



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Test and Trace

Experimental statistics

Weekly NHS Test and Trace bulletin, England: 28 May – 10 June 2020



NHS Test and Trace – Week One and Two of contact tracing, England: 28 May – 10 June 2020

The data in the tables below reflect the first two weeks of operation of the contact tracing element of NHS Test and Trace. They include contact tracing undertaken:

- online
- by local health protection teams
- by contact tracing staff

Main points

NHS contact tracing went live on 28 May.

Between 4 June and 10 June 2020:

- 5,949 people who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) had their case transferred to the contact tracing system
- Of these 4,366 people (73.4% were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts. This compares to 72.0% in the previous week.
- 1,435 people (24.1%) could not be reached. An additional 148 people (2.5%) could not be reached at all as no communications details were provided for them.

As a result of this, between 4 June and 10 June 2020:

- 44,895 people were identified as close contacts. Of these 40,690 people (90.6%) were reached and asked to self-isolate. This compares to 90.5% in the previous week.

In total, since 28 May 2020:

- 14,045 people who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) had their case transferred to the contact tracing system, of whom 72.6% (10,192 people) were reached and asked to provide details of their recent close contacts.
- 87,639 people were identified as close contacts and reached through the contract tracing system out of 96,746 reported (90.6%).

Terminology

NHS Test and Trace has two principal ways to handle cases depending on their complexity:

- Local Health Protection Teams to manage complex cases linked to outbreaks (referred to as complex cases hereafter) ¹;
- Wider online and other call centre capacity for less complex cases (referred to as non-complex cases hereafter).

More details on the types of case can be found in the methodology document.

Revisions for 28 May to 3 June

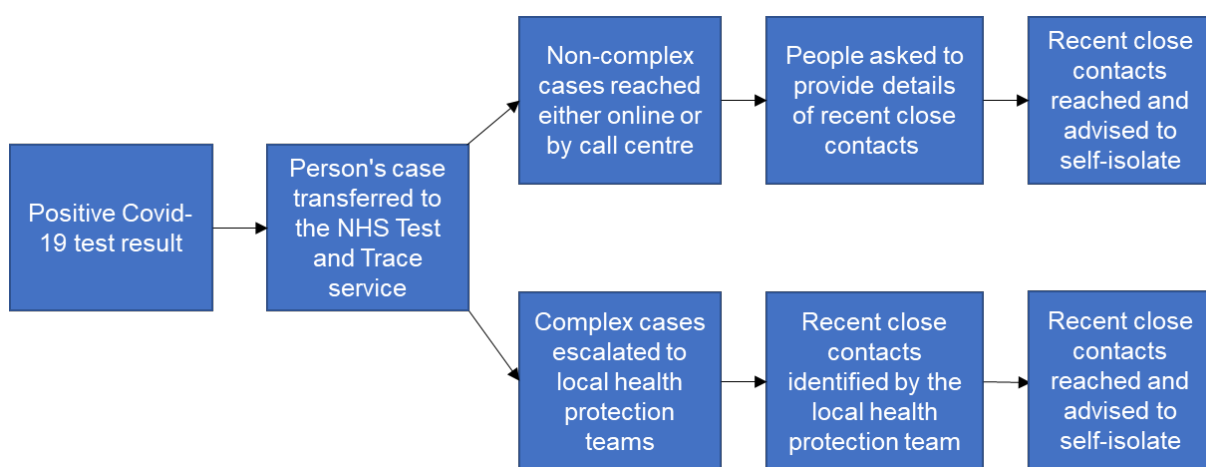
Note that figures for last week's release have been revised. These revisions are for two reasons:

- The figures presented are based on a data cut a number of 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 (see methodology note for more detail).
- Public Health England (PHE) carried out an audit exercise on historic complex cases and contacts, which has increased the numbers previously reported.

