

# **Weekly statistics for NHS Test and Trace (England): 29 July to 4 August 2021**

# Main points

## People tested, England

- 179,748 people tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least <sup>1</sup> in England between 29 July and 4 August 2021, a 5% decrease compared to the previous week. This is the second consecutive fall in the weekly number of people testing positive since the week ending 5 May 2021.
- 4,092,699 people were tested at least once<sup>1</sup> between 29 July and 4 August 2021 for COVID-19, an 8% decrease from the previous week.

## Pillar 2 testing turnaround times, England

- Turnaround times for pillar 2 (virus testing for the wider population) for all in-person testing routes have increased overall since the week ending 7 July 2021. In the most recent week, 84.9% of in-person tests were received within 24 hours, a decrease compared to 89.3% in the previous week.
- Since the previous reporting week, the median turnaround time for home tests has decreased from 33 hours to 32 hours. The turnaround time for satellite tests has decreased from 35 hours to 33 hours.

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

- In the latest week, the median distance to in-person testing sites (pillar 2) for booked PCR tests has slightly increased to 2.3 miles from 2.2 miles last week. The median distance has been approximately constant since the week ending 20 January 2021.

## Positive cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace

- 161,719 cases were transferred to the contact tracing system between 29 July and 4 August 2021, a decrease of 12% compared to the previous week. The number of cases transferred to the contact tracing system has fallen for the second consecutive since the week ending 5 May 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

- Of the cases transferred to the contact tracing system between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 86.2% were reached and asked to provide information about their recent close contacts. This is a slight decrease from 86.5% observed in the previous week.

### **Close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace**

- Between 29 July and 4 August, 331,593 people<sup>2</sup> were identified as coming into close contact with someone who had tested positive. The number of close contacts identified has fallen for the second consecutive week since the week ending 19 May 2021.
- For those where communication details were available, 92.9% of close contacts were reached and told to self-isolate in the most recent week. Taking into account all contacts identified, 88.3% were reached in the most recent week.

### **Managed quarantine service (MQS)**

- In the latest week, 184,395 people started quarantining at home, an increase of 43% from the previous week, and 10,057 people started quarantining in a managed quarantine hotel, a 5% decrease from the previous week.<sup>3</sup>
- Since the MQS launched on 15 February 2021, 2,313,638 people have started quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel.

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<sup>2</sup> The number of people identified includes duplicates as an individual may be named as a close contact for more than one case. See the [methodology](#) for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for non-red listed arrivals do not include international arrivals who book their PCR tests via a private provider. See the [methodology](#) for more information.

# 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
- people testing positive for COVID-19
- time taken for test results to become available
- distance to in-person test sites for booked PCR tests

## Contact tracing

- people transferred to the contact tracing system, and the time taken for them to be reached
- close contacts identified, and the time taken for them to be reached

## Managed quarantine service

- people quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel
- number of PCR tests processed and how many of these were positive, by international arrivals quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel

## Publication updates

Total LFD tests conducted may be under reported in the most recent week as a minor data quality issue has been discovered affecting around 1% of tests. Work is underway to ensure this is resolved when new figures are released next week.

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](#).

Data and methodology for the NHS COVID-19 app is available on the [NHS COVID-19 app support website](#).

## Revisions to figures previously published

Figures given in previous releases are routinely revised each week going back to the start of Test and Trace for people tested for COVID-19, people testing positive for COVID-19, pillar 2 testing turnaround times, distance to in-person PCR test sites and contact tracing, to the start of the managed quarantine service for people quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel, and to 15 February 2021 for number of PCR tests taken by international arrivals quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel. The figures presented are based on a data cut several days after the end of the reporting period. This is to give time for data relating to the end of the 7-day period to be collected. Some data may continue to be collected after this period, and therefore may need to be revised over time.

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.

For the release on 12 August 2021, the number of people starting their quarantine at home has been revised. This is due to the introduction of private provider provision of amber fully vaccinated services on 19 July 2021. This data can be found in Table 19 of the accompanying data tables.

# 1. NHS Test and Trace

NHS Test and Trace was launched in England on 28 May 2020 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 March, individuals who test positive from an LFD test are asked to take a confirmatory PCR test. A positive LFD result will continue to trigger contact tracing; however, NHS Test and Trace has introduced improvements to automatically inform anyone self-isolating from a positive LFD to stop isolating if the confirmatory PCR is taken promptly and is negative. These individuals will then be removed from the contact tracing process.

