

Weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace (England): 24 December to 30 December

Main points

People tested, England

- 311,372 people tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once¹ in England between 24 December and 30 December, a 24% increase compared to the previous week. The number of people testing positive has increased over the last 4 weeks.
- 1,848,899 people were tested at least once between 24 December and 30 December for COVID-19^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, a 29% decrease compared to the previous week.

Pillar 2 testing turnaround times, England

- Turnaround times for pillar 2 (virus testing for the wide population) for all in-person testing routes have got longer overall since the beginning of December however they have got shorter again in the latest week. In the most recent week, 33.0% of in-person tests were received within 24 hours.
- Similar to in-person tests, turnaround times for satellite/home tests have got longer since the beginning of December but have got shorter in the latest week compared with the previous week.

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

- The median distance to in-person testing sites (pillar 2) for booked tests has stayed broadly consistent since mid-October with a slight increase between 17 and 23 December. This has since decreased to 2.6 miles in the latest week.

Positive cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace

- 269,886 cases were transferred to the contact tracing system between 24 December and 30 December, an increase of 27% compared to the previous week. The number of cases transferred has been notably increasing for the past 4 weeks.
- Of the cases transferred to the contact tracing system between 24 December and 30 December, 84.9% were reached and asked to provide information about their

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](#).

recent close contacts. This has remained broadly consistent over the past 2 months.

Close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace

- 493,573 people were identified as coming into close contact with someone who had tested positive between 24 December and 30 December. The number of close contacts identified has notably increased across the last 3 weeks and is more than double the number identified at the end of November.
- For those where communication details were available, 96.0% of close contacts were reached and told to self-isolate. Taking into account all contacts identified, 92.3% were reached.

Introduction

The Department for Health and Social Care publishes weekly statistics on NHS Test and Trace (England), 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.

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

Testing

- People tested for COVID-19, England
- People testing positive for COVID-19, 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

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 site and contact tracing.

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.

In addition to routine revisions, demographic and regional breakdowns for people tested and people testing positive have been revised due to a methodology change whereby lateral flow device (LFD) tests are no longer included in the data. These revisions mainly affect the breakdowns for the number of people tested - there are only minor revisions to the breakdowns for number of people testing positive. More detail on this methodology change can be found below in people tested and people testing positive, England and in the methodology document for [NHS Test and Trace statistics](#).

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](#).

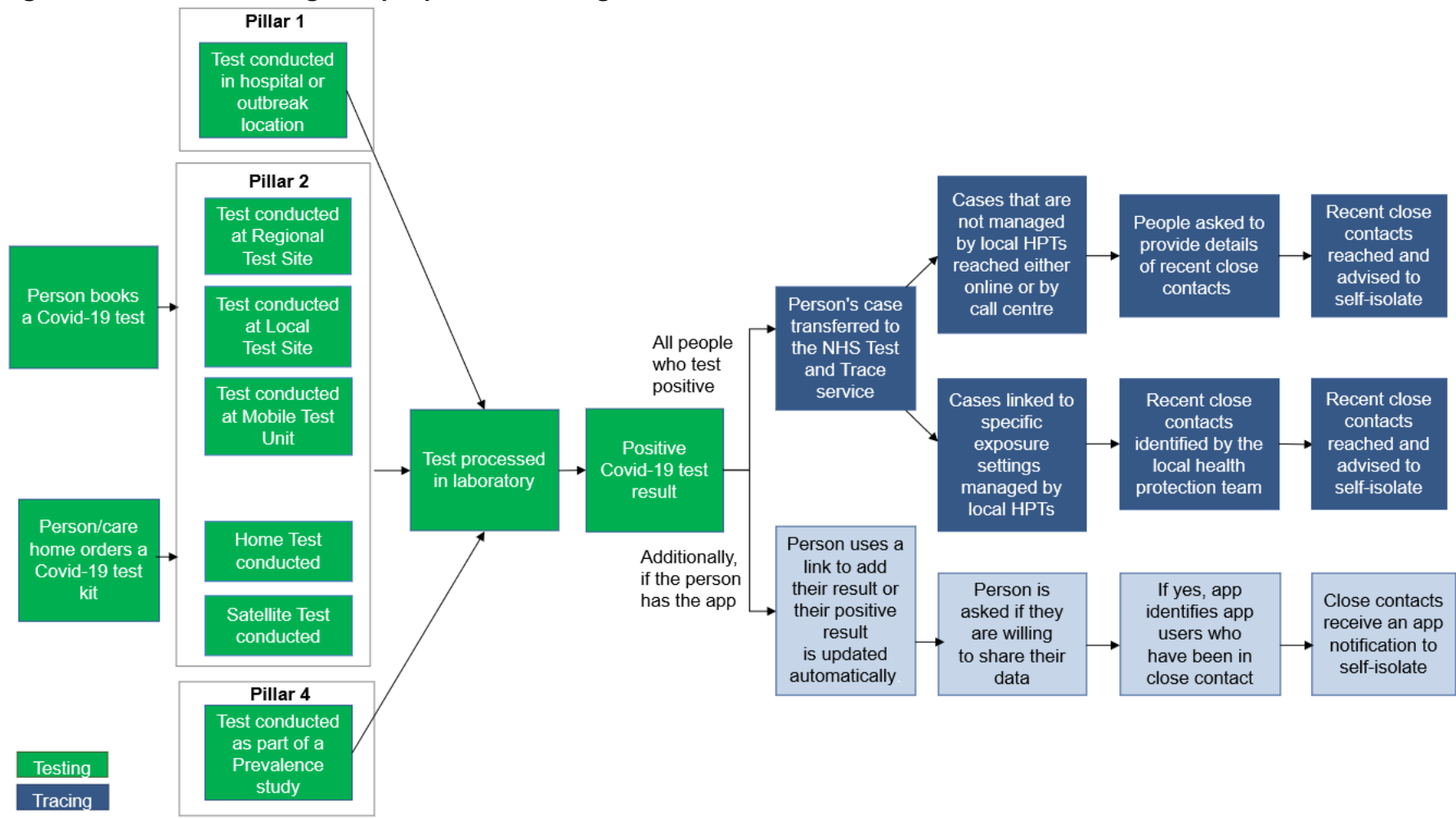
1.1 Testing in England

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 and people testing positive, England

The headline figures reported in this publication for people tested and people testing positive include both lateral flow device (LFD) tests and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, de-duplicated for each reporting week. Information on the differences between these types of tests can be found in the methodology document for [NHS Test and Trace statistics](#).

It is no longer recommended that these figures are used to calculate a positivity rate. This is because it is likely that LFD tests have a different positivity rate to PCR tests due to the use of LFDs in rapid testing. As the number of LFD tests conducted is increasing over time, a consistent positivity rate cannot be calculated. Positivity rate will no longer be calculated as part of this publication but can instead be found on the [Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#) for PCR only positive cases. As this is for PCR tests only, the positivity rate is comparable over time.

Because of this, from 7 January, the additional breakdowns for the number of people tested and number of people testing positive in each reporting week, by age, gender and local authority (found on the weekly collection page) will only include those who have been tested via a PCR test. This ensures the positivity rates calculated are consistent over time. Age and gender breakdowns for positive cases that include LFD and PCR tests can be found on the [Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#).

The number of tests conducted, broken down for LFD and PCR tests, remains available on the weekly collection page.

From 14 January, table 2 will no longer be included in the NHS Test and Trace Statistics: data tables. The cumulative number of positive cases, de-duplicated since testing began, can be found on the [Coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#) and the cumulative number of people tested, de-duplicated since testing began, will continue to be stated weekly in this publication commentary.