¹For example, if someone works in or has recently visited: • a health or care setting, such as a hospital or care home • a prison or other secure setting • a school for people with special needs • critical national infrastructure or areas vital for national security

Test and trace: number of people who tested positive for coronavirus that were transferred to the contact tracing system

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



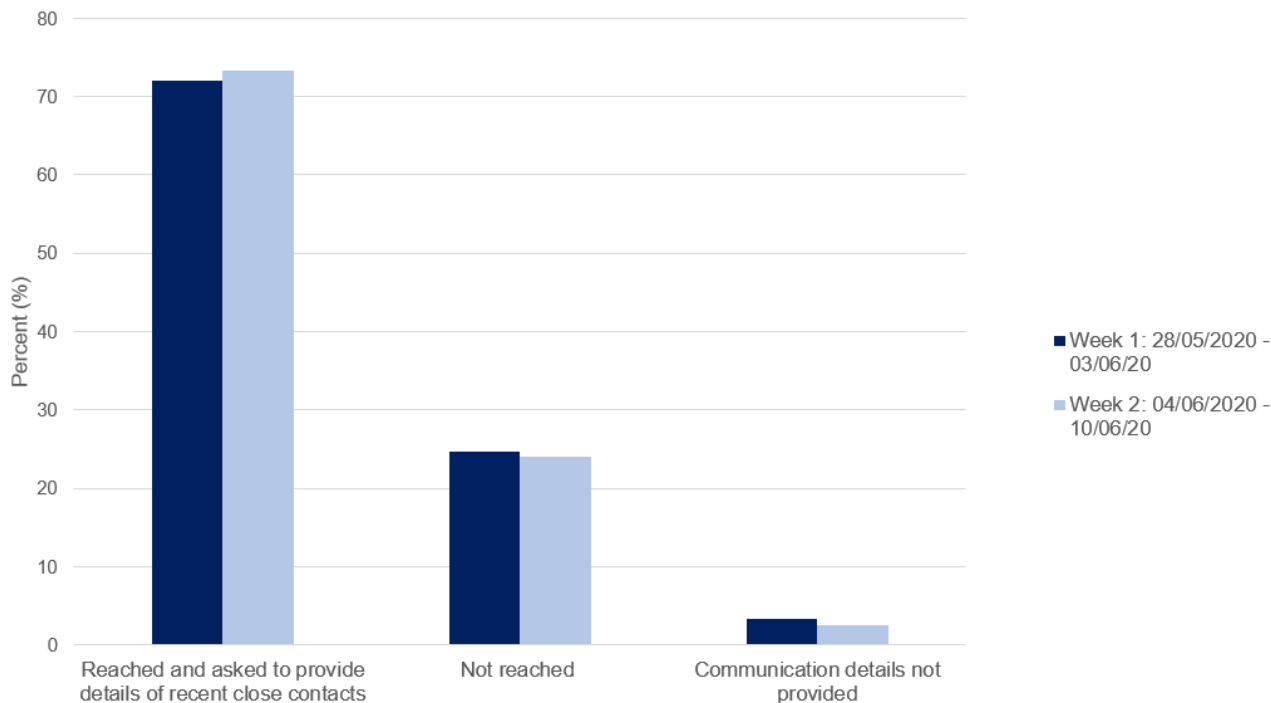
Between 4 June and 10 June almost three-quarters of people transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts

Table 1: People transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details², England

	28 May – 3 June: Number of people (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)
People who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts	5,826 (72.0%)	4,366 (73.4%)	10,192 (72.6%)
People who were not reached	2,000 (24.7%)	1,435 (24.1%)	3,435 (24.5%)
People whose communication details were not provided	270 (3.3%)	148 (2.5%)	418 (3.0%)
Total	8,096	5,949	14,045

² Note: Data for how many people were reached but did not have any recent close contacts is not currently available

Figure 2: Proportion of people transferred to the contact tracing system (includes complex and non-complex cases) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England, 28 May to 10 June 2020³



After a person’s coronavirus test is confirmed as positive, they will be transferred to the contact tracing system to be contacted⁴. The number of these people who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts includes complex cases investigated by local public health teams.

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

The number of people who were not reached includes those people who the service has been unable to reach because there has been no response to text, email and call

³ Note: Data has been split to show those cases whose communication details were not provided. Previous publication included cases where communication details not provided under 'Not reached and asked to provide contact details'. Numbers have been revised for previous week to account for new methodology.

⁴ All people who test positive for coronavirus should be transferred to the test and trace system. However, the methodology for testing data is currently under review (see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>). We aim to report this figure in future publications.

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.