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

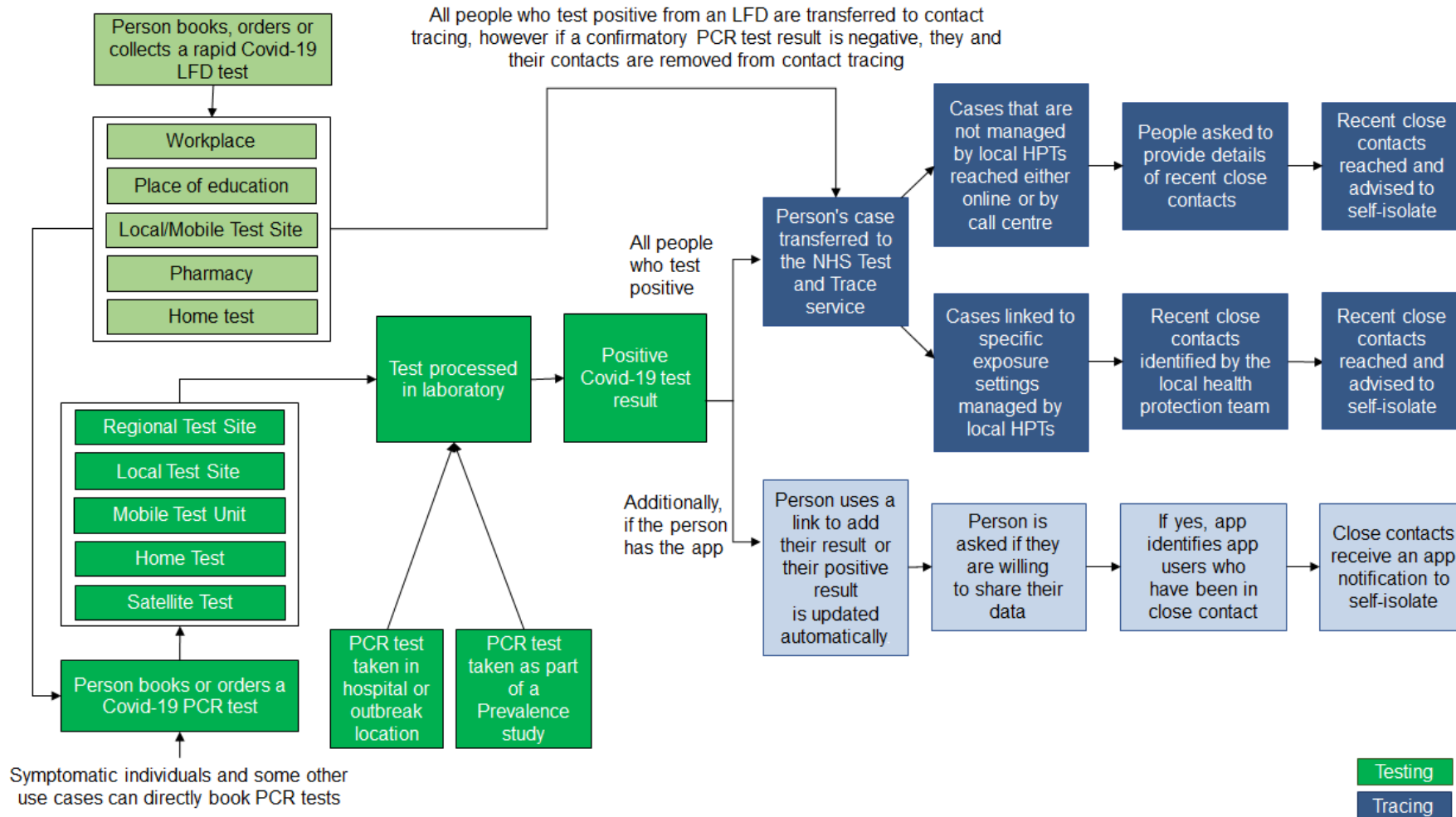


Figure 1 shows the journey a person can take through NHS Test and Trace. This can start with either an LFD COVID-19 test or a PCR COVID-19 test.

For those taking LFD tests, they can collect their test from their workplace, place of education, pharmacy or local/mobile test site. They can also order an LFD test to be delivered to their home. All people who test positive from an LFD are transferred to contact tracing, however if their confirmatory PCR test result is negative, they and their contacts are removed from contact tracing.

All those testing positive from an LFD test are instructed to take a confirmatory PCR test. In addition, symptomatic individuals and some other use cases can directly book a PCR test without taking an LFD test first. PCR tests may also be taken in hospital or outbreak locations or as part of a prevalence study. Booked PCR tests can either be conducted at a regional test site, local test site or mobile test unit; or a satellite or home test can be conducted. After tests have been taken, they are sent to a laboratory for processing. Once processed, a person will be emailed or texted their result.

If a person has a positive COVID-19 test result, then their case is transferred to NHS Test and Trace and can be managed in one of 2 ways. First, cases that are not managed by local health protection teams (HPTs) are reached either online or by a call centre. They are then asked to provide details of recent close contacts. These recent close contacts are then reached by NHS Test and Trace and advised to self-isolate. Second, cases that are linked to certain exposure settings are escalated to local HPTs who work to identify and reach recent close contacts and advise them to self-isolate.

Additionally, if the person has the app and used the app to book their test, their positive result is updated automatically. If they have the app but booked their test via a different route, then they can use a link to add their positive result to the app. Once their positive result is entered into the app, the person is asked if they are willing to share their data and if they say yes, the app identifies other app users who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive. Close contacts then receive an app notification to self-isolate.



## 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, deduplicated for each reporting week.<sup>4</sup> Information on the differences between these types of tests can be found in the methodology document for [NHS Test and Trace statistics](#).

From 7 January 2021, positivity rate is not calculated as part of this publication but can instead be found on the [coronavirus in the UK dashboard](#) for PCR only positive cases in England. This is because the figures in this publication include both PCR and LFD tests and 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 using these figures.

A statistical commentary on rapid testing in England along with data tables for the number of tests conducted, broken down for LFD and PCR tests, is available on the weekly collection page.

The number of people tested and number of people testing positive via PCR tests in each reporting week, by age, gender and local authority is also available on the weekly collection page.

**Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 4,092,699 people were tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once,<sup>5</sup> an 8% decrease compared to the previous week.**

The large increases and decreases in people tested since 8 March 2021 are due to the regular testing of students at schools using rapid tests. These increases and decreases align with the school calendar, with drops during holiday periods and subsequent increases when students return to school.

For more information on rapid testing in schools, see the rapid testing commentary available on the weekly collection page.

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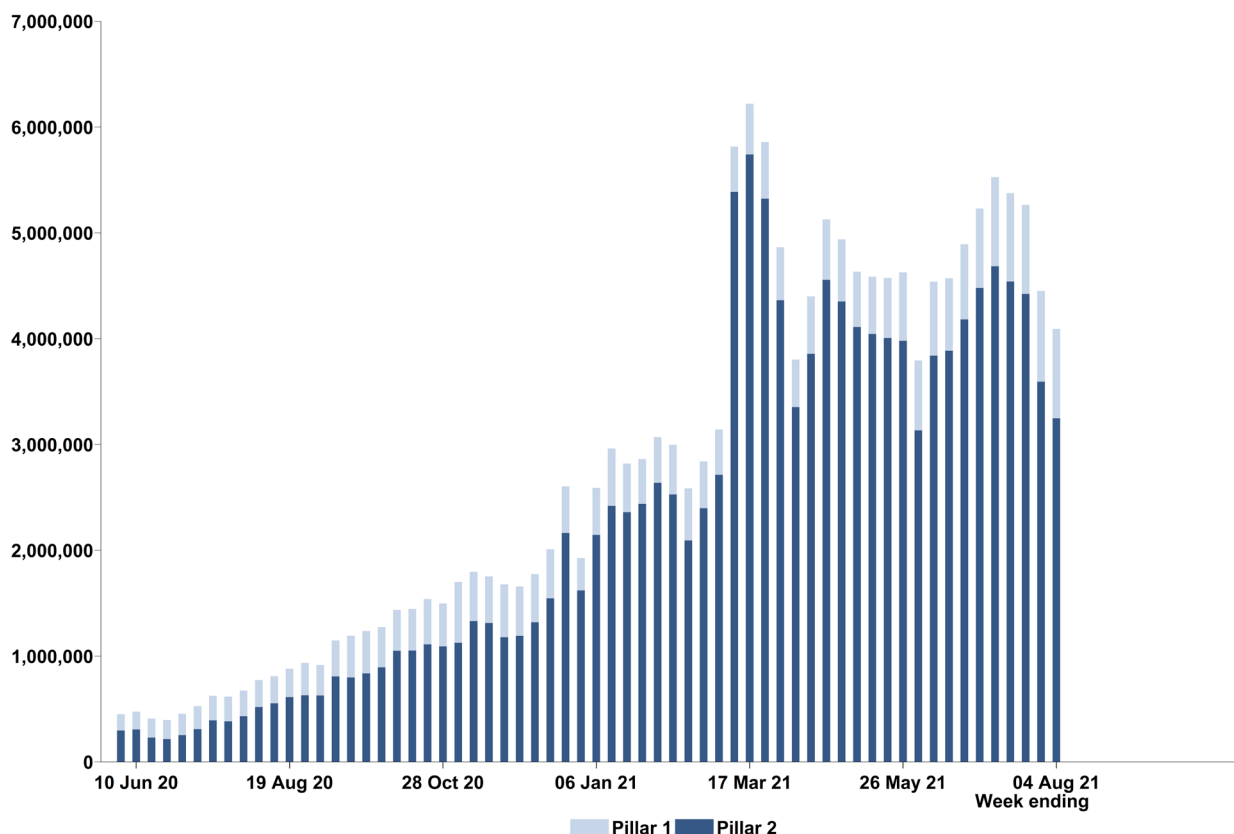
<sup>4</sup> Figures also include a small number of people tested using LAMP tests. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

<sup>5</sup> Deduplicated for the reporting week, methodology was revised from 15 October 2020. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

Prior to 8 March 2021, the number of people tested each week had generally been increasing, although this levelled off slightly between the week ending 6 January and the week ending 3 March.

Since Test and Trace launched at the end of May 2020, 37,225,953 people have been tested at least once<sup>6</sup>.