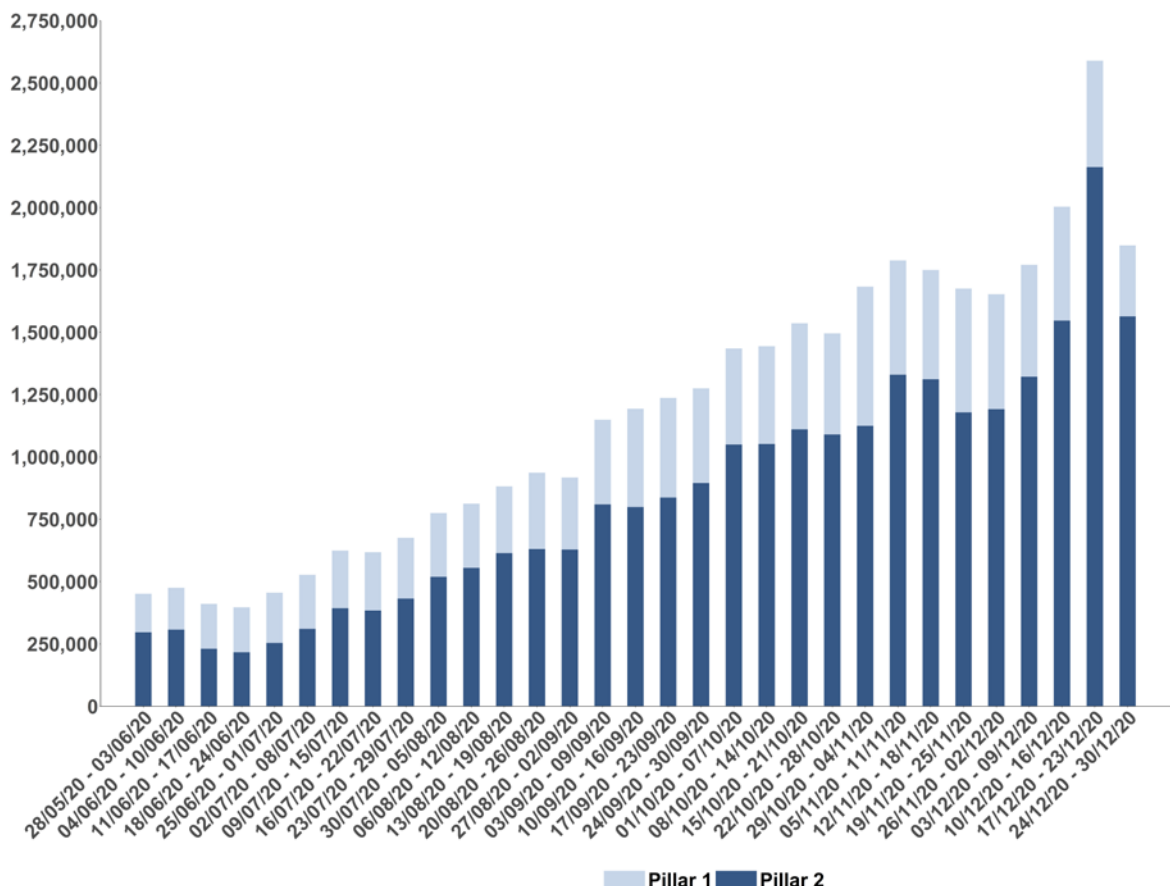
Between 24 December to 30 December, 1,848,899 people were tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once in the reporting week², a 29% decrease compared to the previous week.

In the latest week, the number of people tested has decreased by 29% compared to the previous week. This is a change from the increase seen in the previous 3 weeks. Overall,

² Deduplicated for the reporting week, methodology was revised from 15 October. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

the number of people tested has more than doubled since the week of 27 August to 2 September. Since Test and Trace launched at the end of May, 17,258,500 people have been tested at least once³.

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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

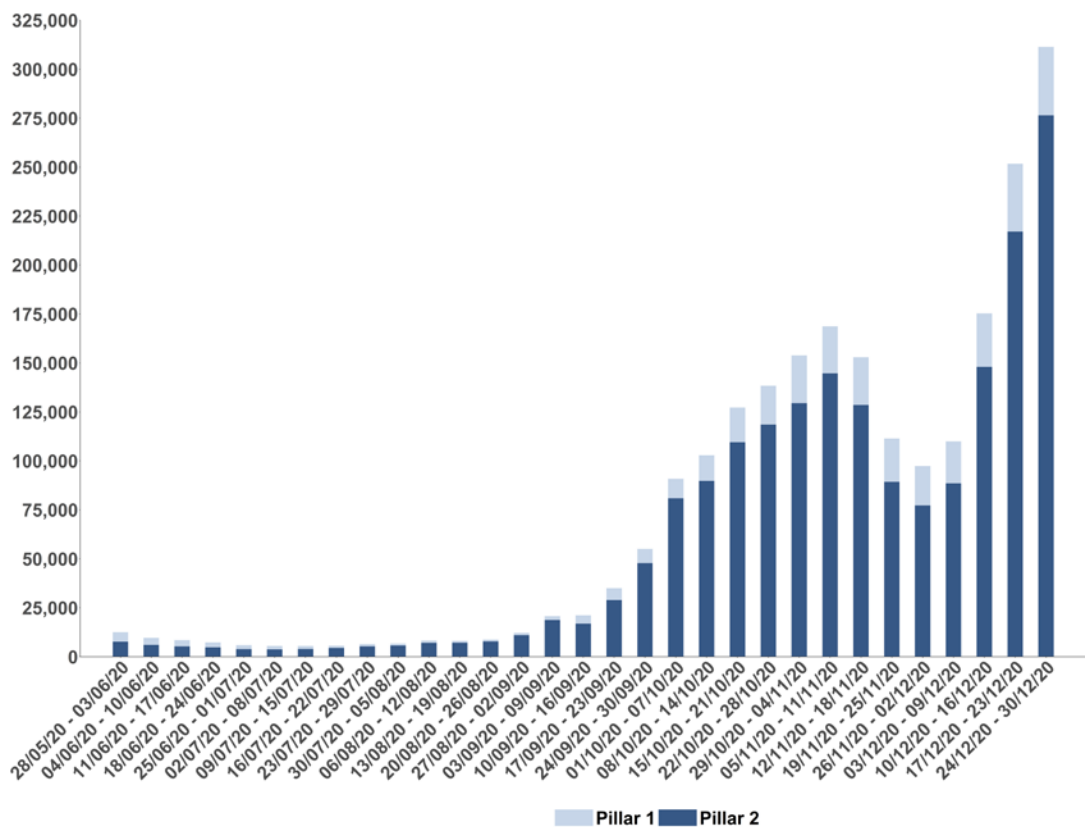
Between 24 December and 30 December, 311,372 people tested positive⁴. The number of positive cases has been increasing since the start of December.

The number of people testing positive between 24 December and 30 December increased by 24% compared to the previous week. This continues the increase in cases seen since the start of December. In the most recent week, the number of positive cases was 84% higher than the previous peak seen between 5 and 11 November.

³ 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.

⁴ Deduplicated for the reporting week. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology page](#) for more information.

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 30 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 24 December and 30 December, 93.6% 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 times⁵. These routes include:

- **Regional test sites**, which includes drive-through testing centres.
- **Local test sites**⁶, 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Previously local test sites were included together with regional test sites but from 17 September have been split out as a separate group

- **Home test kits**, which are delivered to someone's door so they can test themselves and their family without leaving the house.

Lateral flow device (LFD) tests have been made available to some individuals from 21 October. 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 had been decreasing overall since mid-October but increased since the beginning of December. In the most recent week, turnaround times have decreased again.

The median time taken to receive a test result for in-person tests (regional tests sites, local tests sites and mobile testing units) has seen an overall decrease since mid-October and a decrease in the latest week.

