

Weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace (England) and coronavirus testing (UK): 26 November to 2 December

Main points

Since NHS Test and Trace launched (28 May to 2 December):

- 96,415 people tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once¹ in England between 26 November and 2 December. Positive cases have decreased since reaching a peak in the week of 5 November to 11 November. The number of people testing positive this week has decreased by 43% since this peak with 5.9% of people tested testing positive, a reduction from the 6.7% reported the previous week.
- 1,636,342 people were tested at least once for COVID-19^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, a 2% decrease compared to the previous week. A total of 13,605,324 people have been tested at least once since Test and Trace began.
- Turnaround times for pillar 2 (virus testing for the wide population) for all in-person testing routes² have been overall getting shorter over the last 7 weeks. Turnaround times for satellite/home tests have also decreased overall over the same period.
- The median distance to in-person testing sites (pillar 2) for booked tests has stayed broadly consistent over the last 8 weeks. Between 26 November and 2 December, the median distance was 2.3 miles. Overall, there has been a downwards trend since September.
- 91,578 people were transferred to the contact tracing system between 26 November and 2 December, a continuation of the decrease observed in the previous week. The number of people transferred is still over 10 times higher than the number transferred at the end of August.
- Of those transferred to the contact tracing system between 26 November and 2 December, 86.0% were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts. This has remained consistent over the past 5 weeks.
- From 18 November, there is a change in how household contacts under 18 are reached. These changes mean that under-18s in a household will no longer be contact traced individually, providing the parent or guardian in the household confirms they have completed their legal duty to inform their child to self-isolate. From 27 November, this change has been extended to cover adults in the same

¹ Deduplicated for the reporting week. For information on how the number of people are tested and tested positive in a reporting week is measured see the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

² Based on the median turnaround time for in-person tests.

household, so they have the option to be traced via a single phone call. These operational improvements have resulted in an increase in the proportion of contacts reached and the proportion reached within 24 hours.

- 195,355 people were identified as coming into close contact with someone who had tested positive between 26 November and 2 Dec. The number of contacts identified has notably decreased across the last two weeks but is still 6 times higher than the end of August. For those where communication details were available, 92.4% were reached and told to self-isolate. Taking into account all contacts identified, 85.7% were reached.

Introduction

The Department for Health and Social Care publishes weekly statistics on NHS Test and Trace (England) and coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in the UK, across all 4 testing pillars. The purpose of this publication is to provide a weekly update on the implementation and performance of NHS Test and Trace in England and Testing in the UK.

For NHS Test and Trace (England), this includes:

Testing

- People tested for COVID-19, England
- People testing positive for COVID-19 and weekly positivity rate, England
- Time taken for test results to become available, England
- Distance to in-person test sites for booked tests, England

Contact Tracing

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

For NHS COVID-19 app (England and Wales), this includes:

- Number of downloads and number of QR posters generated

For coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in the UK, this includes (as of 3 December, these statistics are available as data tables in a spreadsheet format only):

- Lab testing capacity, UK
- Number of tests sent out, UK
- Number of tests processed, UK

Data collected for NHS Test and Trace is primarily for operational purposes and was not designed to track the spread of the virus. Studies into the spread of the virus in the UK are carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Further guidance can be found in [comparing methods used in the COVID-19 Infection Survey and NHS Test and Trace, England](#).

A list of data sources relating to the coronavirus pandemic in the UK can be found at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) statistics and analysis](#). A breakdown of all available testing and contact tracing data in the UK can be found at [Testing and contact tracing in the UK: summary of data](#).

All data used in the report can be found in the NHS Test and data tables on the weekly collection page. A full explanation of the data sources and methods used to produce these statistics can be found in the additional methodology document for [NHS Test and Trace statistics](#).

Revisions to figures previously published

Figures given in previous releases are routinely revised for people tested for COVID-19, people testing positive for COVID-19, pillar 2 testing turnaround times, distance to in-person test sites, contact tracing and cumulative figures for COVID-19 testing in the UK.

Figures for pillar 1 testing turnaround times are not routinely revised as only minor changes occur to past weeks post publication. Figures are only revised when substantial changes occur. More detail on routine revisions is given in the quality section.

Note that these routine revisions to data includes the local authority level contact tracing data that is made available on the weekly collection page. As past data is revised, subtracting figures given in the previous week from figures given in the current week will not give the total number of cases for that week.

1. NHS Test and Trace

NHS Test and Trace was launched in England on 28 May and ensures that anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus. It then helps trace recent close contacts of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus. The flow of how people move through the NHS Test and Trace service is shown in Figure 1. More information about NHS Test and Trace can be found at [NHS Test and Trace: How it Works](#).

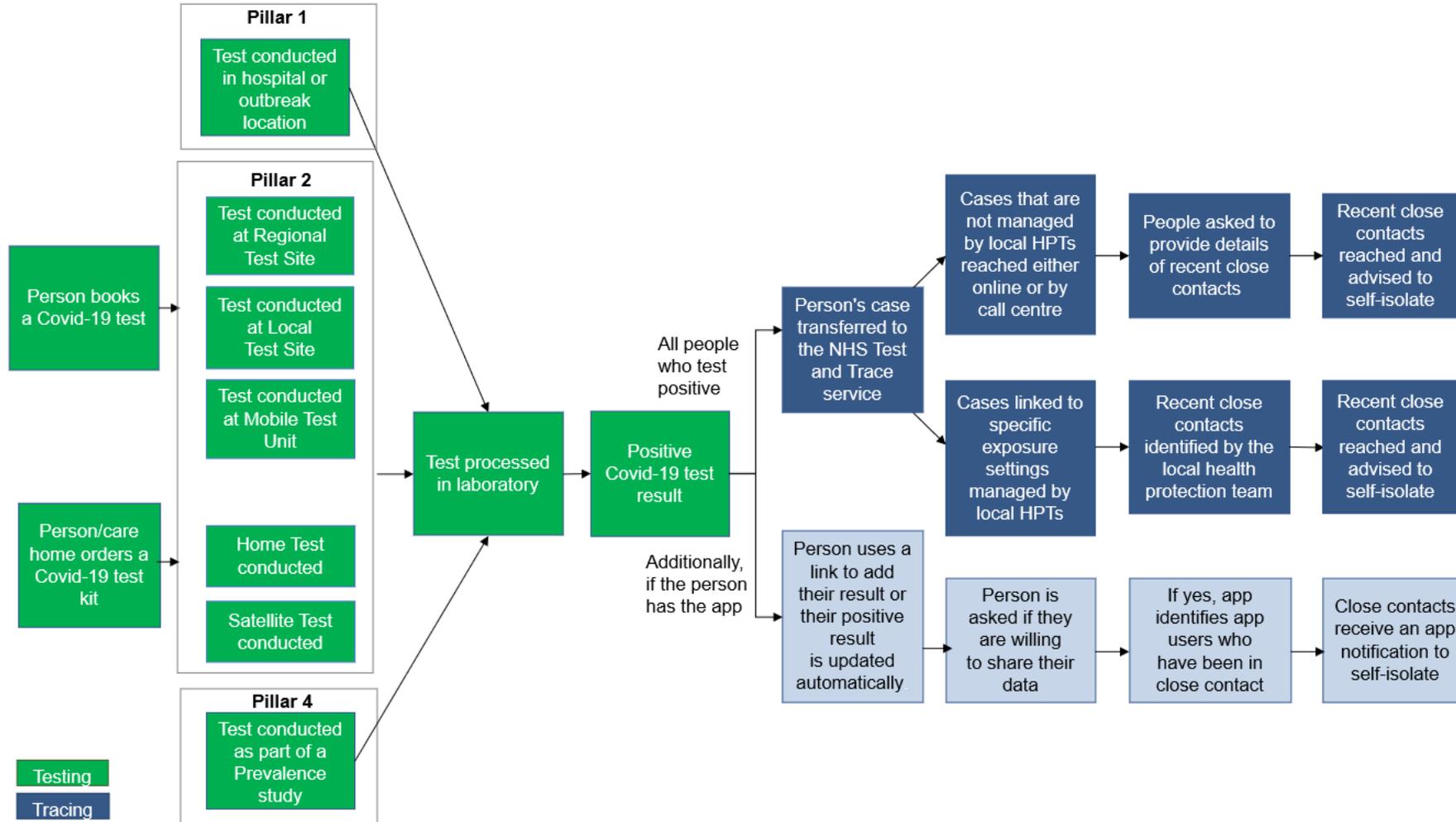
1.1 Testing in England

NHS Test and Trace starts with an individual taking a swab test for the virus, either in pillar 1 (testing in hospitals and outbreak locations), pillar 2 (national swab testing) or pillar 4 (prevalence studies). Those who go on to test positive will have their case transferred to NHS Test and Trace for contact tracing.

From 30 November, only individuals with positive PCR tests will go on to contact tracing. This is because those with positive LFD tests are instructed to take a confirmatory PCR test. The individual and their household are advised to self-isolate from the point of the positive LFD result being received. Contact tracing will then be initiated if a positive PCR is received. If a negative PCR is received after a positive LFD, the individual and their household are told they no longer need to self-isolate. Prior to this, both positive PCR tests and positive LFD tests would trigger the start of contact tracing.

NHS Test and Trace is for England only, therefore the figures in this section are given for England. Weekly figures for UK testing are available to download from the weekly collection page and are also available daily on the [Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#). Information on contact tracing in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found directly from Public Health Scotland, the Welsh government and the Northern Ireland Public Health Agency.

Figure 1: flowchart showing how people move through NHS Test and Trace



People tested, England

Between 26 to 2 December, 1,636,342 people were tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once in the reporting week³, a 2% decrease compared to the previous week. Since Test and Trace launched 13,605,324 people have been tested at least once⁴.

Since 15 October, the number of people tested in a reporting week has been deduplicated for the respective week. Reports before this date reported on the number of people newly tested and newly tested positive each week based on deduplication since testing began.

A new route for getting tested in pillar 2 using lateral flow device tests is now available for some individuals as part of a pilot. These tests are included in the figures for people tested and people testing positive. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information. This week, pillar 2 data for the number of lateral flow device tests conducted has also been made available. This, along with the number of pillar 2 PCR tests conducted, can be downloaded from the weekly collection page.

The number of people tested in each reporting week has decreased since reaching a peak in the week of 5 November to 11 November. The number of people tested between 26 November to 2 December has decreased by 7% compared to this peak. However, the number of people tested is still higher than at the end of August, having increased overall by 79% since the week of 27 August to 2 September. Over the same time period, there has been a 56% increase in the number of people tested under pillar 1 (testing in hospitals and outbreak locations) and an 89% increase under pillar 2 (national virus testing).