**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 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

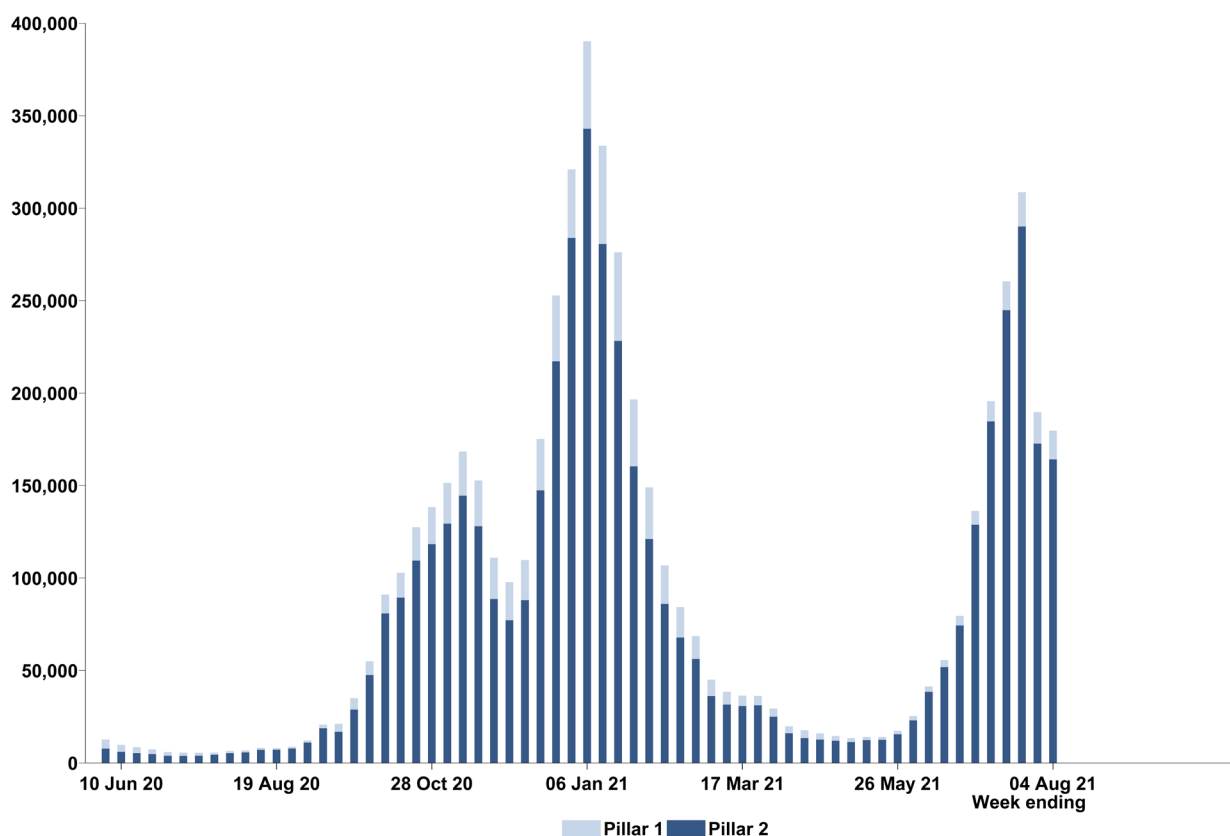
<sup>6</sup> Deduplicated since testing began and the end of the most recent reporting week. People tested multiple times in this time period will only be counted once. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

**Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 179,748 people tested positive<sup>7</sup>, 5% lower than the previous week.**

The number of positive cases had been increasing since the week ending 12 May 2021, however the fall in positive cases this week is the second consecutive weekly decrease since then.

Prior to week ending 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the number of positive cases had been decreasing overall since the week ending 6 January 2021.

**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 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables’ on the weekly collection page.

<sup>7</sup> Deduplicated for the reporting week. See [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#) for more information.

## Pillar 1 testing turnaround times, England

Pillar 1 testing refers to swab testing for the virus in Public Health England (PHE) labs, NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care workers.

Since some pillar 1 tests are conducted in a hospital setting, it is 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).

This data is only available from 9 July 2020 due to differences in the reporting methodologies for NHS and PHE labs. More details can be found in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

### Over 19 out of 20 pillar 1 test results were made available within 24 hours of the laboratory receiving the test.

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 96.5% of pillar 1 test results were made available within 24 hours. Turnaround times for pillar 1 have been above 95% since the week ending 27 January. Since reporting began, 93.7% of test results have been made available within 24 hours.

## Pillar 2 testing turnaround times, England

There are various routes for getting tested within pillar 2 (national swab testing) which has an impact on turnaround times<sup>8</sup>. Data on the time taken to receive a COVID-19 test result for pillar 2 is split up to reflect this. These routes include:

- **in-person tests**, which involve a person being tested in-person at a coronavirus test site. These include:
  - **regional test sites**, which includes drive-through testing centres.
  - **local test sites**<sup>9</sup>, 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.

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<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Previously local test sites were included together with regional test sites but from 17 September 2020 have been split out as a separate group.

- **satellite test centres**, which includes test kits provided directly to ‘satellite’ centres at places like 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.

A lower proportion of home and satellite test results will be available within 24 hours of the test being taken compared to in-person tests due to differences in testing schedules and delivery of tests. Therefore, the percentage of test results received within 24 hours for in-person tests and the percentage of test results received within 48 hours for home and satellite tests are presented in this bulletin. The accompanying data tables contain all turnaround time windows for all testing routes.

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. Therefore, we also provide the percentage of tests turned around the day after a test was taken where appropriate. The median turnaround times are also given as an indication of the average time taken.

Turnaround times are measured and reported in 2 ways:

- time from **booking** a test to receive a test result
- time from **taking** a test to receive a test result.

All figures presented in this bulletin relate to time from taking a test. Both measures are available in full in the accompanying data tables. More information on these definitions is in the terminology section and the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

Lateral flow device (LFD) tests are not included in this section on turnaround times as they do not require processing in a lab.

**The median time to receive a test result after taking a test in-person had been stable overall since January 2021 but has decreased in the past week.**

Since the week ending 23 December 2020, the median time taken to receive a test result for in-person tests has decreased overall and had been relatively stable since the week ending 27 January 2021. Recently between the week ending 2 June 2021 and the week ending 21 July 2021 times increased, however since then they have fallen to their current values.

