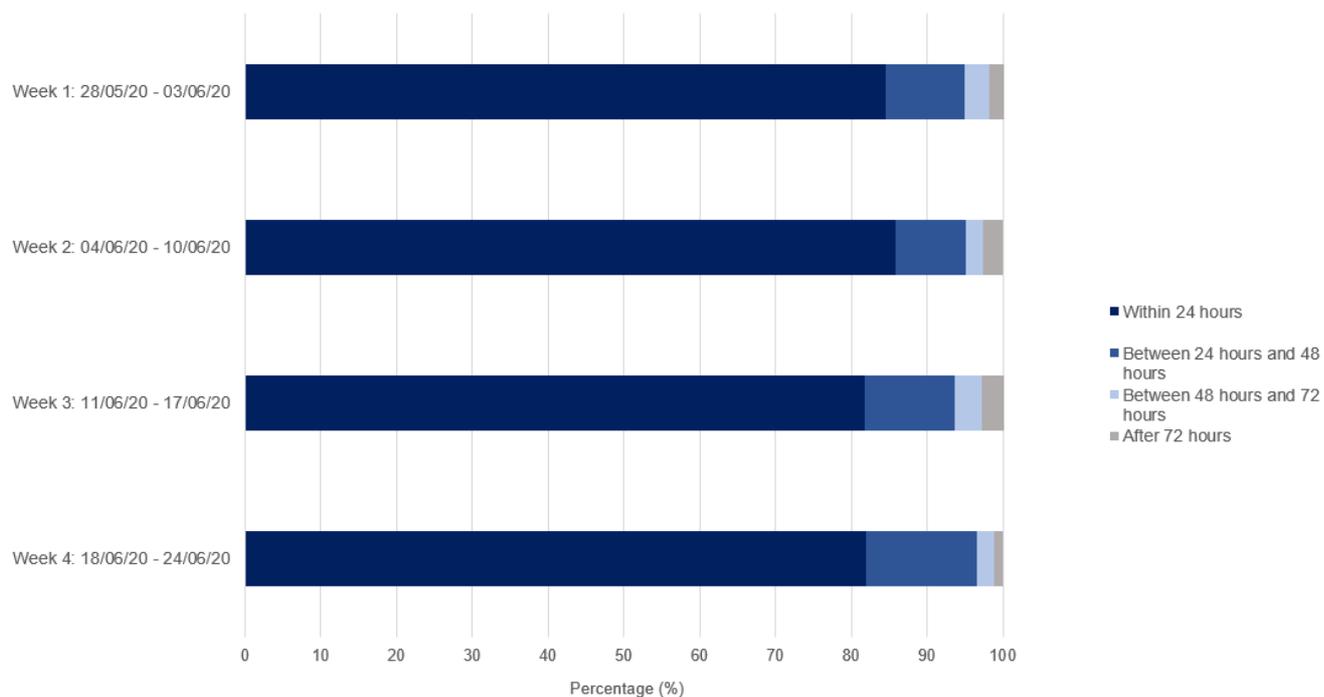


Table 7: People identified as recent close contacts who were advised to self-isolate by time taken to reach them England, 28 May to 24 June 2020. This excludes complex cases.

	11 June – 17 June: Number of people (Percentage)	18 June – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 24 June: Number of people (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	4,738 (81.7%)	5,205 (82.0%)	18,473 (83.3%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	696 (12.0%)	925 (14.6%)	2,609 (11.8%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	201 (3.5%)	149 (2.3%)	626 (2.8%)
After 72 hours	167 (2.9%)	69 (1.1%)	459 (2.1%)
Total	5,802	6,348	22,167

Measuring the data

How the data were collected

These data are collected from management information from the NHS Test and Trace service. More details about the methodology used can be found at [the Methodology page](#).

Future development

Over June these data will be integrated with those from other parts of NHS Test and Trace, particularly testing, to provide an end-to-end view of the service that follows the user journey. So far, pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing data has been added and it is planned that future releases will extend this to include both the numbers of people engaged and the speed of the journey through the service, including data on test turnaround times.

The intention is for the NHS Test and Trace service to publish weekly statistics. In addition, NHS Test and Trace will provide information for local authorities and their partners so that they have the information they need to help contain any outbreaks.

In time, NHS Test and Trace intends to publish detailed data from across the program to support secondary analysis, for example in academic institutions. Over the coming weeks, as the service matures, more information will be provided on a weekly basis.

Further breakdowns of complex and non-complex cases are not currently given as NHS Test and Trace is a single service and some cases are first dealt with as non-complex cases before being escalated. More informative breakdowns are being developed for future releases.

Quality

These statistics have been put together by NHS Test and Trace with advice from the Office for National Statistics.

More information on quality and how this publication adheres to the Code of Practice for statistics is available in [the Statement of Compliance](#).

Strengths and limitations

Given the importance of this service and the commitment of NHS Test and Trace to be open and transparent with the public it serves, these data are being released at the earliest possible opportunity.

However, new IT systems and statistical outputs often take a period of time to bed in. These data should therefore be treated with caution as the system and understanding of the data develops.

The figures presented are based on a data cut 6 days after the end of the reporting period, to give time for test results and cases reported at the end of the 7-day period to have an outcome. Some cases and test results may continue to be in progress after this period, and therefore data may need to be revised over time.

Feedback

For feedback and questions about the release, please contact statistics@dhsc.gov.uk.