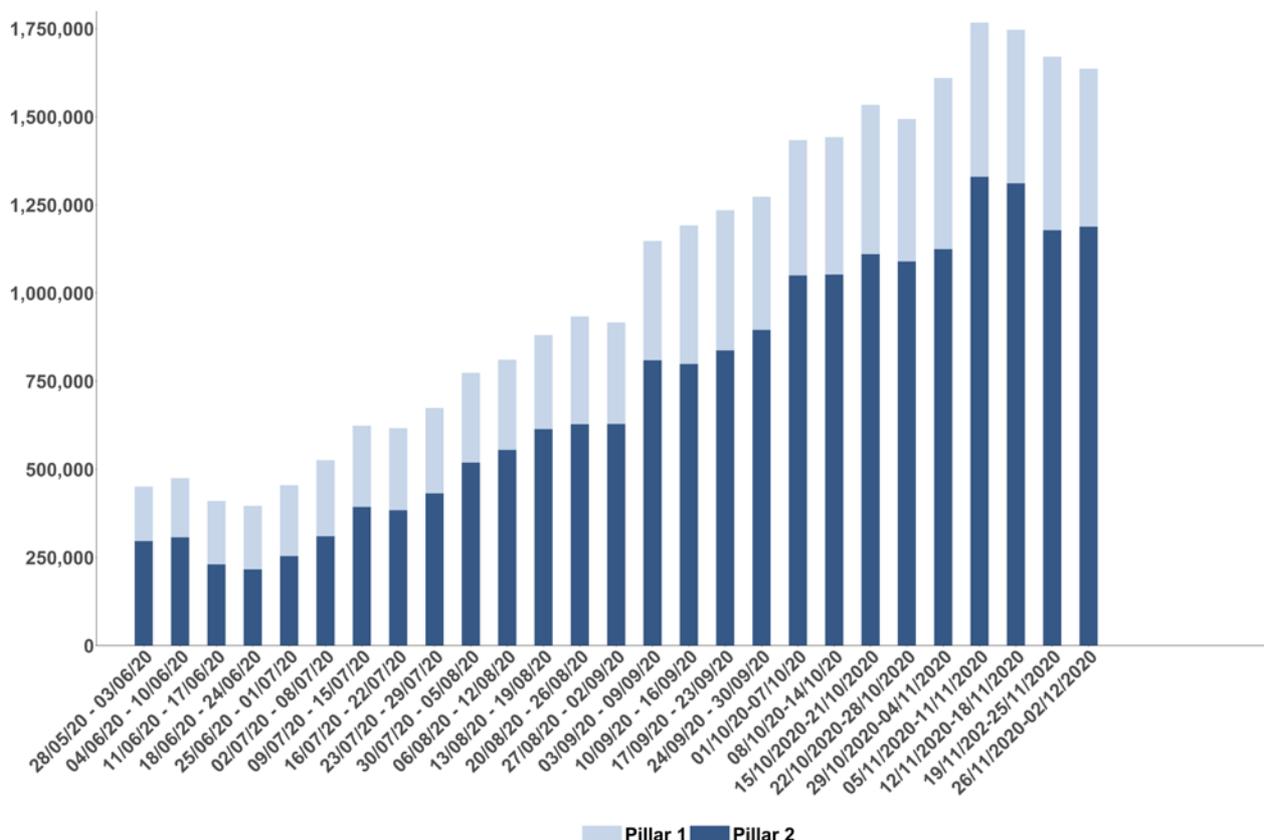
A breakdown of the number of people tested in each reporting week by age, gender and local authority is also available in the weekly collection page.

Since Test and Trace launched at the end of May, 13,605,324 people have been tested at least once⁴, of which 71.4% were tested under pillar 2 and 28.6% under pillar 1.

³ Deduplicated for the reporting week, methodology was revised from 15 October. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

⁴ Deduplicated since testing began and the end of the most recent reporting week. People tested multiple times in this time period will only be counted once. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

Figure 2: number of people tested for COVID-19 in each reporting week by pillar, England



This data can be found in the 'table_1' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace Statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

Between 26 November and 2 December, 96,415 people tested positive⁵. This is 5.9% of people tested during this week. The number of positive cases and percentage of people testing positive has decreased over the past 3 weeks.

The number of people testing positive in each reporting week has decreased since reaching a peak in the week of 5 November to 11 November. The number of people tested between 26 November to 2 December has decreased by 43% since this peak. This is a notable change from the upward trend in positive cases from the end of August until this peak in November.

The percentage of people tested who tested positive in the first week of Test and Trace was 2.8% and this steadily declined until the end of August. The weekly positivity rate has increased since the end of August, increasing from 0.9% between 20 August and 26

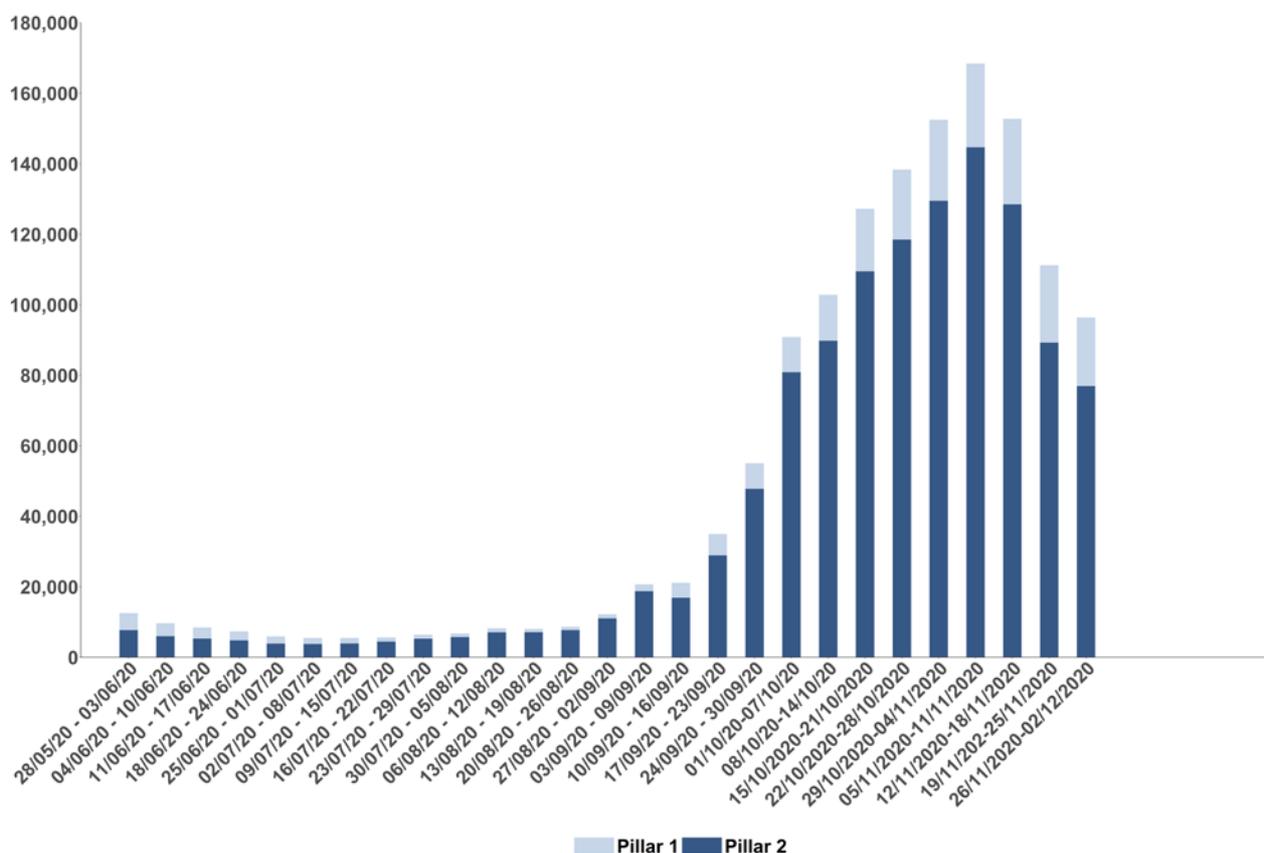
⁵ Deduplicated for the reporting week. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology page](#) for more information.

August to 9.5% between 5 November and 11 November. In the most recent week, it has dropped to 5.9%.

A breakdown of the number of people testing positive in each reporting week, by age, gender and local authority is also available in the weekly collection page. These breakdowns include positivity rate by age and gender.

Since Test and Trace launched, 1,242,281 people have tested positive for COVID-19⁶ at least once⁷. 87.4% of these positive cases were tested under pillar 2 in comparison to 12.6% under pillar 1⁸.

Figure 3: number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in each reporting week by pillar, England



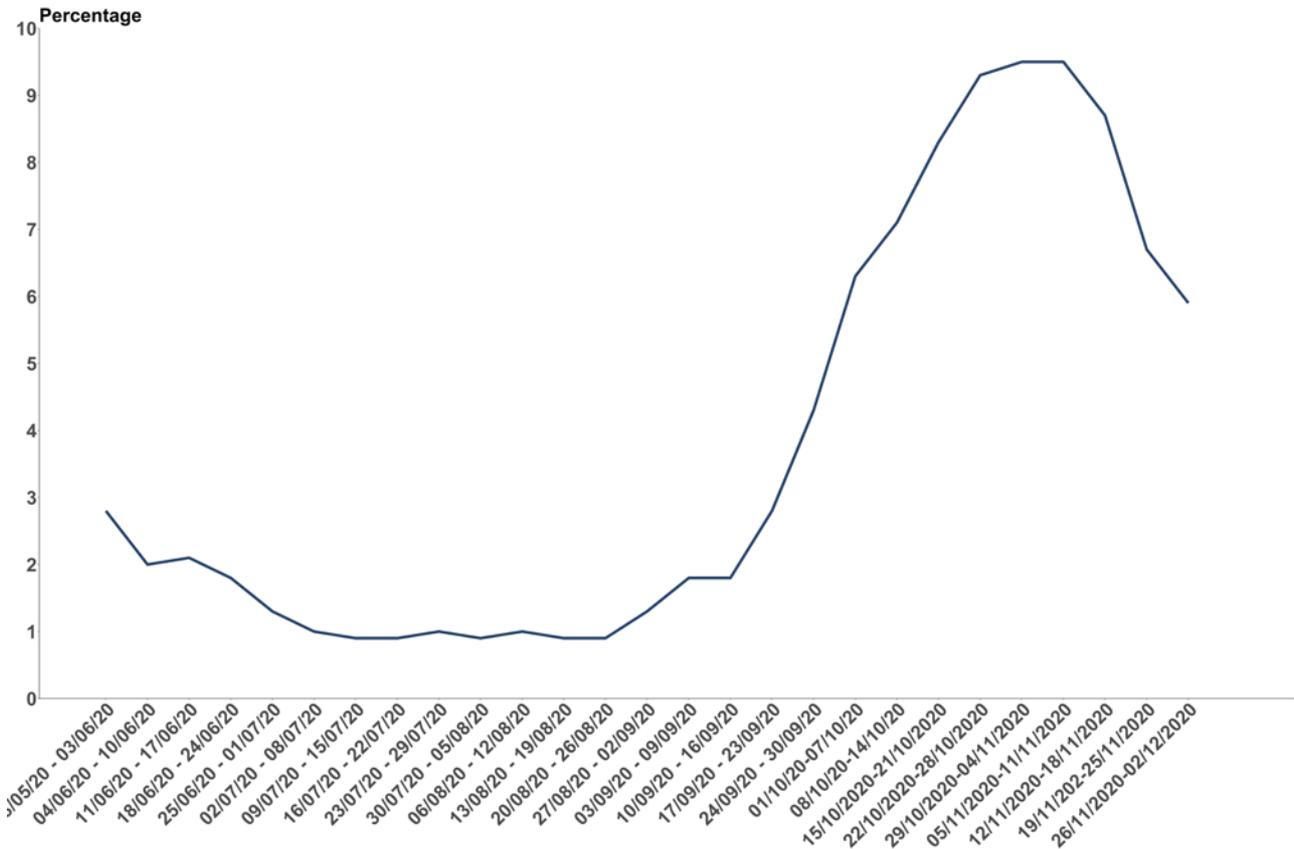
This data can be found in the 'table_1' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

⁶ Includes a small number of people who had a test under pillar 4 (serology and virus testing for national surveillance).