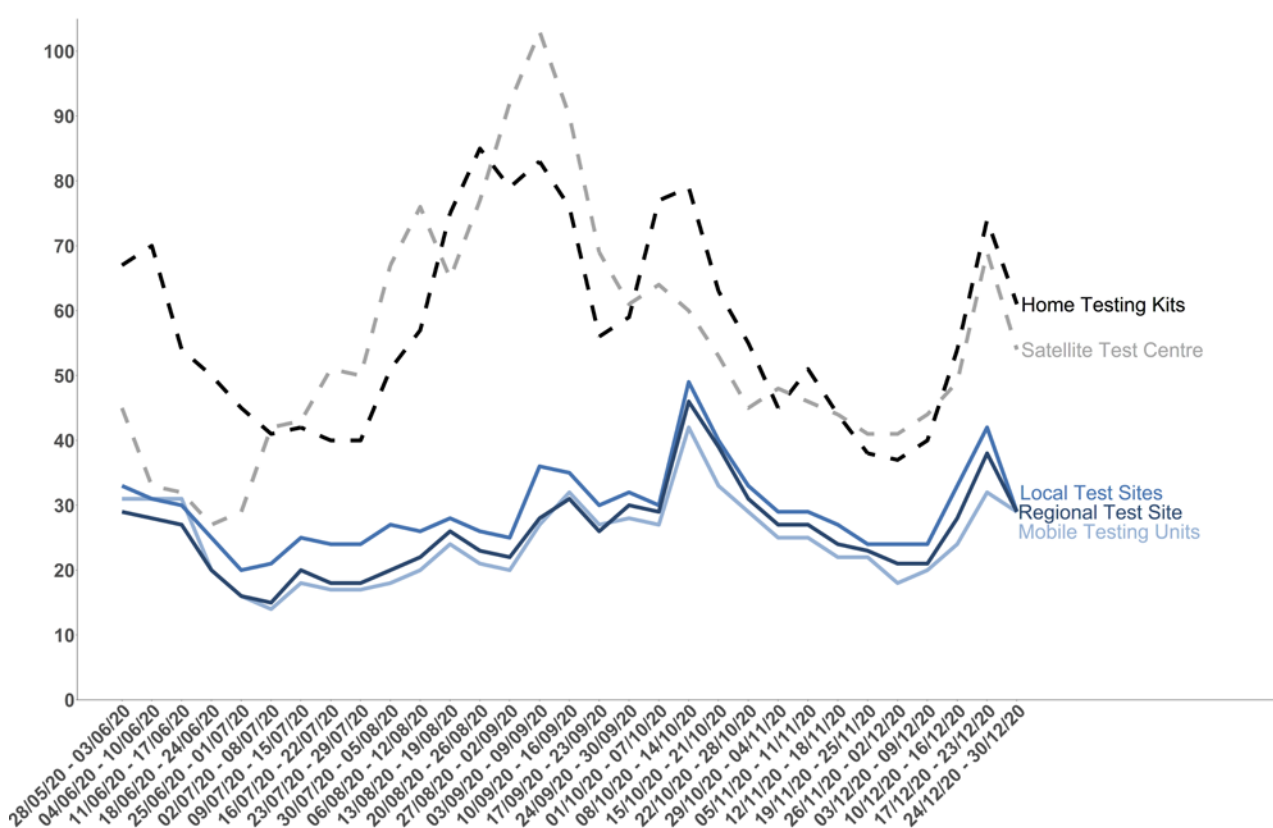
Between 24 December and 30 December, the median time taken to receive a test result for regional test sites decreased to 29 hours, compared to 38 in the previous week. The median time for local test sites decreased to 29 hours from 42 hours and mobile testing units decreased to 29 hours from 32 hours during the same period.

The median time taken to receive a test result after taking a test for home testing kits/satellite test centres had been increasing since the beginning of December, however in the latest week they have decreased.

The median time taken to receive a test result for home testing kits and satellite test centres has decreased overall since the beginning of September. Despite an increase throughout December the median time taken has decreased slightly in the latest week.

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 54 hours in the latest week, a decrease from 69 hours in the previous week. The median time for home testing kits has also decreased overall from 83 hours at the beginning of September to 61 hours in the latest week, a decrease from 74 hours in the previous week.

Figure 4: 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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

The percentage of test results received within 24 hours for in-person tests and within 48 hours for home testing kits and satellite test centres have increased in the latest week, after decreasing since the beginning of December.

In the most recent week, for in-person tests (local test sites, mobile testing units and regional test sites), 33.0% were received within 24 hours compared to 16.9% in the previous week. This percentage had been decreasing since the beginning of December, however in the latest week, it has increased.

36.0% of test results were received within 48 hours for home test kits and satellite test centres, compared to 19.7% in the previous week. For all routes combined, 18.9% of tests from all test sites were received within 24 hours of a test being taken compared to 9.6% in the previous week. If we consider the day the test was taken, 63.0% of in-person tests results were received the next day after the test was taken and for all routes combined this was 40.4%.

For satellite test centres, 70.5% were received within 72 hours compared to 53.2% in the previous week. 79.9% of satellite tests were received within 3 days after the day they were taken. In the most recent week, approximately 88% of tests from satellite test centres were care home tests and removing the 12% of tests from other sites slightly increases the percentage of tests received within 3 days after the test was taken to 81.0%.

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

	17 Dec to 23 Dec: percentage of tests	24 Dec to 30 Dec: percentage of tests	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May to 30 Dec: percentage of tests
Regional test sites within 24 hours	16.5%	32.4%	44.0%
Local test sites within 24 hours	12.2%	33.2%	27.8%
Mobile testing units within 24 hours	23.7%	33.4%	47.2%
Satellite test centres within 48 hours	22.0%	39.1%	38.7%
Home testing kits within 48 hours	15.9%	29.7%	35.6%

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

The distance to testing sites for booked tests 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](#).

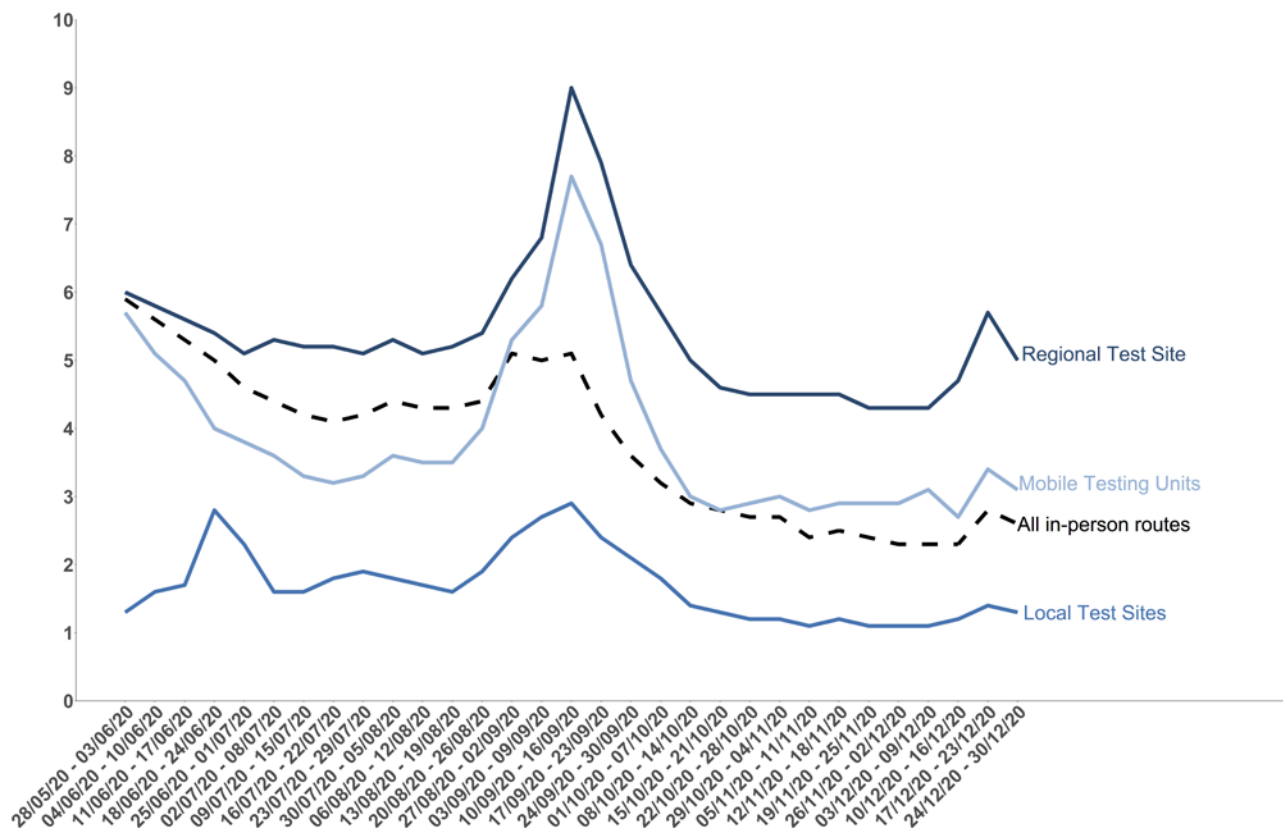
Lateral flow device (LFD) tests have been made available to some individuals from 21 October. These tests are not included in this section on distance to in-person testing sites.