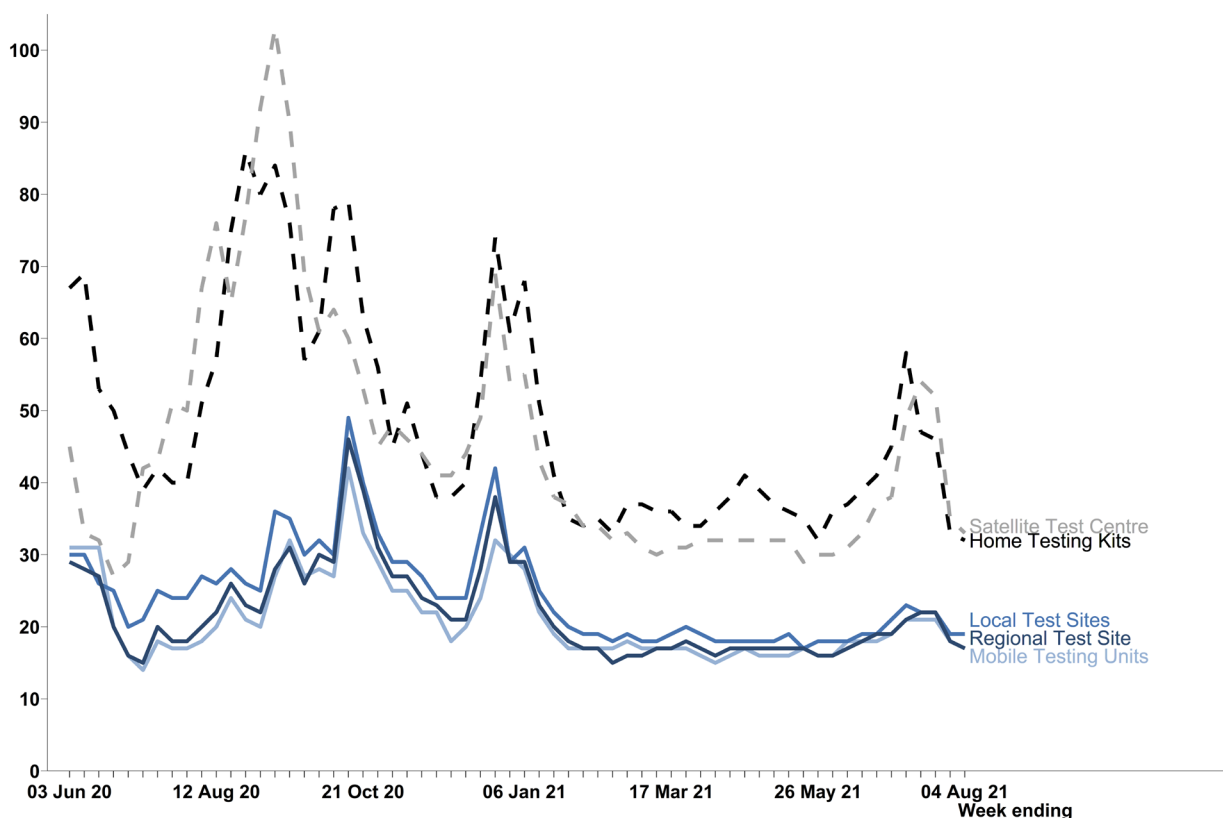
As with the in-person tests, the median time taken to receive a test result for home testing kits and satellite test centres has decreased overall since the week ending 23 December

2020. Between the week ending 26 May 2021 and the week ending 21 July 2021, median times increased overall, however they have fallen since.

**Table 1: median time taken (hours) to receive test result, by route, England**

	Previous reporting week	Current reporting week	Since Test and Trace launched: 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021
Regional test site	18	17	22
Local test site	19	19	23
Mobile testing unit	18	17	21
Satellite test centre	35	33	40
Home testing kit	33	32	45

**Figure 4: median time (hours) from taking a test to receiving test results by route, England**



This data can be found in the 'table\_8' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

**In the latest week, the percentage of test results received within 24 hours for in-person tests has decreased compared with the previous week, while the percentage within 48 hours for home testing kits and satellite test centres has increased.**

In the most recent week, 84.9% of in-person test results were received within 24 hours, decreasing from 89.3% in the previous week.

The percentage of results received within 24 hours has increased overall since the week ending 23 December 2020 and was above 80% between the week ending 27 January 2021 and the week ending 23 June 2021. The percentage of test results received within 24 hours had decreased sharply in recent weeks, however, it has now returned to the levels seen at the start of June.

If we consider the day the test was taken, 92.3% of in-person tests results were received the next day after the test was taken in the most recent week.

76.0% of test results were received within 48 hours for home test kits and satellite test centres, compared to 72.6% in the previous week. For satellite test centres, 93.5% were received within 72 hours, an increase from the previous week. 95.6% of satellite tests were received within 3 days after the day they were taken, which is an increase from the 89.2% reported in the previous week.

For all routes combined, 42.6% of tests from all test sites were received within 24 hours of a test being taken compared to 43.4% in the previous week. If we consider the day the test was taken, 69.1% of all test results were received the next day after the test was taken.