⁷ Deduplicated since testing began and the end of the most recent reporting week. People testing positive multiple times in this time period will only be counted once. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

⁸ Note that these figures may not always align with other published figures for people tested and people tested positive for COVID-19 under pillars 1 and 2 due to the timing of data cuts.

Figure 4: percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 in each reporting week, England



This data can be found in the 'table_1' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

Pillar 1 testing turnaround times, England

Some pillar 1 tests are conducted in a hospital setting and it is therefore not practical for those administering the tests to record the exact time that a test was taken. Therefore, the time taken to receive a coronavirus (COVID-19) test result is measured from the time that a test is received by a laboratory for processing to the time when the results are published to the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

The total tests given in figures for pillar 1 turnaround times is not the same as the number of tests processed in pillar 1 as study samples and tests from private laboratories do not report data on turnaround times. This data is only available from 9 July. More details can be found in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

Over 9 out of 10 pillar 1 test results were made available within 24 hours of the laboratory receiving the test. This proportion has remained similar since reporting began on 9 July.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 91.0% of pillar 1 test results were made available within 24 hours. This has remained broadly consistent since Test and Trace began.

Pillar 2 testing turnaround times, England

There are various routes for getting tested within pillar 2 (national swab testing). Data on the time taken to receive a COVID-19 test result for pillar 2 is split up to reflect this, as this impacts on the turnaround times⁹. These routes include:

- **Regional test sites**, which includes drive-through testing centres.
- **Local test sites**¹⁰, which are similar to regional test sites but specifically for walk ups.
- **Mobile testing units**, which travel around the UK to increase access to COVID-19 testing. They respond to need, travelling to test people at specific sites including care homes, police stations and prisons.
- **Satellite test centres**, which includes test kits provided directly to 'satellite' centres at places like care homes or hospitals 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.

⁹ 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 (for example, phone number or email address) were not provided or were incorrect, or because the test was cancelled or abandoned, or no result was available. It also includes some tests which are still being processed.

¹⁰ Previously local test sites were included together with regional test sites but from 17 September have been split out as a separate group

A new route for getting tested in pillar 2 using lateral flow device tests is now available for some individuals as part of a pilot. These tests are not included in this section on turnaround times.

Turnaround times are measured and reported in two ways, time taken from booking a test and from taking a test to receiving a test result. More information on these definitions is in the [terminology](#) section. Both measures are now reported as the median turnaround time, in addition to the usual turnaround time windows, such as within 24 hours. All these measures are available in full in the accompanying data tables, however only time from taking a test is discussed below.

The total tests reported for pillar 2 turnaround times is not the same as the number of tests processed in pillar 2 as test processed is available for the UK (rather than for England only). In addition, they are reporting on the number of tests at different stages in the process. Further detail is given in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

After someone takes a test, it is transported to a laboratory for processing. There are normal fluctuations in this operational process which can sometimes cause the time taken to receive a test result to go over 24 hours, but still be turned around the next day. Where appropriate therefore we also provide the number of tests turned around the day after a test was taken.

Satellite tests are predominantly used by care homes who need greater control and flexibility over when test kits are collected. For example, tests may be conducted over multiple days with a collection scheduled a few days later. Home test kits take time to be posted to a person and be couriered back to the lab. Consequently, a low proportion of home and satellite test results will be available within 24 hours of the test being taken.

The median time to receive a test result after taking a test in-person has decreased overall since mid-October.

In the first month of Test and Trace, there was an initial reduction in the median time taken to receive a test result for in-person tests (regional test sites, local test sites and mobile testing units). This began to gradually trend back up from the start of July until reaching a peak in the middle of October. Since this peak, turnaround times have decreased.

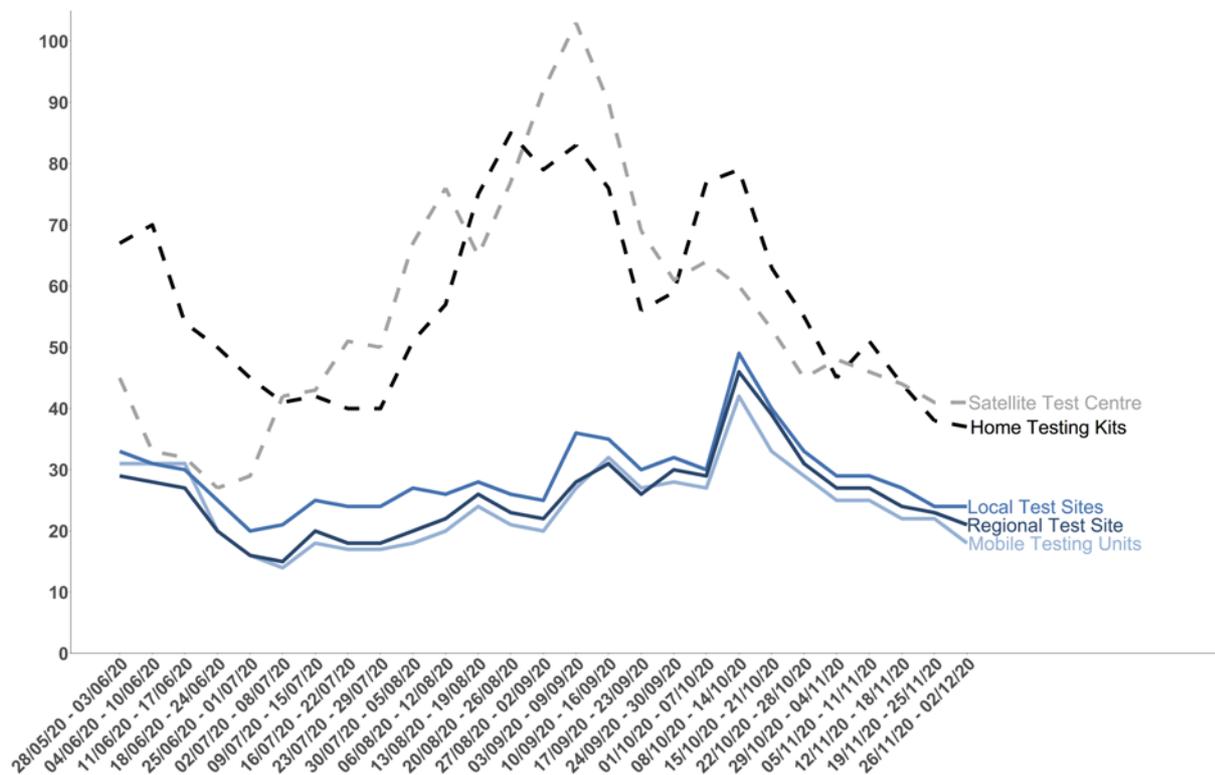
Between 26 November and 2 December, the median time taken to receive a test result for regional test sites decreased to 21 hours from 23 hours in the previous week. The median time for local test sites remained the same at 24 hours and mobile testing units decreased to 18 hours from 22 hours during the same period.

The median time taken to receive a test result after taking a test has decreased for both home testing kits/satellite test centres since their peak at the beginning of September.

In the first month of Test and Trace, home testing kits and satellite test centres saw an initial reduction in the median time taken to receive a test result followed by an increase from the end of July until the beginning of September. Since this peak, turnaround times have decreased.

Since the beginning of September, the median time taken to receive a test result from satellite test centres has decreased overall from 103 hours to 41 hours in the latest week. The median time for home testing kits has also decreased overall from 83 hours at the beginning of September to 37 hours in the latest week, a decrease from 38 hours in the previous week.

Figure 5: median time (hours) from taking a test to receiving test results by route, England



This data can be found in the 'table_9' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

The percentage of test results received within 24 hours for in-person tests has increased since the previous week to its highest proportion since August. The percentage received within 48 hours for home testing kits and satellite test centres has increased since the previous week.

In the most recent week, for in-person tests (local test sites, mobile testing units and regional test sites), 64.9% were received within 24 hours compared to 54.2% in the previous week. There has been a downward trend in the percentage of in-person test results received within 24 hours since the end of June when 92.6% were received within this time frame, however there has been an increase over the last 7 weeks.

71.2% of test results were received within 48 hours for home test kits and satellite test centres, compared to 70.4% in the previous week. For all routes combined, 30.2% of tests from all test sites were received within 24 hours of a test being taken compared to 26.1% in the previous week. If we consider the day the test was taken, 90.0% of in-person tests results were received the next day after the test was taken and 54.6% for all routes combined.

For satellite test centres, 94.1% were received within 72 hours compared to 92.2% in the previous week. 96.2% of satellite tests were received within 3 days after the day they were taken. In the most recent week, approximately 95% of tests from satellite test centres were care home tests, and therefore removing the 5% of tests from other sites does not substantially change the turnaround figures.