The median distance to in-person testing sites for booked tests has remained broadly consistent since mid-October with a slight increase in mid-December, however this has decreased in the latest week.

From mid-August to mid-September, the distance to testing sites for booked tests increased across in-person routes. However, since mid-September, the distance to testing sites for booked tests has decreased overall. Between 24 December and 30 December, the median distance to an in-person test site decreased slightly to 2.6 miles from 2.8 miles in the previous week. 90% of people who booked a test at a test centre lived 11.0 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 decreased to 5.0 miles from 5.7 miles in the previous week. For local test sites, the median distance to testing sites for booked tests also slightly decreased to 1.3 miles from 1.4 miles. For mobile testing units the median decreased to 3.1 miles, compared to the 3.4 miles in the previous week.

Figure 5: 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 30 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)⁷, 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 continued to increase in the latest week.

Between 24 December and 30 December, 269,886 people were transferred to the contact tracing system, a 27% increase compared to the previous week. This reporting week was the fourth consecutive week for which the number of people transferred increased. Almost 3 times more people were transferred in the latest week than at the end of November.

Between 24 December and 30 December, over 4 in every 5 people transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts.

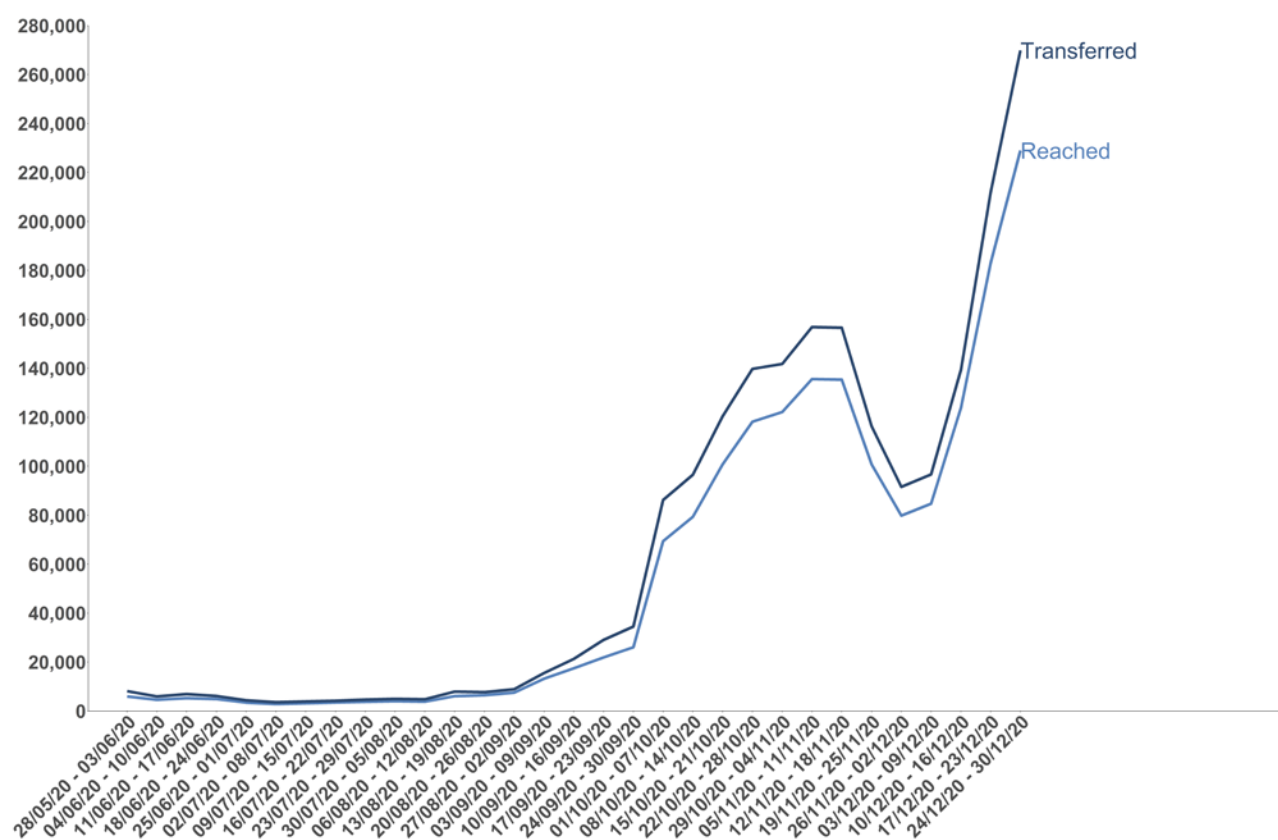
Out of the 269,886 people transferred to the contact tracing system in the latest week, 228,999 (84.9%) were reached, 37,408 (13.9%) were not reached and 3,479 (1.3%) had no communication details provided. The proportion of people reached has remained broadly similar over the last 11 weeks. Since Test and Trace launched, 85.0% of all cases have been reached.

⁷ 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.

In the latest week, 4,875 people who were reached and asked to provide details of close contacts, were managed by local health protection teams (HPTs), whereas 224,124 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 6: 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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