**Table 2: percentage of results received within 24 hours (in-person tests) or within 48 hours (home and satellite tests), by route, England**

	Previous reporting week	Current reporting week	Since Test and Trace launched: 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021
Regional test sites within 24 hours	90.1	87.7	56.2
Local test sites within 24 hours	87.5	82.3	52.7
Mobile testing units within 24 hours	91.2	86.6	61.7
Satellite test centres within 48 hours	71.2	77.0	62.2
Home testing kits within 48 hours	77.1	72.7	52.8

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

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

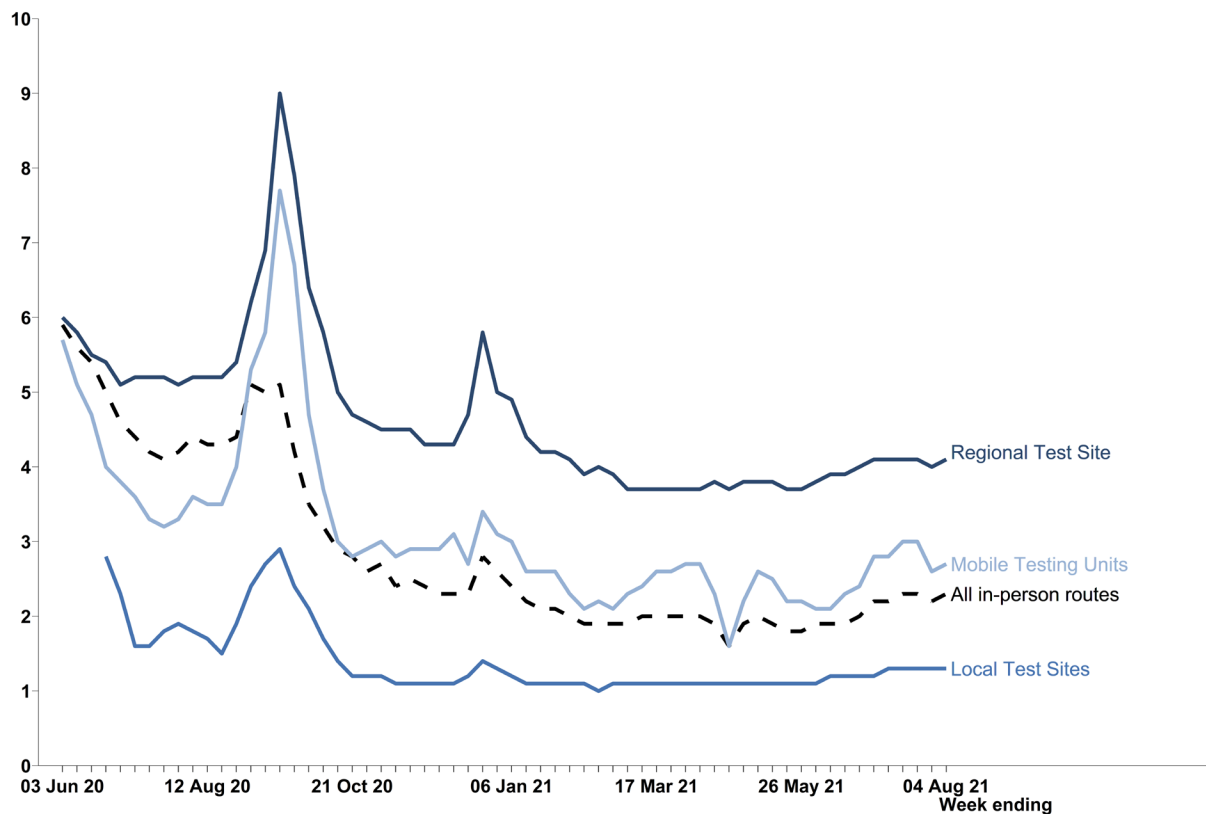
### **The median distance to in-person PCR testing sites for booked tests has slightly increased from the previous week.**

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, the median distance to an in-person PCR test site has increased from 2.2 miles to 2.3 miles. 90% of people who booked a test at a test centre lived 11.0 miles or less away.

From mid-August to mid-September 2020, the distance to PCR testing sites for booked tests increased across in-person routes. However, since mid-September 2020, the distance to PCR testing sites for booked tests has decreased overall and has been at approximately 2.0 miles since the week ending 20 January 2021.



**Figure 5: median distance (miles) to testing sites for tests booked at an in-person PCR test site by route, England**



This data can be found in the 'table\_9' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' On the weekly collection page.

## 1.2 Contact tracing in England

Once a person has a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19)<sup>10</sup>, 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 2020. 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'.

From 18 March 2021, only outbreaks in care homes are handled by 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 decreased in the latest week.**

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 161,719 cases were transferred to the contact tracing system, a 12% decrease compared to the previous week. The number of cases transferred has fallen for the second consecutive week, reversing the previous trend which had seen cases rise in every week since the week ending 5 May 2021.

**Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, over 8 in every 10 cases transferred to the contact tracing system were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts.**

Out of the 161,719 cases transferred to the contact tracing system in the latest week, 139,422 (86.2%) were reached, 21,788 (13.5%) were not reached and 509 (0.3%) had no communication details provided. Since Test and Trace launched, 86.8% of all cases have been reached.