Table 1: percentage of results received within 24 hours (in-person tests) or within 48 hours (home/satellite tests), by route, England

	19 Nov to 25 Nov: percentage of tests	26 Nov to 2 Dec: percentage of tests	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May to 25 Nov: percentage of tests
Regional test sites within 24 hours	57.0%	65.2%	47.0%
Local test sites within 24 hours	49.2%	52.2%	28.8%
Mobile testing units within 24 hours	56.6%	79.0%	49.4%
Satellite test centres within 48 hours	70.0%	72.2%	38.0%
Home testing kits within 48 hours	71.8%	67.7%	37.0%

Distance to in-person testing sites for booked tests, pillar 2, England

The distance to testing sites for booked tests at is calculated as the direct distance between the approximate centre of a person's postal district and their chosen test location in straight line. This is reported as the median and associated percentiles for those who successfully booked a test at regional test sites, local test sites and mobile testing units in the latest week. More information is available in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

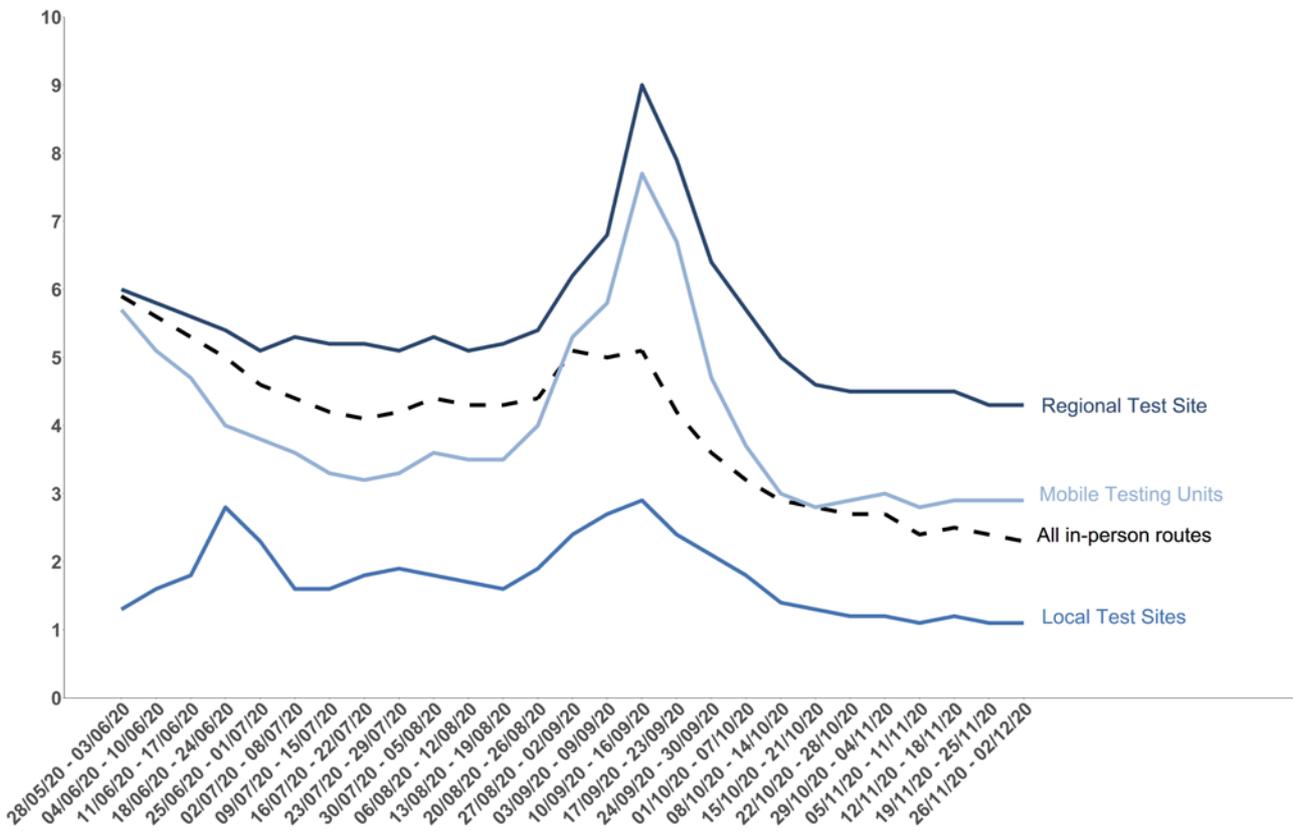
A new route for getting tested in pillar 2 using lateral flow device tests is now available for some individuals as part of a pilot. These tests are not included in this section on distance to in-person testing sites.

The median distance to in-person testing sites for booked tests remained broadly consistent over the past 8 weeks but has decreased since mid-September.

From mid-August to mid-September, the distance to testing sites for booked tests increased across in-person routes. Since mid-September, this has been gradually decreasing, although there is now only a slight change in the current week compared to the previous 7 weeks. Between 26 November and 2 December, the median distance to an in-person test site decreased to 2.3 miles. 90% of people who booked a test at a test centre lived 9.7 miles or less away.

Considering each route individually, in the latest week the median distance to testing sites for booked tests at regional test sites has remained at 4.3 miles. For local test sites, the median distance to testing sites for booked tests it is also unchanged, remaining at 1.1 miles. For mobile testing units the median remained the same as the previous week at 2.9 miles.

Figure 6: median distance (miles) to testing sites for tests booked at an in-person test site by route, England



This data can be found in the 'table_10' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

1.2 Contact Tracing in England

Once a person has a confirmed positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19)¹¹, this person is transferred to NHS Test and Trace and a case is opened for them. The number of positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system may not always align with the number of people testing positive for COVID-19. There are several reasons for this which are outlined in the [information for users](#) document.

Positive cases and their contacts which are linked to potential outbreaks in specific settings are handled by PHE local health protection teams (HPTs). These cases and contacts, previously known as complex, have been referred to as 'cases and contacts managed by local HPTs' since 29 October. Furthermore, cases and contacts managed nationally either online or by call centres, previously known as non-complex, are referred to as 'cases and contacts not managed by local HPTs'. Further information is available in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

Positive cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace

The number of positive cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace has been increasing since the beginning of September, however this has decreased substantially in the latest week.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 91,578 people were transferred to the contact tracing system. The number of people transferred had been increasing steeply from the beginning of September to the beginning of November. In the last three weeks, it has been decreasing and in the latest week has decreased by 21%. Despite this decrease there remains over 10 times more people transferred than at the end of August.

Between 26 November and 2 December, over 4 in every 5 people transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts.

Out of the 91,578 people transferred to the contact tracing system in the latest week, 78,729 (86.0%) were reached, 11,172 (12.2%) were not reached and 1,677 (1.8%) had no communication details provided. The proportion of people reached has remained broadly

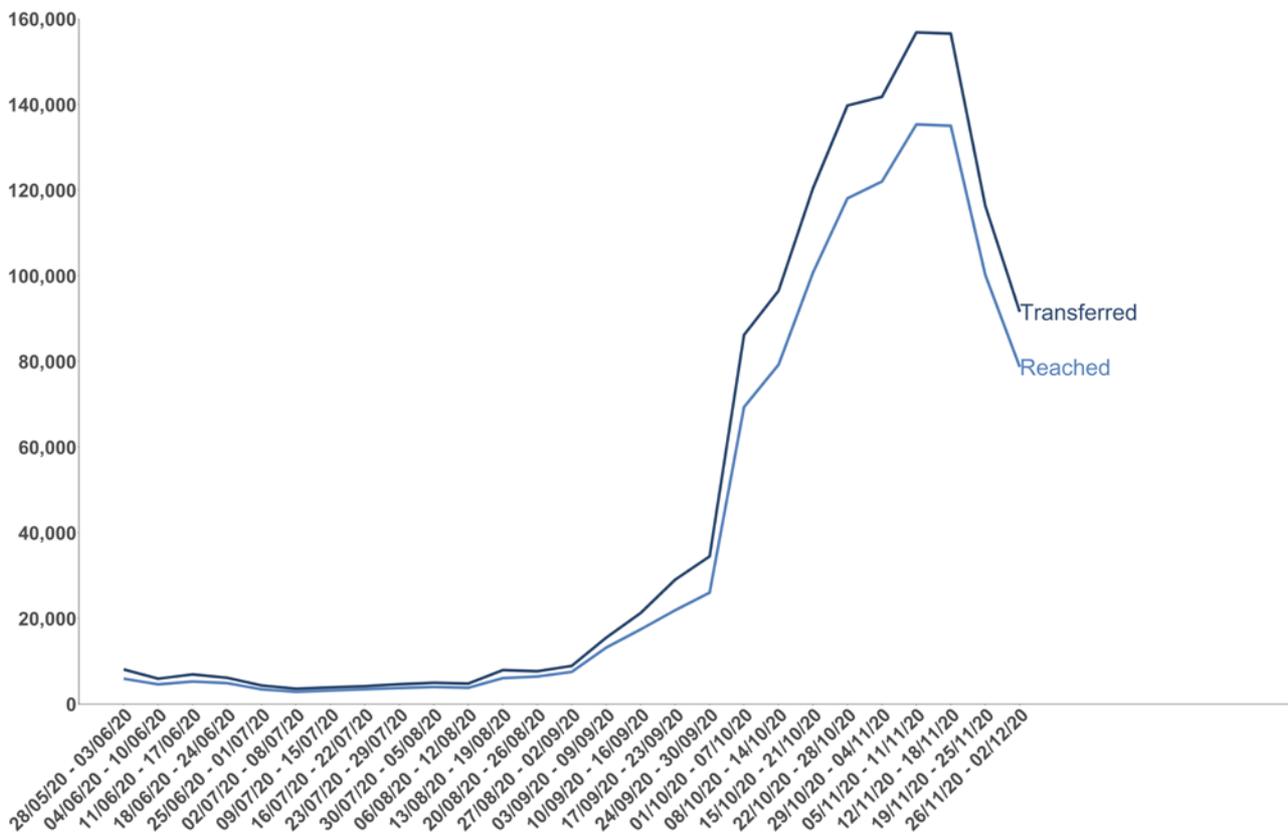
¹¹ All positive PCR test results under pillar 1 and pillar 2 should be transferred. In addition, all positive virus test results as part of prevalence studies (pillar 4) are also transferred to Test and Trace. People tested under pillar 3 (serology testing to show if people have antibodies from having had COVID-19) do not have their cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace.

similar over the last 5 weeks. Since Test and Trace launched, 84.0% of all cases have been reached.

In the latest week, 3,732 people who were reached and asked to provide details of close contacts, were managed by local health protection teams (HPTs), whereas 74,766 people were community wide cases and therefore not managed by local HPTs. For cases managed by local HPTs, their contacts are often managed at a situation rather than individual level, with advice being issued to the contact institution (for example in a care home or prison). Therefore, people whose cases were managed by local HPTs may not have been individually reached and asked to provide details of their recent close contacts. However, the cases and contacts will have been successfully dealt with as a whole.

For more information on the different ways of managing cases and the outcomes of contact tracing see the [terminology](#) section.