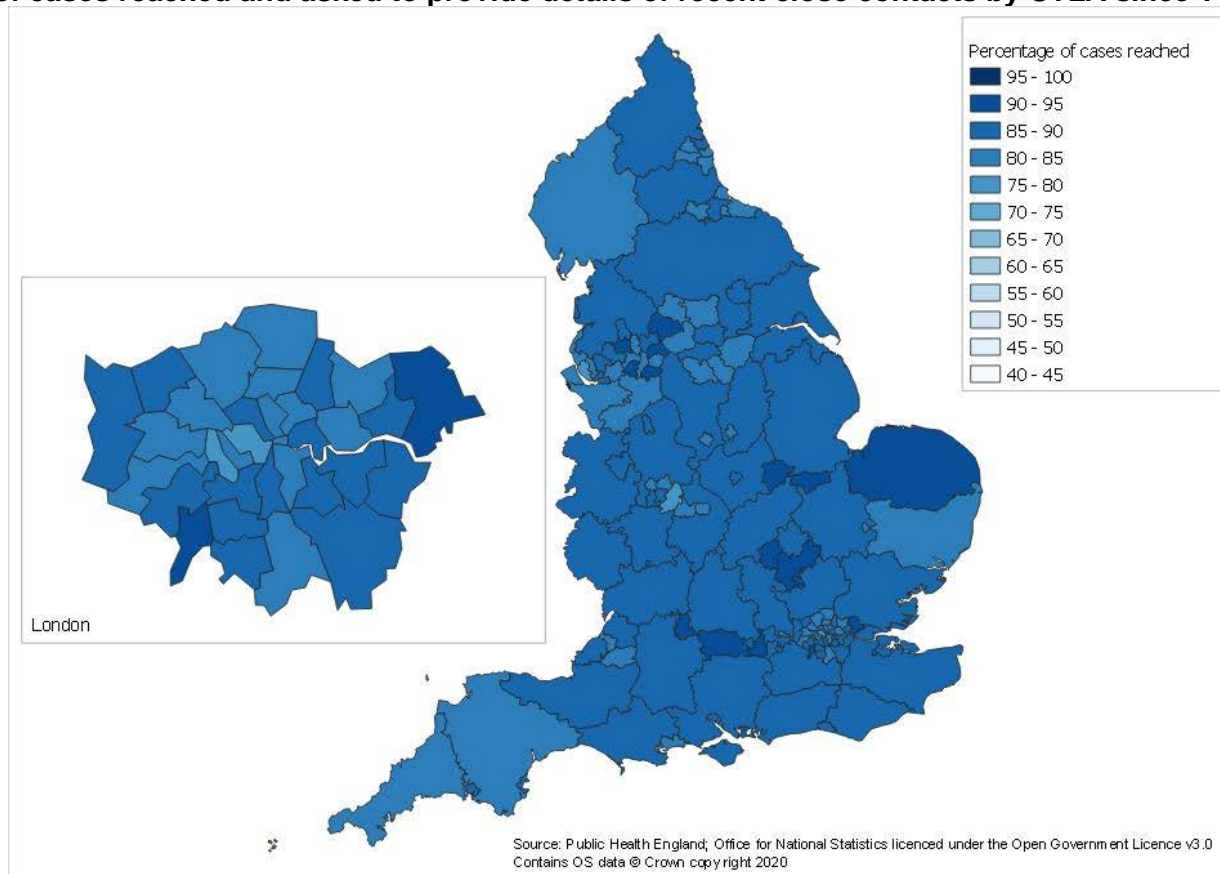
Table 2: people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes cases managed and not managed by local HPTs) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England⁸

	17 Dec to 23 Dec: number of people (percentage)	24 Dec to 30 Dec: number of people (percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May to 30 Dec: number of people (percentage)
People who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts	183,048 (86.4%)	228,999 (84.9%)	1,705,708 (85.0%)
People not managed by local HPTs	177,692	224,124	1,634,956
People managed by local HPTs	5,356	4,875	70,752
People who were not reached	26,046 (12.3%)	37,408 (13.9%)	266,727 (13.3%)
People whose communication details were not provided	2,820 (1.3%)	3,479 (1.3%)	33,732 (1.7%)
Total	211,914	269,886	2,006,167

⁸ 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 7: 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](#)⁹.

⁹ 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.

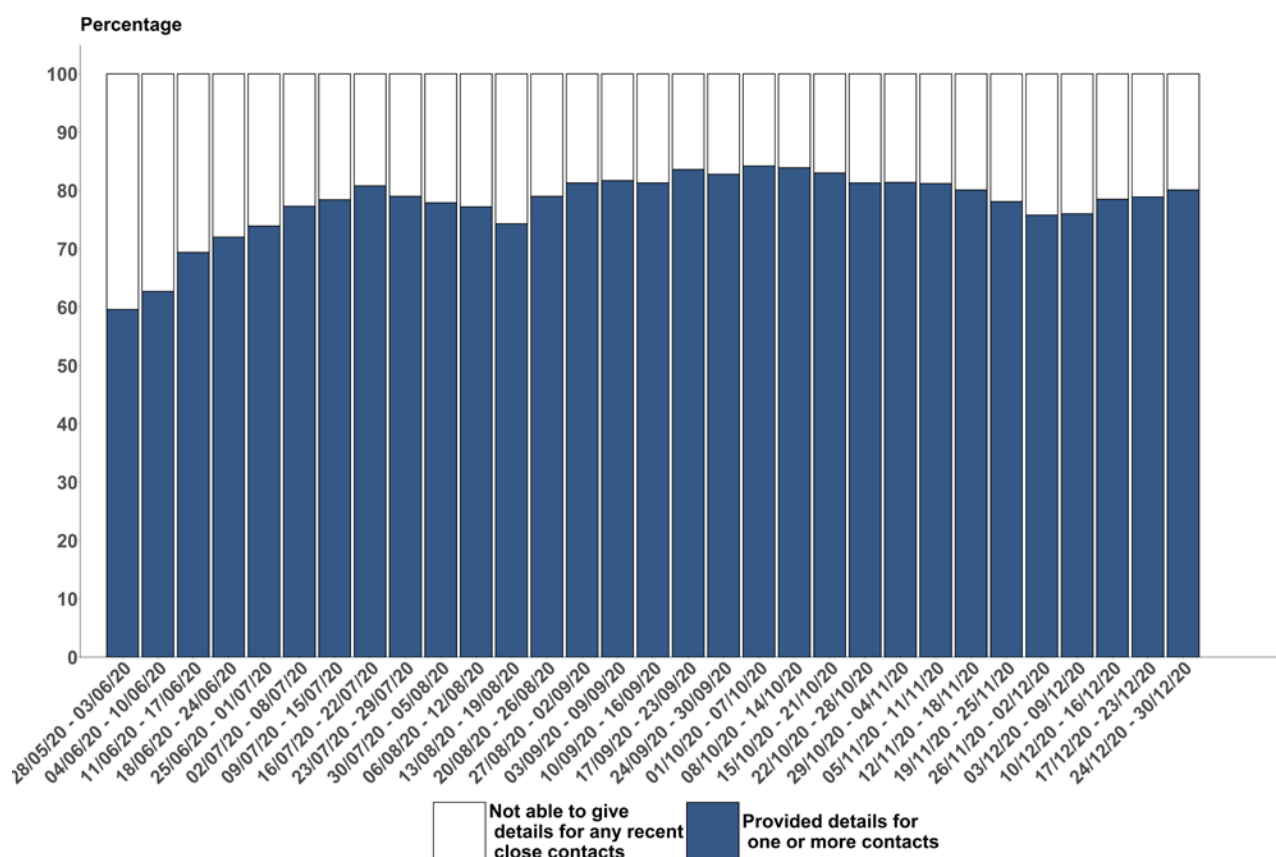
In the latest week, 4 in every 5 people who were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts, provided one or more close contacts.

Out of the 228,999 people reached between 24 December and 30 December, 183,458 (80.1%) provided details of one or more close contacts. The proportion of people providing one or more contacts has remained broadly consistent since the end of June.

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 9, an increase from 5 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 8: 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 30 December 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 increased slightly compared to the previous week.

Of the cases reached which were not managed by local HPTs between 24 December and 30 December, 97,549 (43.5%) were reached online and 126,569 (56.5%) were reached via the phone. The proportion of cases reached online has increased from 22.1% at the beginning of October, and consequently the proportion reached by phone has decreased from 77.9% in the same period. Since Test and Trace began, 40.3% of cases were reached online and 59.7% were reached by phone.