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

Figure 3: Proportion of people who were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts by time taken to reach them, England, 28 May to 10 June 2020, this excludes complex cases

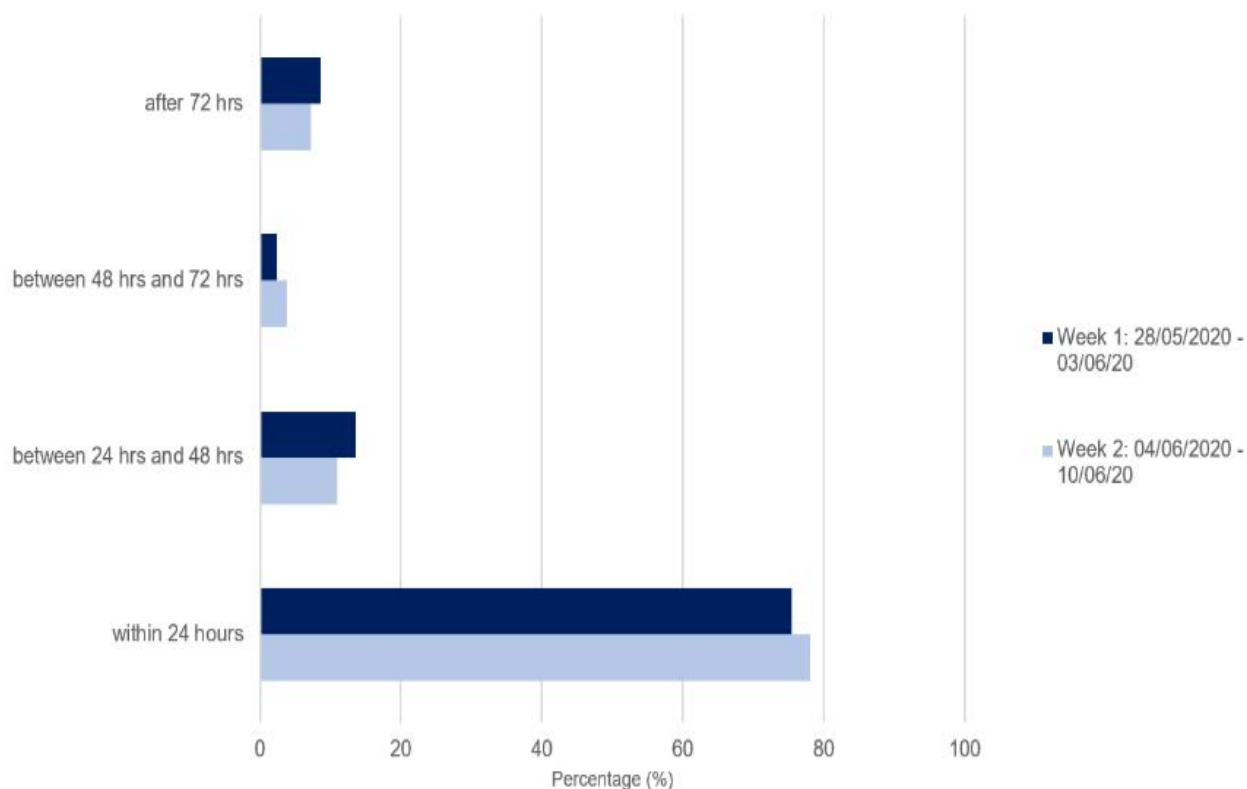


Table 2: People who were reached and asked to provide details about recent close contacts by time taken to do so, England, 4 June to 10 June 2020, this excludes complex cases

	28 May – 3 June: Number of people (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	3,312 (75.4%)	2,785 (78.0%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	597 (13.6%)	391 (10.9%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	106 (2.4%)	135 (3.8%)
After 72 hours	377 (8.6%)	261 (7.3%)
Total	4,392	3572

Number of recent close contacts identified through the contact tracing system

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

Table 3: Number of people identified as recent close contacts by whether they were reached and asked to self-isolate, England, 28 May to 10 June 2020. Includes contacts related to both complex and non-complex cases.