Figure 7: number of people transferred to the contact tracing system and number of people transferred who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts (includes cases managed and not managed by local HPTs), England



This data can be found in the 'table_11' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

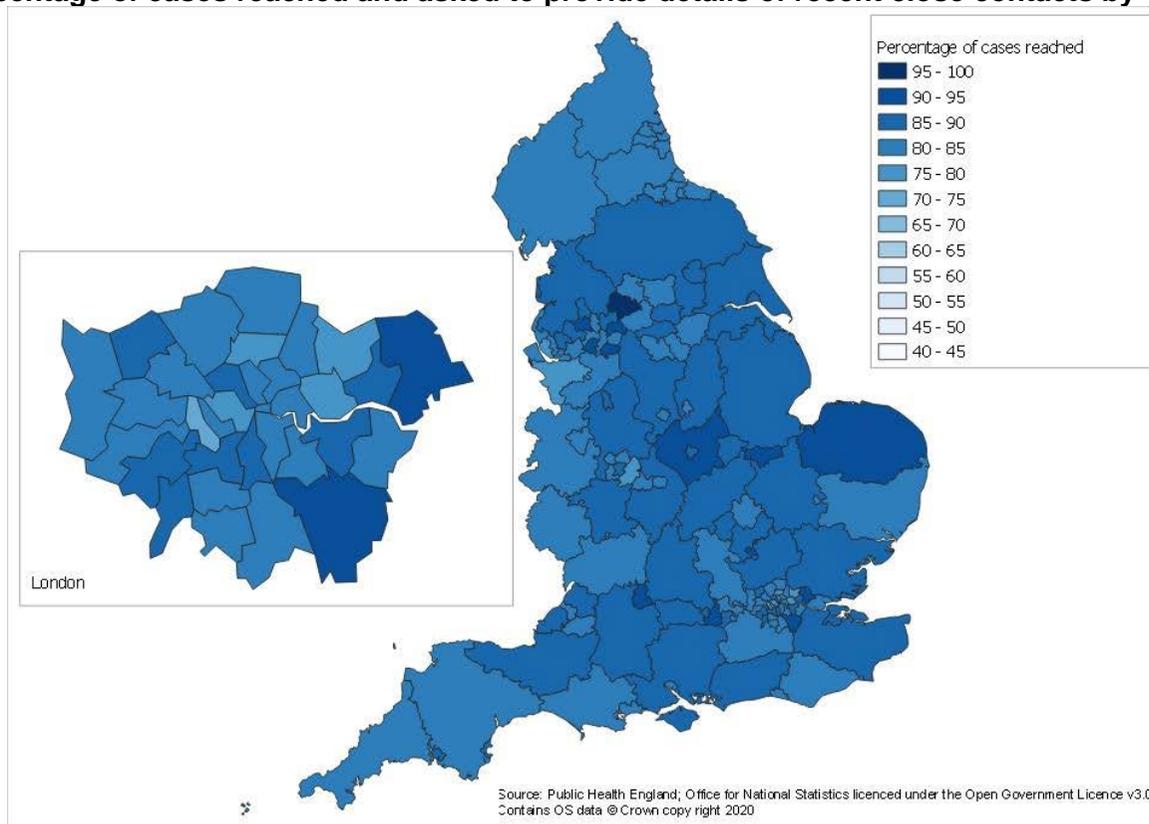
Table 2: people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes cases managed and not managed by local HPTs) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England¹²

	19 Nov to 25 Nov: number of people (percentage)	26 Nov to 2 Dec: number of people (percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May to 2 Dec: number of people (percentage)
People who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts	100,183 (86.1%)	78,729 (86.0%)	1,082,551 (84.0%)
People not managed by local HPTs	95,301	74,766	1,034,140
People managed by local HPTs	4,880	3,732	48,178
People who were not reached	14,138 (12.2%)	11,172 (12.2%)	182,162 (14.1%)
People whose communication details were not provided	2,005 (1.7%)	1,677 (1.8%)	23,691 (1.8%)
Total	116,326	91,578	1,288,404

¹² If NHS test and trace is not able to reach an individual testing positive or if no communication details are available, then it is not always possible to know if the case should be managed by a local HPT or not. Therefore, these breakdowns are not available.

Proportion of people transferred to the contact tracing system who were reached by upper tier local authority (UTLA)

Figure 8: percentage of cases reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts by UTLA since Test and Trace began.



This data is available to download as a csv on the [weekly publication collection page](#)¹³.

¹³ The regional data uses a different data cut to the main publication therefore cumulative totals will not exactly match. The data is available for the cumulative figures since Test and Trace launched up to the most recent week of reporting. Due to revisions that occur each week one week's cumulative figures cannot be subtracted from a previous week's to obtain weekly data by UTLA.

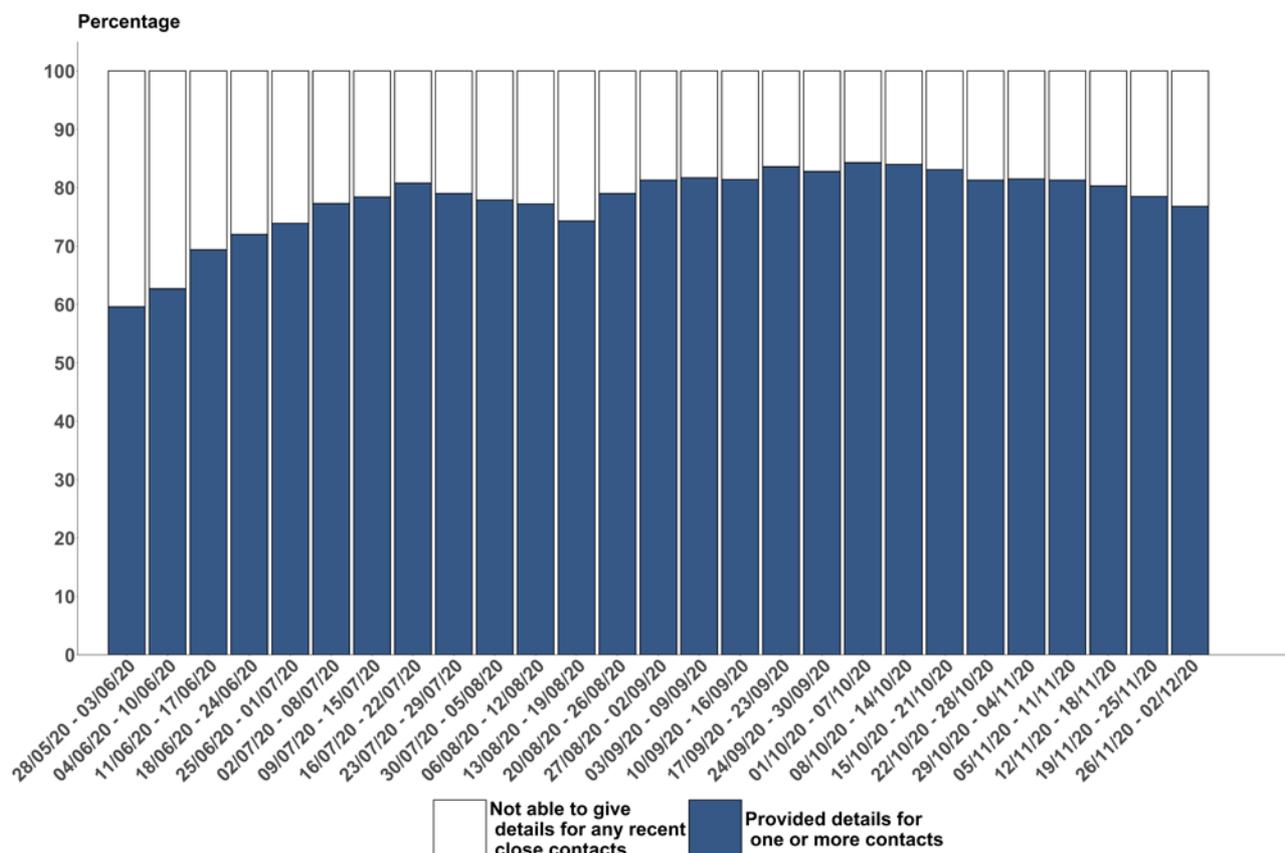
In the latest week, almost 4 in every 5 people who were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts, provided one or more close contacts.

Out of the 78,498 people reached between 26 November and 2 December, 60,319 (76.8%) provided details of one or more close contacts. The proportion of people providing one or more contacts has remained broadly consistent since July.

The number who were not able to give any recent close contacts refers to people who were successfully reached by NHS Test and Trace, but either had no recent close contacts or 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).

In the most recent week, the median number of contacts provided per case managed by local HPTs was 13, consistent with the previous week. For cases not managed by local HPTs the median was 2 and this has been approximately constant since the start of Test and Trace.

Figure 9: proportion of people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes cases managed and not managed by local HPTs) who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts by whether they provided details for contacts or not, England



This data can be found in the 'table_12' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 25 November 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

The proportion of cases who were reached by phone rather than online has decreased since the start of October but has gradually increased over the past 5 weeks.

Of the cases reached which were not managed by local HPTs between 26 November and 2 December, 29,052 (38.9%) were reached online and 45,543 (61.1%) were reached via the phone. The proportion of cases reached online has increased from 22.2% at the beginning of October, and consequently the proportion reached by phone has decreased from 77.8% in the same period. Since Test and Trace began, 39.2% were reached online and 60.8% were reached by phone.

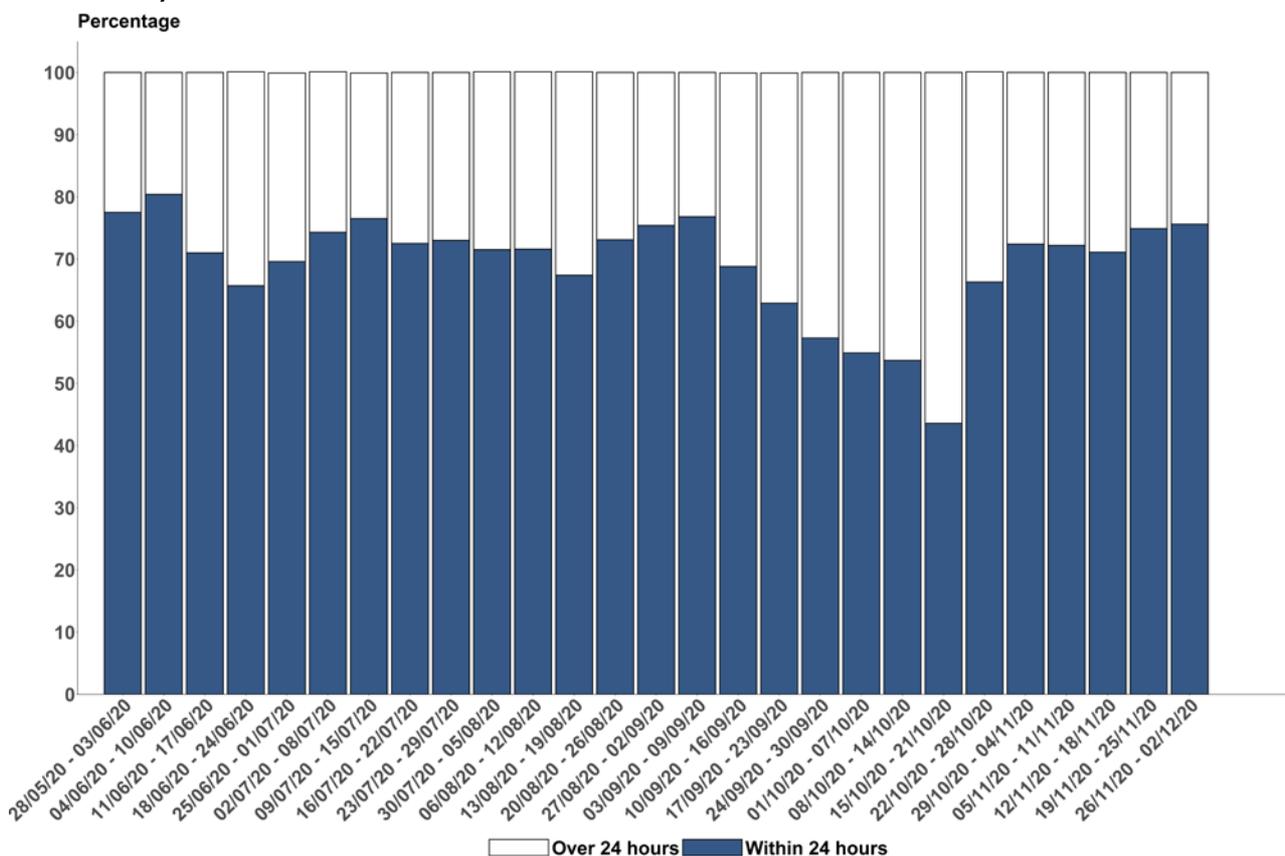
Most cases are offered the online route initially and are followed up with phone call if they have not been reached online. For more information on how cases are contacted see [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology page](#).