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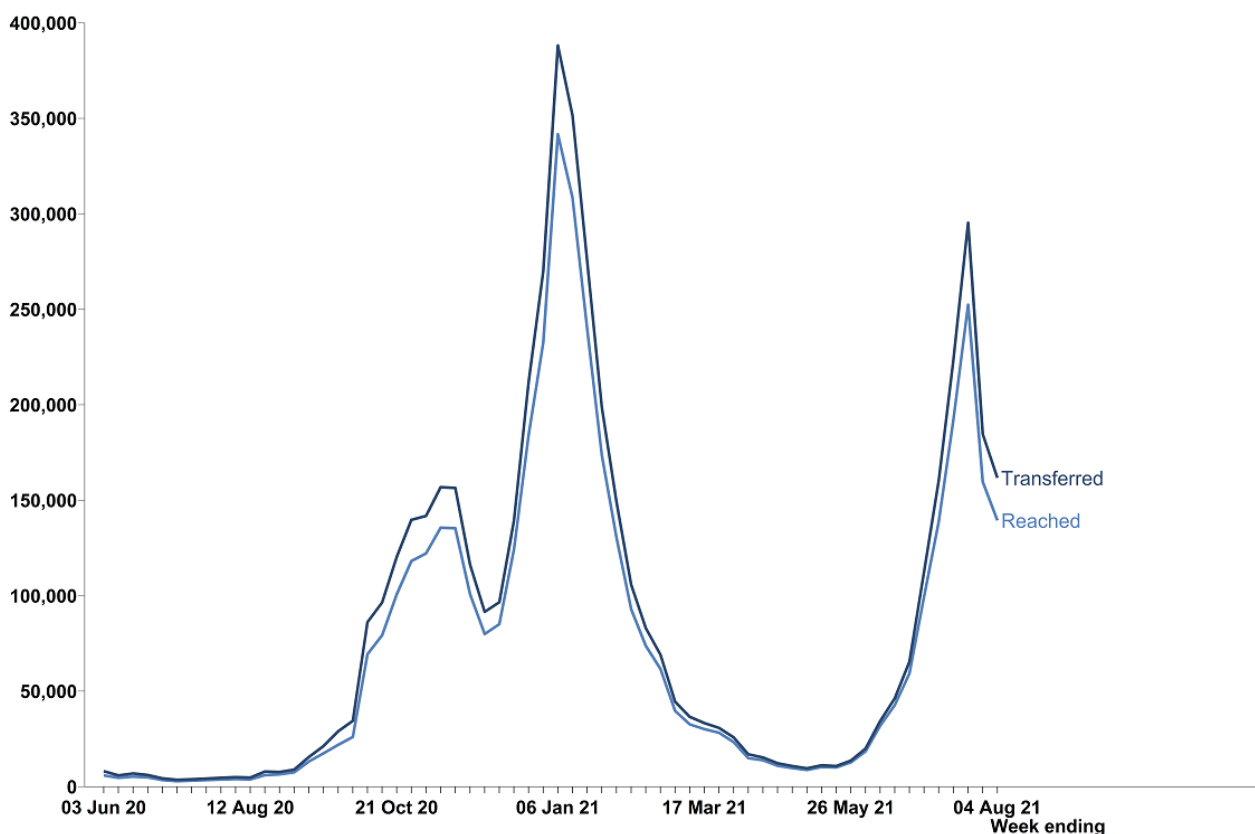
<sup>10</sup> All confirmed positive test results under pillar 1 and pillar 2 should be transferred. In addition, all positive virus test results as part of prevalence studies (pillar 4) are also transferred to Test and Trace. People tested under pillar 3 (serology testing to show if people have antibodies from having had COVID-19) do not have their cases transferred to NHS Test and Trace.

In the latest week, 692 cases who were reached and asked to provide details of close contacts were managed by local health protection teams (HPTs), whereas 138,730 cases 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. Therefore, cases who 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 cases transferred to the contact tracing system and number of cases 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\_10' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly publication page.

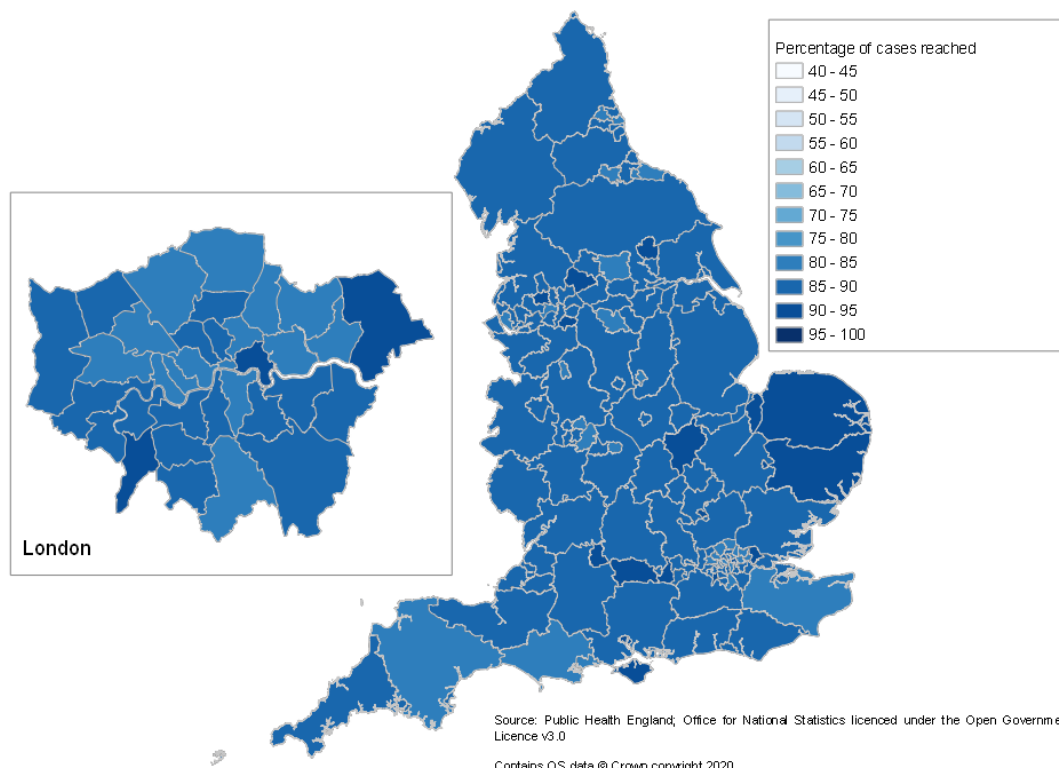
**Table 3: cases transferred to the contact tracing system (includes cases managed and not managed by local HPTs) by whether they were reached and asked to provide contact details, England<sup>11</sup>**