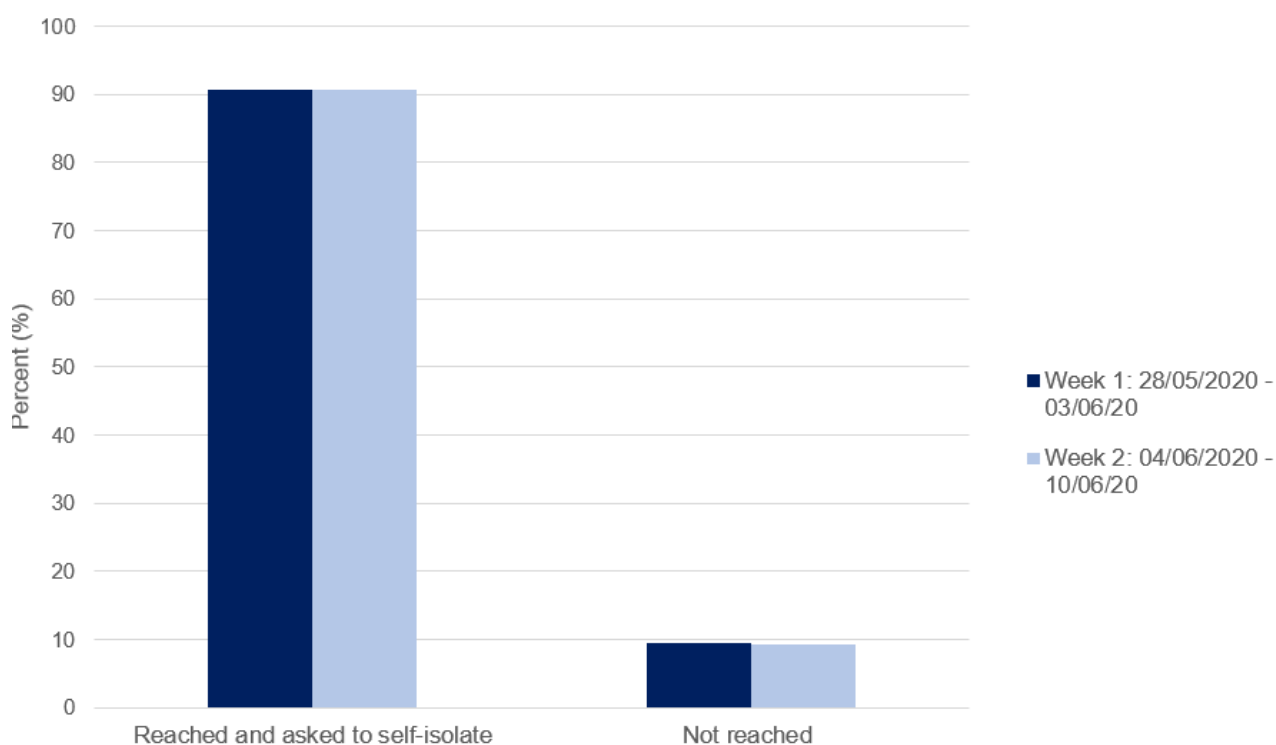
	28 May – 3 June: Number of people (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)	Since Test and Trace launched. 28 May – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)
People who were identified as recent close contacts and asked to self-isolate	46,949 (90.5%)	40,690 (90.6%)	87,639 (90.6%)
People who were identified as recent close contacts but not reached	4,902 (9.5%)	4,205 (9.4%)	9,107 (9.4%)
Total	51,851	44,895	96,746

Of the people who identified as recent close contacts but not reached between 4 June and 10 June, 2,137 could not be reached because no communication details were provided for them (for example a phone number or email address). Of the people who identified as recent close contacts but not reached between 28 May and 10 June, 4,631 could not be

reached because no communication details were provided for them. This makes up 24.2% of those contacts for 4 June and 10 June and 24.5% of contacts for 28 May to 10 June⁵.

The number 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, or those for which no contact details were provided to NHS Test and Trace (e.g. phone number or email address). Further, there are some contacts who were reached but have not agreed to self-isolate.

Figure 4: Proportion of recent close contacts identified by whether they were reached and asked to self-isolate, England, 28 May to 10 June 2020. Includes contacts related to both complex and non-complex cases.



⁵ This information is only available for those recent close contacts related to non-complex cases. This data is not available for recent close contacts relating to complex cases because these are usually managed at a situation (e.g. care home) rather than individual level.

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

Figure 5: Proportion of recent close contacts who were advised to self-isolate by time taken to reach them, England, 28 May to 10 June 2020. This does not include complex cases