For cases not managed by local HPTs, more than 3 in 4 were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts within 24 hours of their case being transferred to contact tracing.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 75.6% of people (56,535) were reached within 24 hours. The proportion of people reached within 24 hours has been approximately constant for the last five weeks. Since Test and Trace launched on 28 May, 66.2% of people (684,871) have been reached within 24 hours.

Note that because these timing statistics are from when a case was transferred to the contact tracing system, delays in transferring cases to contact tracing will not be captured in these figures.

Figure 10: proportion of people who were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts by time taken to reach them, England (excludes cases managed by local HPTs)



This data can be found in the 'table_13' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

Close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace

The number of close contacts identified had been increasing since the end of August but in the latest two weeks has decreased substantially.

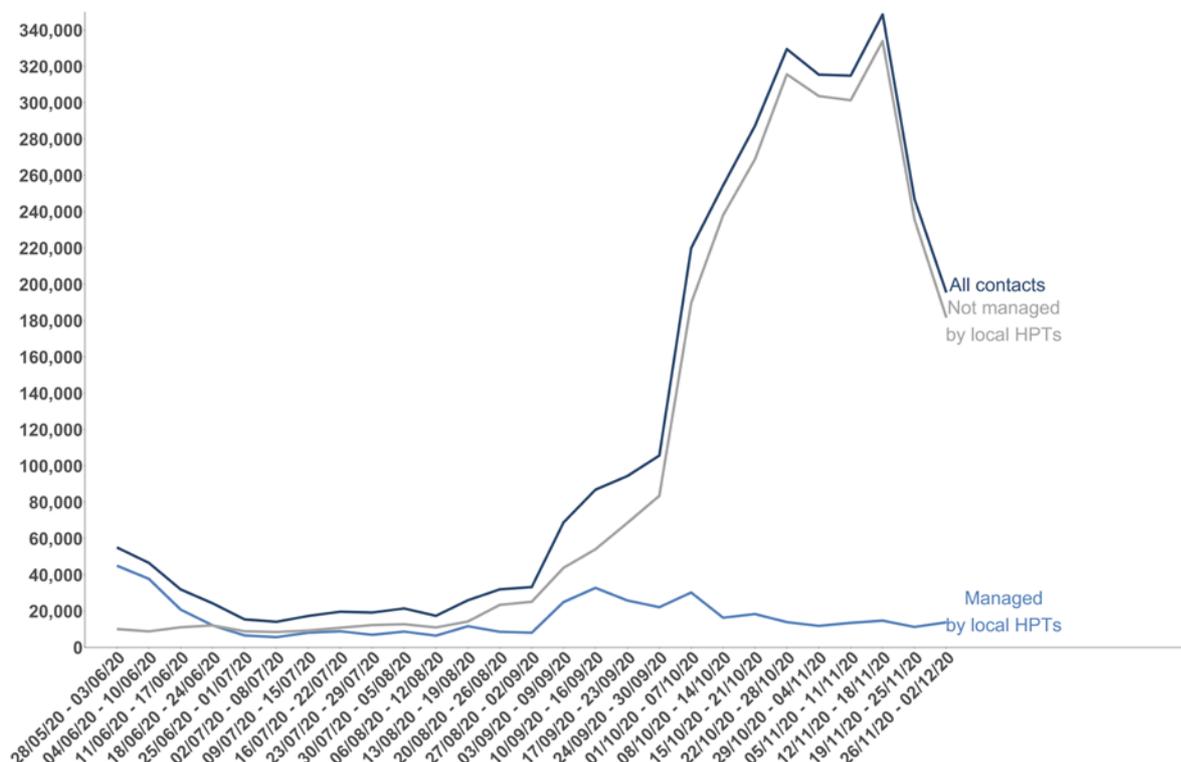
Between 26 November and 2 December, 195,355 people were identified as recent close contacts, of which 181,582 (92.9%) were not managed by local HPTs and 13,773 (7.1%) were managed by local HPTs. The number of contacts identified who were not managed by local HPTs decreased over the past 2 weeks but is still over 7 times higher compared to the end of August. This is in comparison to the number of contacts identified who were managed by local HPTs, which is 70.3% higher than the number identified at the end of August.

The total number of close contacts identified who are managed by local HPTs declined between the start of contact tracing and the end of June. In comparison, the number of contacts not managed by local HPTs remained broadly consistent over the same time period but increased substantially from the end of August and declined over the past 2 weeks. At the beginning of June, contacts managed by local HPTs were 81.7% of contacts identified compared to only 7.1% in the most recent week.

From 18 November, there is a change in how household contacts under 18 are reached. These changes mean that under-18s in a household will no longer be contact traced individually, providing the parent or guardian in the household confirms they have completed their legal duty to inform their child to self-isolate. If no parental permission is provided, NHS Test and Trace will follow the standard contact-tracing routes. These changes have been implemented acting on feedback the service has received from families and should see a reduction in the number of calls received by households with children. From 27 November, this change has also been extended to cover adults in the same household, so they have the option to be traced via a single phone call, further reducing the number of calls made to the same household. This change will also optimise the productivity of the tracing service by minimising the number of calls made.

This change has resulted in an increase the percentage of contacts who have been reached and told to self-isolate. Considering only the contacts where communication details were provided, 92.4% were reached and told to self-isolate in the most recent week. Two weeks ago, prior to these changes in how household contacts are reached, this figure was 77.9%.

Figure 11: number of people identified as recent close contacts, England



This data can be found in the 'table_14' tab in 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

The percentage of contacts not managed by local HPTs who were reached and told to self-isolate has increased to 84.7% in the latest week, due to a change in how household contacts over 18 are contacted.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 181,582 close contacts not managed by local HPTs were identified of which 153,767 (84.7%) were reached and told to self-isolate. This is notable increase compared with 71.4% the previous week, likely due to the change in contacting household contacts over 18. Two weeks ago, prior to the changes to how household contacts under 18 and over 18 are reached, the percentage reached was 58.8%.

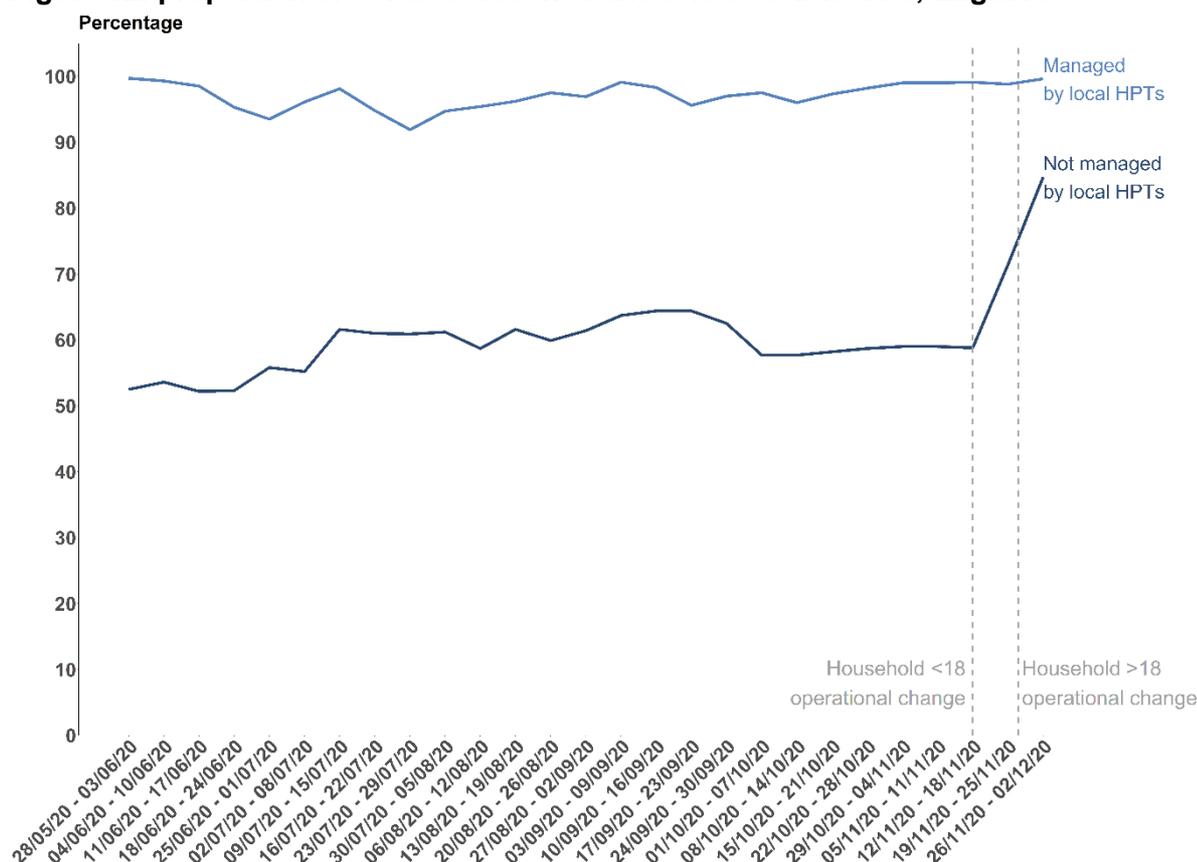
In the latest week, 13,768 (7.6%) contacts not managed by local HPTs were not reached and 14,047 (7.7%) people had no communication details. For more information on the different outcomes of contact tracing see the [terminology](#) section.

Almost all contacts managed by local HPTs continue to be reached and told to self-isolate.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 13,773 close contacts were identified who were managed by local HPTs of which 13,712 (99.6%) were reached and told to self-isolate and 61 (0.4%) were not reached. Since Test and Trace launched 97.7% of all contacts managed by local HPTs have been successfully reached.

For contacts managed by local HPTs, contacts are managed as a whole setting and are often managed at a situation rather than individual level, with advice being issued to the contact institution (for example in a care home or prison). Therefore, these contacts may not have been individually reached and told to self-isolate but should have received this advice from their institution. For this reason, contacts managed by local HPTs have a higher success rate compared with community wide contacts not managed by local HPTs.