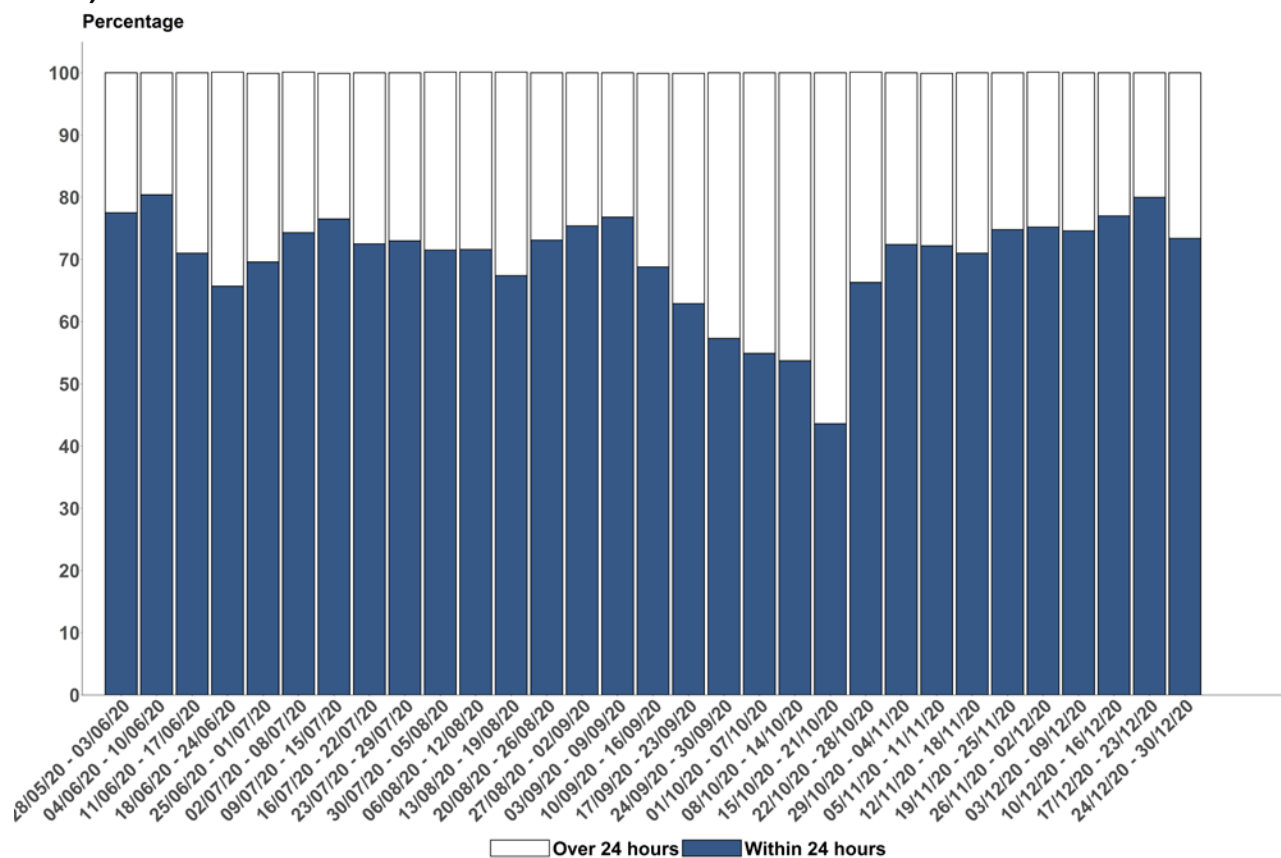
Most cases are offered the online route initially and are followed up with phone call if they have not been reached online. For more information on how cases are contacted see [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology page](#).

For cases not managed by local HPTs, just under 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 24 December and 30 December, 73.4% of cases transferred (164,468) were reached within 24 hours, compared to 80.0% the previous week. Since Test and Trace launched on 28 May, 69.9% of people (1,142,303) 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 9: 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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

Close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace

The number of close contacts identified has substantially increased over the last 3 weeks.

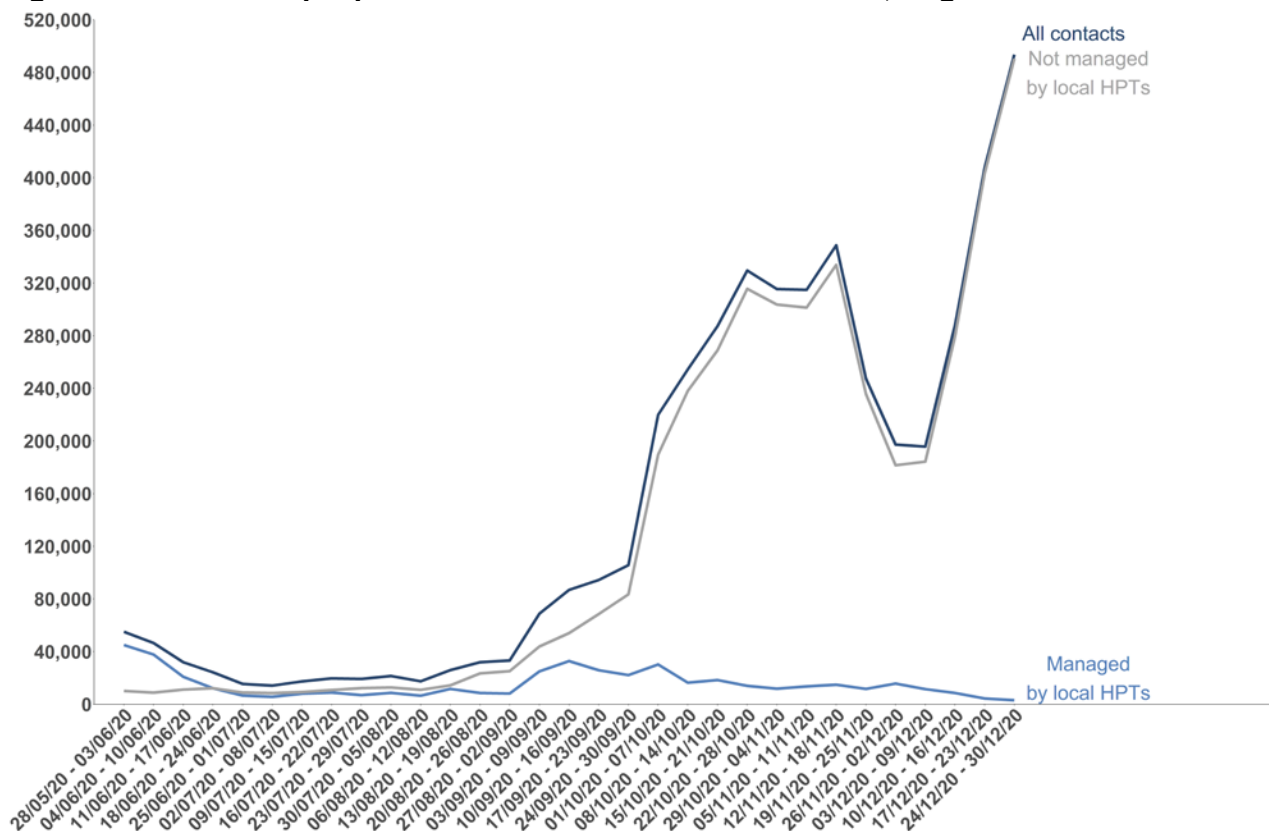
Between 24 December and 30 December, 493,573 people were identified as recent close contacts, of which 490,550 (99.4%) were not managed by local HPTs and 3,023 (0.6%) were managed by local HPTs. The total number of contacts identified has increased in the latest week and is more than double the number identified at the end of November.

The number of contacts not managed by local HPTs increased substantially from the end of November and is now almost 3 times those identified at the end of November. At the beginning of June, contacts managed by local HPTs were 81.7% of contacts identified compared to only 0.6% in the most recent week.

From 18 November, there has been a change in how household contacts under 18 are reached. These changes mean that under-18s in a household are no longer 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 was also extended to cover adults in the same household, so they have the option to be traced via a single phone call.

Considering only the contacts where communication details were provided, 96.0% were reached and told to self-isolate in the most recent week. This has remained constant for the past three weeks.

Figure 10: 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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

92.3% of contacts not managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate in the latest week, similar to the previous 3 weeks.