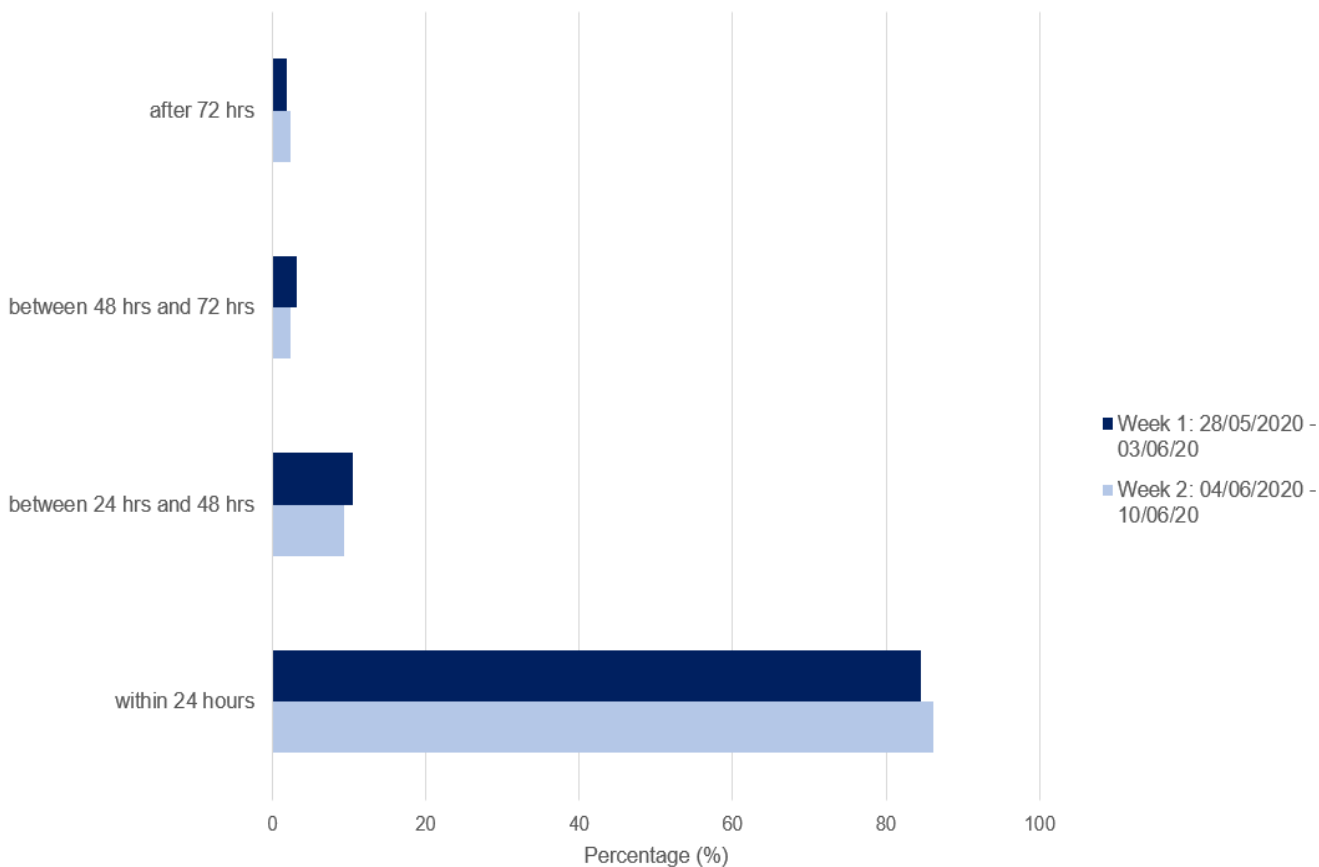


Table 4: People identified as recent close contacts who were advised to self-isolate by time taken to reach them) England, 4 June to 10 June 2020. This excludes complex cases.

	28 May – 3 June: Number of people (Percentage)	4 June – 10 June: Number of people (Percentage)
Within 24 hours	4,471 (84.6%)	4,059 (86.1%)
Between 24 and 48 hours	550 (10.4%)	438 (9.3%)
Between 48 and 72 hours	168 (3.2%)	108 (2.3%)
After 72 hours	93 (1.8%)	110 (2.3%)
Total	5,282	4,715

Measuring the data

How the data were collected

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

Future development

Over June these data will be integrated with those from other parts of NHS Test and Trace, particularly testing, to provide an end-to-end view of the service that follows the user journey.

This will include both the numbers of people engaged and the speed of the journey through the service, including data on test turnaround times.

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

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

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

Quality

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

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

Strengths and limitations

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

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

The figures presented are based on a data cut 6 days after the end of the reporting period, to give time for cases reported at 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.

Experimental statistics

Experimental statistics are statistics that are in the testing phase and not yet fully developed.

[Find out more about experimental statistics from the Governmental Statistics Service \(GSS\)](#)