Figure 12: proportion of contacts reached and told to self-isolate, England¹⁴

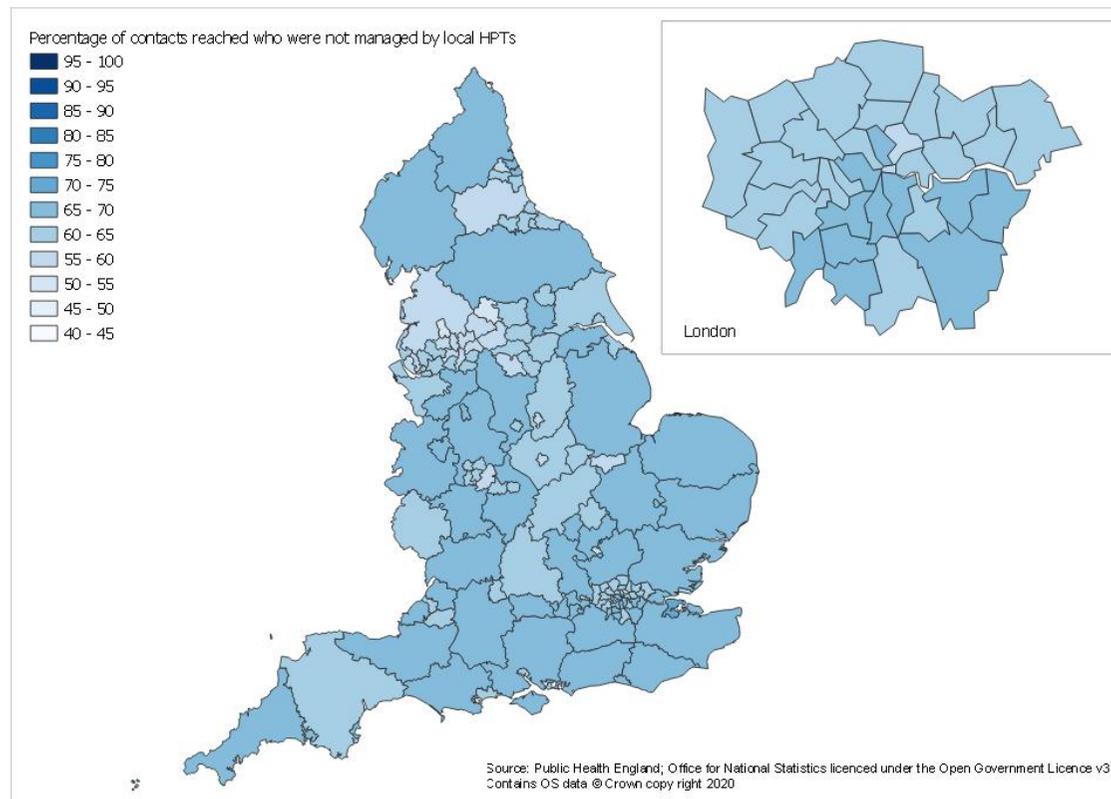


This data can be found in the 'table_14' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

¹⁴ Contacts managed by local HPTs are reached when the situation has been dealt with and advice has been issued to the institution, whereas contacts not managed by local HPTs must be individually contact traced (unless they are a household contact) to be classified as reached.

Proportion of close contacts identified not managed by local HPTs who were reached and told to self-isolate by upper tier local authority

Figure 13: percentage of contacts not managed by local HPTs who were reached and told to self-isolate by UTLA since Test and Trace began.



This data is available to download as a csv on the [weekly publication collection page](#).¹⁵

¹⁵ The regional data uses a different data cut to the main publication therefore cumulative totals will not exactly match. The data is available for the cumulative figures since Test and Trace launched up to the most recent week of reporting. Due to revisions that occur each week one week's cumulative figures cannot be subtracted from a previous week's to obtain weekly data by UTLA.

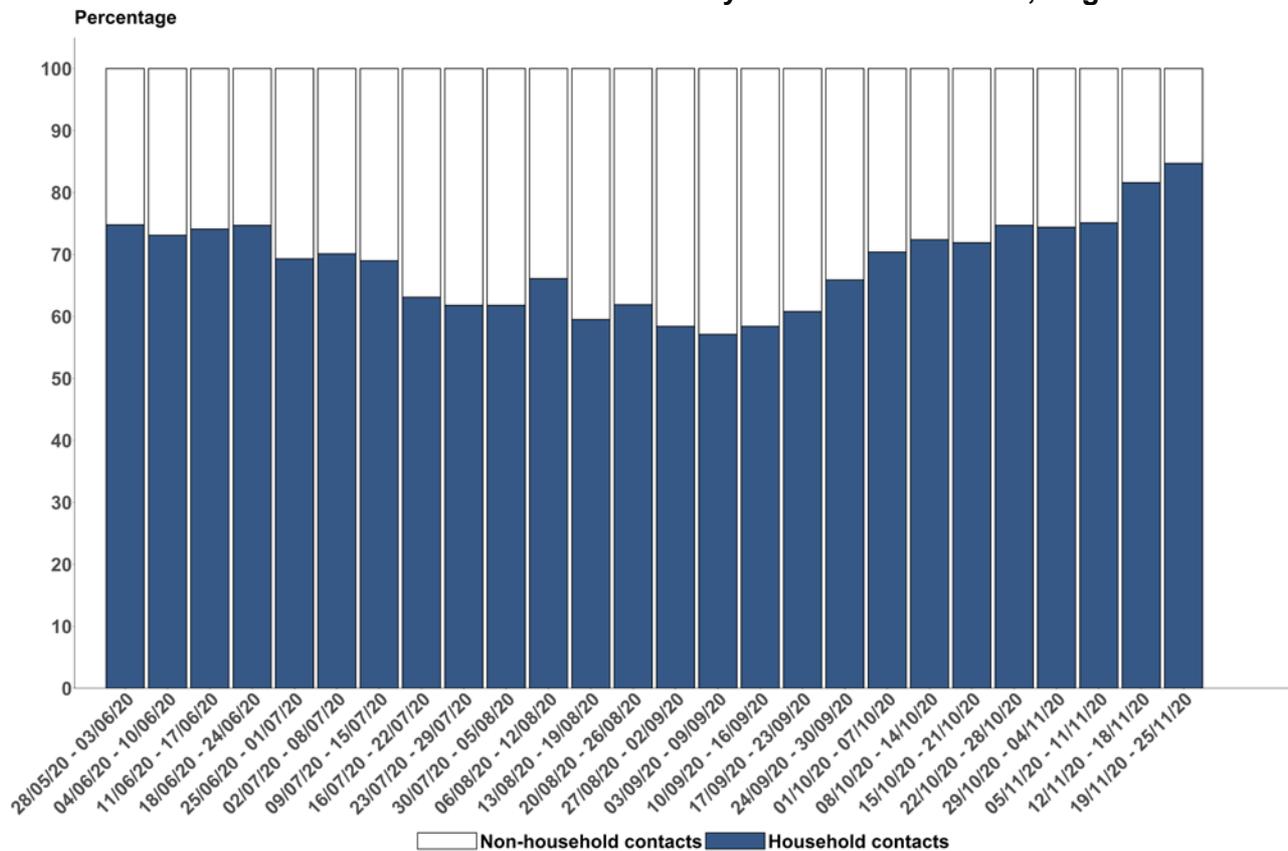
In the most recent week, over 4 out of 5 contacts not managed by local HPTs were from the same household as the case they were identified from, similar to the previous week.

The proportion of close contacts not managed by local HPTs that were from the same household as the case they were identified from declined overall between the end of May, when Test and Trace launched, and the beginning of September. Since September, the proportion of contacts who were from the same household has increased overall to 85.0% in the latest week.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 88.1% of household contacts were successfully reached and told to self-isolate, a substantial increase from 72.6% in the previous week, likely due to the operational change in contacting household contacts over 18. Two weeks ago, prior to the changes to how household contacts under 18 and over 18 are reached, the percentage reached was 57.6%.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 65.4% of contacts who were from a different household to the case from which they were identified were successfully reached and told to self-isolate, similar to the previous week.

Figure 14: proportion of recent close contacts not managed by local HPTs by whether they were from the same household as the case that they were identified from, England



This data can be found in the 'table_15' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

The proportion of contacts who were reached by phone rather than online has notably decreased over the past 2 weeks.

Of the contacts who were not managed by local HPTs and reached between 26 November and 2 December, 23,442 (51.7%) were reached online and 21,881 (48.3%) were reached via the phone¹⁶. The proportion of contacts reached online and by phone generally remained consistent since Test and Trace began until the end of September. Since the beginning of October there has been an overall increase in the proportion reached by phone rather than online, with a peak in mid-October, however this has decreased over the past 2 weeks. Since Test and Trace began, 39.2% of contacts not managed by local HPTs were reached online and 60.8% were reached by phone.

Most contacts are offered the online route initially and are followed up with phone call if they have not been reached online. For more information on how cases are contacted see [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology page](#).

¹⁶ The number of contacts reached by the phone and online will not sum to the total number of contacts reached not managed by local HPTs. This is because household contacts where the case has told them to self-isolate are not included, and for some contacts the tracing route is unknown.

For contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate, the proportion reached within 24 hours of being identified has increased to 95.2% in the latest week due to a change in how household contacts over 18 are contacted¹⁷.

Between 26 November and 2 December, 95.2% of contacts who weren't managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate within 24 hours of being identified. This proportion has notably increased in the latest week and follows the increase observed in the previous week. This is likely due to the operational changes in how household contacts are reached. (Household contacts who are told to self-isolate directly by the case are included in the timing information for contact tracing and are reached within 24 hours from being identified.) Two weeks ago, prior to the changes to how household contacts are reached, the percentage reached within 24 hours was 76.8%.

For contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate, the proportion reached within 24 hours of the case that reported them being transferred to the contact tracing system has increased in the latest week to 72.8%. This is due to a change in how household contacts over 18 are contacted.

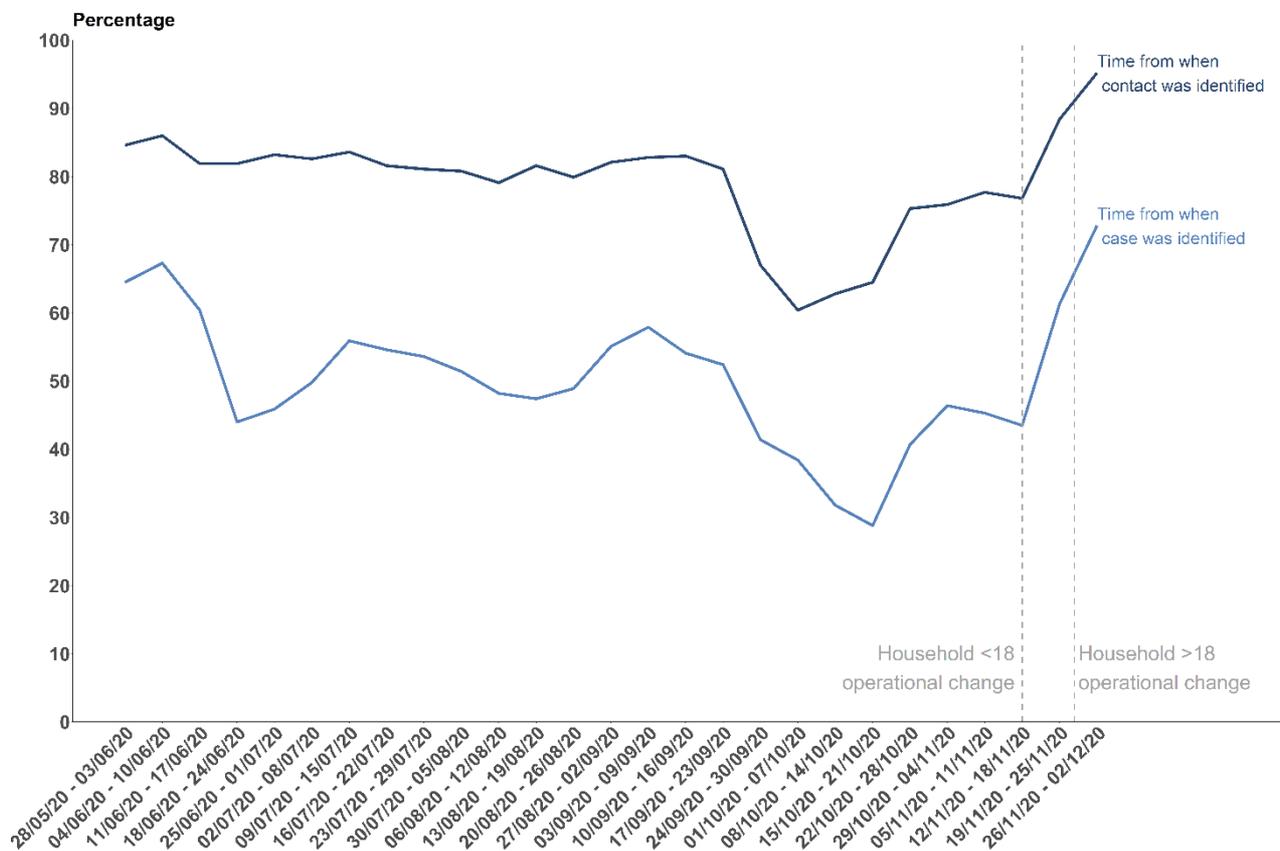
Between 26 November and 2 December, 111,867 (72.8%) contacts who weren't managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate within 24 hours of the case that reported them being transferred to the contact tracing system. There has been a notable increase across the previous two weeks, likely due to the operational changes in how household contacts are reached. Two weeks ago, prior to these changes, this percentage was 43.5%.