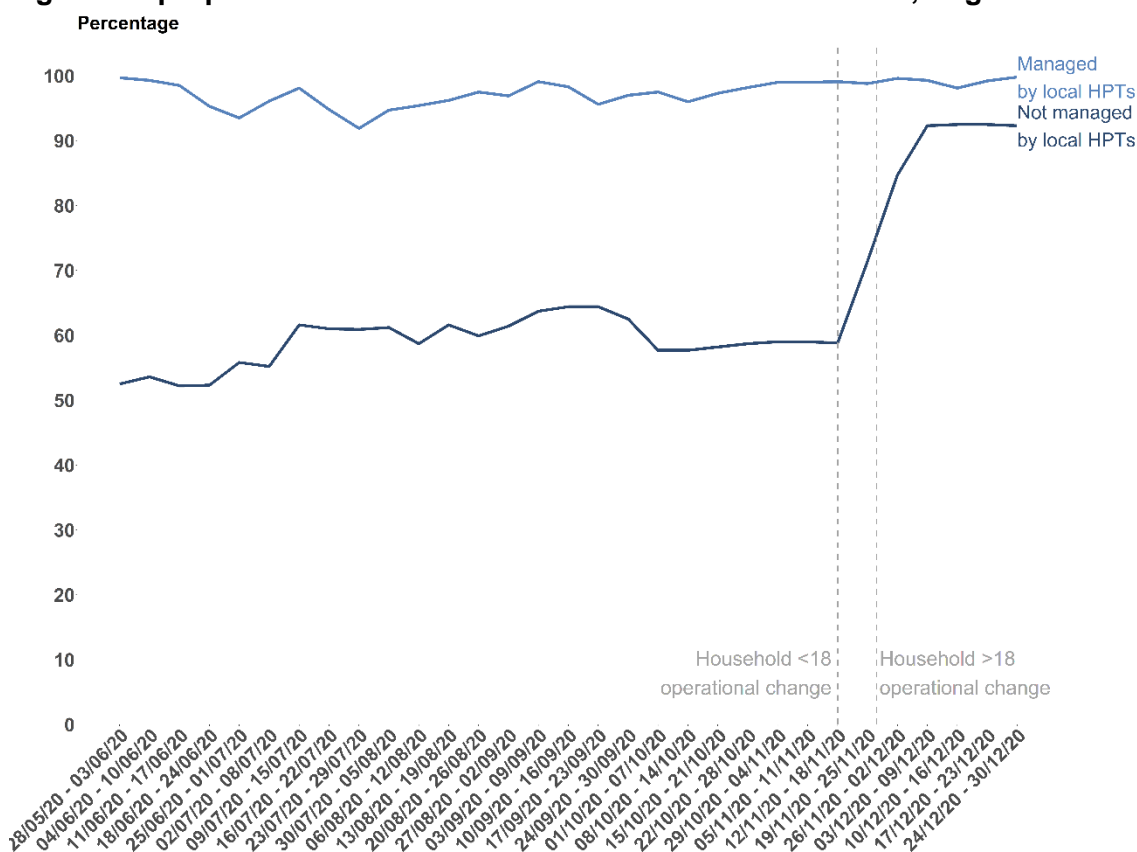
Between 24 December and 30 December, 490,550 recent close contacts not managed by local HPTs were identified of which 452,730 (92.3%) were reached and told to self-isolate. In the latest week, 18,915 (3.9%) contacts not managed by local HPTs were not reached and 18,905 (3.9%) people had no communication 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 24 December and 30 December, 3,023 close contacts were identified who were managed by local HPTs of which 3,018 (99.8%) were reached and told to self-isolate and 5 (0.2%) were not reached. Since Test and Trace launched 97.8% 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 11: proportion of contacts reached and told to self-isolate, England¹⁰

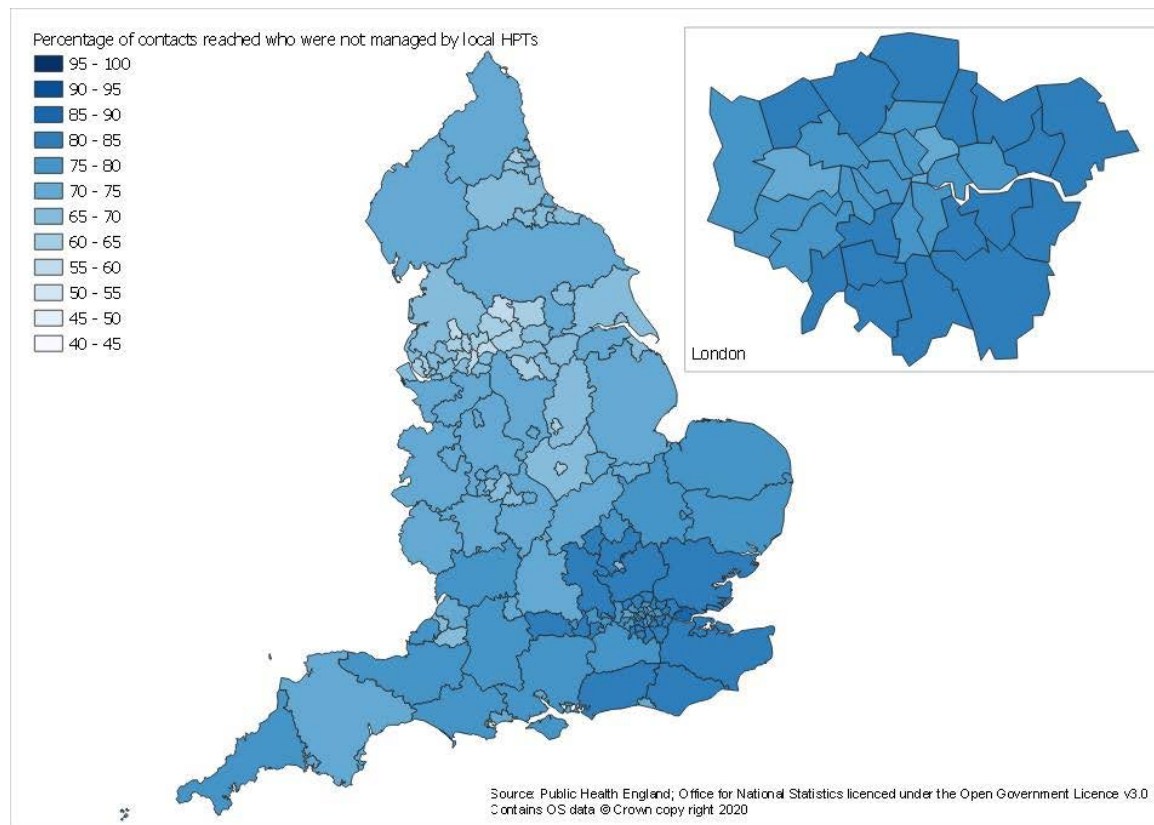


This data can be found in the 'table_14' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

¹⁰ 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 12: 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](#).¹¹

¹¹ 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.