This measure gives a sense of the end-to-end journey time through the Test and Trace system from when an individual testing positive was reported to Test and Trace, to when their close contacts were reached and told to self-isolate.

Note that because these timing statistics are from when a case was transferred to the contact tracing system, delays in transferring cases to contact tracing will not be captured in these figures.

¹⁷ Timing data does not include contacts which were subsequently escalated to a local HPT.

Figure 15: proportion of recent close contacts who were told to self-isolate within 24 hours, excludes cases managed by local HPTs, England



This data can be found in the 'table_16' and 'table_17' tabs in the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 2 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

2. NHS COVID-19 app in England and Wales

The NHS COVID-19 app has been widely available to download since 24 September and provides several tools to support testing and contact tracing in England and Wales including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in.

The NHS COVID-19 app complements NHS Test and Trace in England and Test, Trace and Protect in Wales by extending the speed, reach and precision of contact tracing. It allows close contacts unknown to the individual who has tested positive, for example strangers on public transport, to be notified to self-isolate, if they are also an app user.

Since the app is anonymous and voluntary, contact tracers will not know whether someone who tests positive is an app user or whether the contacts they identify are app users. All positive cases, regardless of whether they are an app user, will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace in England or Test, Trace and Protect in Wales, and asked to provide details of recent, close contacts. Contacts will all be notified by NHS Test and Trace or Test, Trace and Protect, so may be notified by both the app and the contact tracers. More information is available in the NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology and on the [NHS COVID-19 App website](#).

The NHS COVID-19 app covers England and Wales only. For information on contact tracing apps in Scotland and Northern Ireland see [Protect Scotland](#) and [StopCOVID NI](#).

Prior to national release on the 24 September, the app was available to download from 13 August for those involved with the pilot. The data below includes data from the pilot period, as well as after the main launch.

As of 2 December, the app has been downloaded 20,361,253 times and 766,405 QR posters have been generated through the GOV.UK Coronavirus QR Poster Service. These figures cover both England and Wales.

3. Coronavirus (COVID – 19) testing in the UK

From 3 December, UK statistics on laboratory testing capacity, tests sent out and tests processed are no longer reported within the Test and Trace statistical bulletin but are available to download on the weekly collection page.

From 17 December, statistics on UK testing will no longer be available to download on the weekly collection page. This is part of DHSC's consolidation of where COVID-19 testing statistics are published. Statistics on tests conducted and capacity will continue to be published daily on the [Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#). For concerns regarding the removal of UK testing statistics from the Test and Trace publication please contact statistics@dhsc.gov.uk.

4. Terminology

4.1 Testing

- **Pillar 1 testing:** swab testing for the virus in Public Health England (PHE) labs, NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care workers.
- **Pillar 2 testing:** swab testing for the virus for the wider population, through commercial partnerships¹⁸, either processed in a lab or more rapidly via lateral flow devices tests. Tests processed in a lab are carried out through several different routes:
 - **Regional test sites**, which includes drive-through testing centres.
 - **Local test sites**¹⁹, which are similar to regional test sites but specifically for walk ups.
 - **Mobile testing units**, which travel around the UK to increase access to COVID-19 testing. They respond to need, travelling to test people at specific 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.
- **Pillar 3 testing:** serology testing to show if people have antibodies from having had coronavirus.
- **Pillar 4 testing:** blood and virus testing for national surveillance support by PHE, ONS and research, academic and scientific partners to learn more about the prevalence and spread of the virus and for other testing research purposes.
- **Virus testing:** swab testing using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay within pillars 1, 2 and pillar 4 to show if someone currently has COVID-19.
- **Antibody testing:** testing of a blood sample within pillar 3 and pillar 4 to show if people have antibodies from having had COVID-19.
- **People tested each week:** refers to people who have been tested at least once in each reporting week, therefore if someone had multiple tests in a given week they would be counted once.
- **People testing positive each week:** refers to the number of people who tested positive at least once in each reporting week, therefore if someone tested positive multiple times in a given week they would only be counted once.
- **Weekly positivity rate:** the number of people testing positive as a proportion of the number of people tested in each reporting week.

¹⁸ See more detail in [Scaling up our testing programmes](#)

¹⁹ Previously local test sites were included together with regional test sites but from 17 September have been split out as a separate group

- **Cumulative people tested:** refers to the number of people who have been tested at least once since Test and Trace launched.
- **Cumulative people testing positive:** refers to the number of people who have tested positive at least once since Test and Trace launched.

For pillar 2, there are two measures of the time taken to receive a coronavirus (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, local 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 (or the time a person indicates their test was taken for home testing kits) until the time that they receive a notification of the result of their test via an email or an SMS.

4.2 Tracing

NHS Test and Trace has two ways of handling cases depending on the way in which they are managed:

- **Cases and contacts managed by local HPTs (previously known as complex)** - PHE Local Health Protection Teams manage cases linked to outbreaks, examples include someone who works 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
- **Cases and contacts not managed by local HPTs (previously known as non-complex)** - Wider online and other call centre capacity for individual community-wide cases and contacts.

When a case is transferred to NHS Test and Trace contact tracers will attempt to contact the individual which results in one the following 3 outcomes:

- **Reached and provided information about recent close contacts** – contact tracers or local health protection teams successfully reached the individual and asked them to provide details for recent close contacts

- **Communication details not provided** - people who had no communication details provided are those who were transferred to NHS Test and Trace but did not have any associated contact details (e.g. phone number or email address).
- **Not reached** - 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. This includes those where the communication details are invalid. It also includes people who were reached but declined to give details of close 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.

When a close contact is identified, contact tracers or local HPTs will attempt to contact the individual or institution depending on the exposure setting, which results in the following outcomes:

- **Reached and told to self-isolate** – for contacts not managed by local HPTs contact tracers successfully reached the individual and told them to self-isolate, or for household contacts where the case has opted to inform them to self-isolate. For those managed by local HPTs, advice is provided to the institution which is passed on to individuals in the specific setting.
- **Communication details not provided** - people who were identified as recent close contacts but didn't have any associated contact details (e.g. phone number or email address).
- **Not reached** - 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. 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.

5. Measuring the data

5.1 How the data were collected

UK level testing data is collated centrally by DHSC from multiple sources across the different nations and pillars. Further details can be found in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

Testing data for pillars 1 and 2 for England are provided by PHE, NHS and commercial partners. Contact tracing data is collected from management information from the NHS Test and Trace service. Details about the data sources used can be found in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) document.

5.2 Future development

We have integrated this data 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, UK level testing data, testing data for pillars 1 and 2 in England, testing turnaround times and NHS COVID-19 app statistics have been added. Further breakdowns for contact tracing continue to be incorporated, including breakdowns for cases and contacts managed or not managed by local HPTs, geographical breakdowns and household information.

To support user needs and data transparency, additional releases have been published alongside the weekly Test and Trace publication including:

- care home statistics up to 8 July
- people tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) between 30 January and 27 May
- weekly UK testing statistics since the start of testing
- demographic data for coronavirus testing in England between 28 May and 26 August.

NHS Test and Trace continues to 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.

We continue to explore the feasibility of adding new breakdowns to the publication to support user needs. Over the coming months, we intend to make the following available:

- Additional demographic information for people tested
- New breakdowns for mass testing technologies
- Details on testing in care homes
- Details of close contacts who go on to test positive

Other new data was previously expected in Autumn 2020 including UK level tracing statistics however these have been postponed due to complexities between different UK tracing programs. We continue to work on providing other additional breakdowns in the long term.

The UK Statistical Authority has published a [rapid review](#) of the Test and Trace statistics. This includes recommendations on how the publication should develop in order to adhere fully to the Code of Practice. These recommendations continue to influence the development of the publication in the coming weeks and months.

5.3 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, this data is being released at the earliest possible opportunity. However, new IT systems and statistical outputs often take a period of time to bed in. This data should therefore be treated with caution as the system and understanding of the data develops.

More information on data limitations and how the figures in this publication can and can't be used is outlined in the [NHS Test and Trace methodology](#).

5.4 Quality

These statistics have been put together by NHS Test and Trace and DHSC with advice from the Office for National Statistics. As part of the quality assurance process, DHSC ensures that all published figures are replicable and any issues impacting on the quality of the data are clearly stated within the publication. Furthermore, the figures are often triangulated with other published sources to verify trends in the data.

Revisions to figures previous published

Figures for people tested and people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) 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 pillar 2 testing turnaround times 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. Some tests may continue to be being processed after this period and therefore data may need to be revised 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.
- Typically, one week after initial publication the number of cases reached and consequently the number of contacts identified is expected to increase. Similarly, the number of cases and contacts reached within 72 hours is likely to increase.

Cumulative figures for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in the UK have been revised. These revisions are because:

- For tests processed and tests sent out, weekly totals reflect the sum of actual daily counts reported for the previous week. Each week there may be corrections to previously reported figures, for example, where labs (or studies under pillar 4) returned the results late or duplicates were identified and removed. These corrections are reflected in the cumulative figures. This means that previously published weekly counts will not necessarily sum to the latest cumulative figure. It also means that the latest cumulative count may not match the previous week's cumulative count plus this week's weekly count.

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

5.5 Feedback

For questions about the release please refer to the [Information for Users document](#) initially. For feedback and any further questions, please contact statistics@dhsc.gov.uk