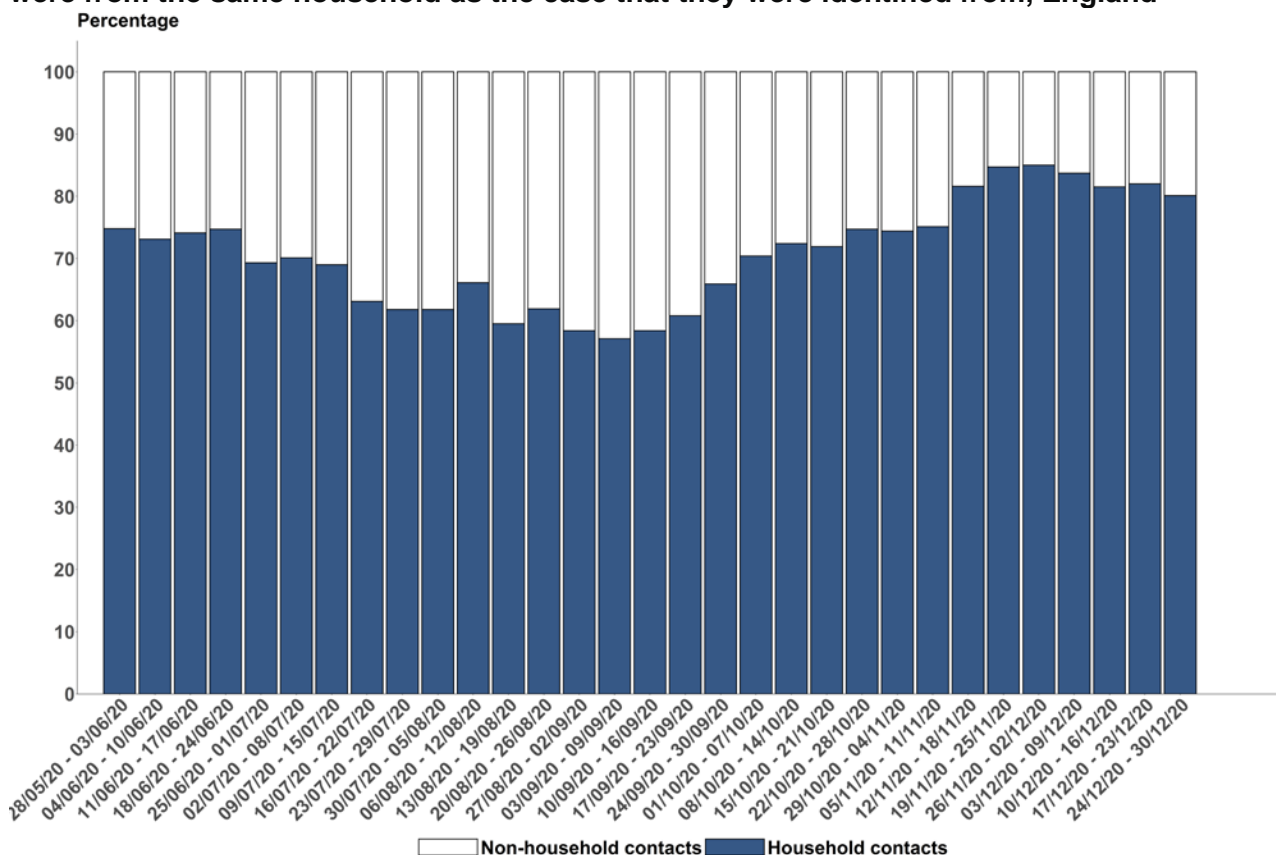
In the most recent week, 4 out of 5 contacts not managed by local HPTs were from the same household as the case they were identified from, similar to the previous week.

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 the end of September, the proportion of contacts who were from the same household has increased overall to 80.1% in the latest week.

Between 24 December and 30 December, 97.5% of household contacts were successfully reached and told to self-isolate, consistent with 97.6% in the week prior and stable over the past 3 weeks.

Between 24 December and 30 December, 71.3% of contacts who were from a different household to the case from which they were identified were successfully reached and told to self-isolate, compared to 69.6% in the previous week.

Figure 13: 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 30 December 2020: data tables' on the [weekly collection page](#).

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

Of the contacts reached who were not managed by local HPTs, and who weren't a household contact told to self-isolate by their case, between 24 December and 30 December, 45,564 (50.8%) were reached online and 44,113 (49.2%) were reached via the phone¹². 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 decrease in the proportion reached by phone rather than online.

Most non-household 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](#).

¹² 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 decreased slightly to 96.8% in the latest week¹³.

Between 24 December and 30 December, 96.8% of contacts who weren't managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate within 24 hours of being identified, compared to 97.8% the previous week.

Household contacts who are told to self-isolate directly by the case are included in the timing information for contact tracing and are categorised as reached within 24 hours from being identified.

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 decreased in the latest week to 70.8%.

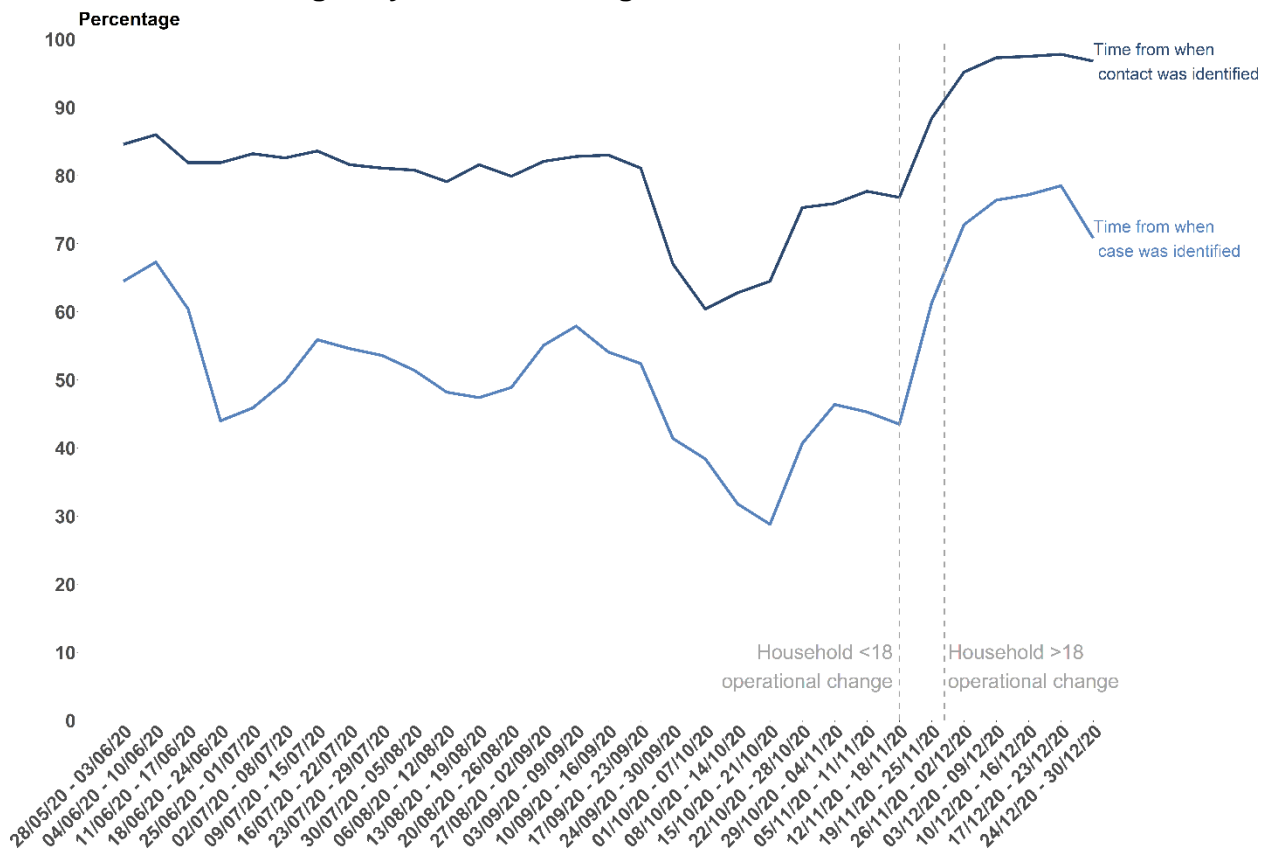
Between 24 December and 30 December, 317,426 (70.8%) contacts who weren't managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate within 24 hours of the case that reported them being transferred to the contact tracing system.

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.

¹³ Timing data does not include contacts which were subsequently escalated to a local HPT.

Figure 14: 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 30 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 30 December, the app has been downloaded 21,083,745 times and 779,103 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 17 December, statistics on UK testing are no longer 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 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 partnerships¹⁴, 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**¹⁵, 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.
- **Cumulative people tested:** refers to the number of people who have been tested at least once since Test and Trace launched.

¹⁴ See more detail in [Scaling up our testing programmes](#)

¹⁵ 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 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
- 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
- Additional data for new testing technologies
- Details on testing in care homes
- Details of close contacts who go on to test positive.

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 previously 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 .