	Previous reporting week	Current reporting week	Since Test and Trace launched: 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021
<b>People who were reached and asked to provide details of recent close contacts</b>	159,655 (86.5%)	139,422 (86.2%)	4,513,314 (86.8%)
People not managed by local HPTs	159,093	138,730	4,368,272
People managed by local HPTs	562	692	145,042
<b>People who were not reached</b>	24,516(13.3%)	21,788 (13.50%)	629,678 (12.1%)
<b>People whose communication details were not provided</b>	562(0.2%)	509(0.3%)	58,718 (1.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,614</b>	<b>161,719</b>	<b>5,201,710</b>

<sup>11</sup> 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 as an [interactive map](#) and to download as a csv on the weekly collection page.<sup>12</sup>

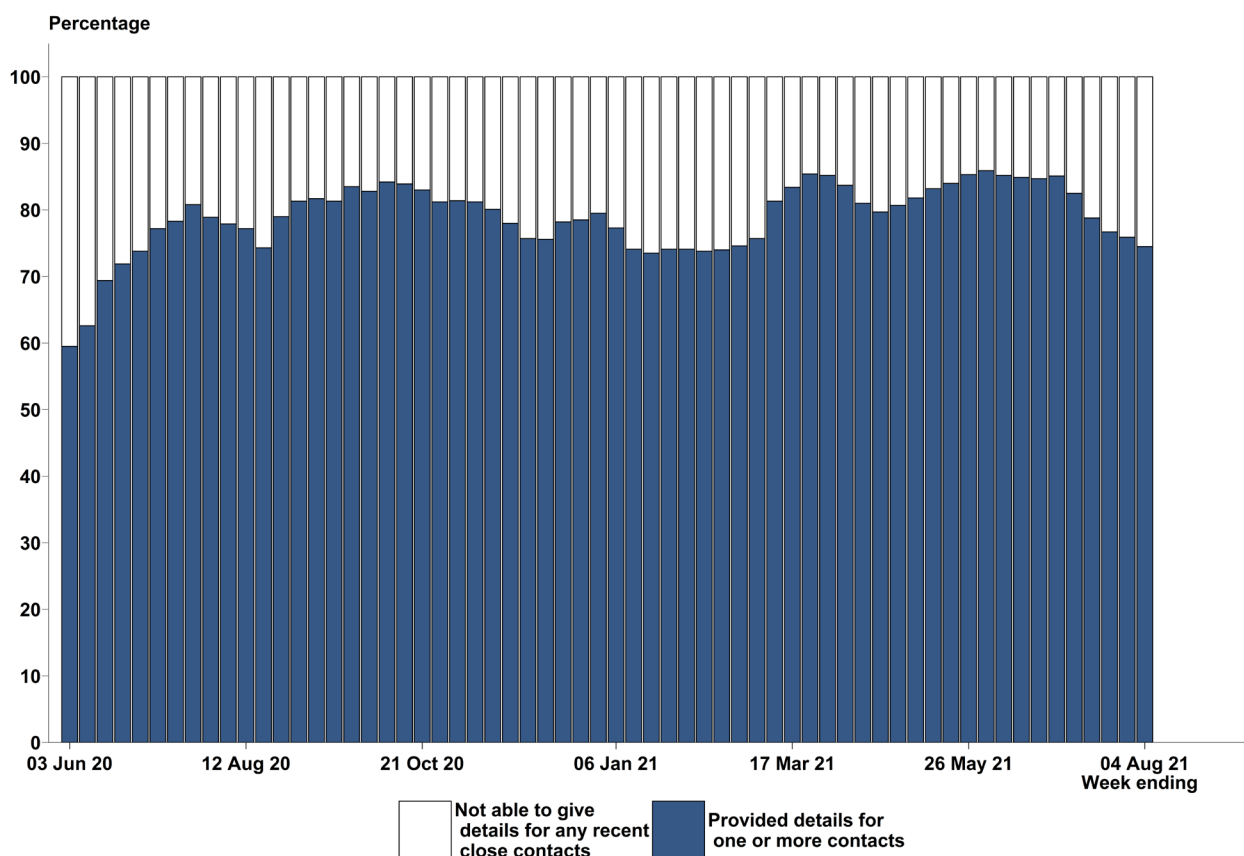
<sup>12</sup> The regional data uses a different data cut to the main publication therefore cumulative totals will not exactly match. The data is available for the cumulative figures since Test and Trace launched up to the most recent week of reporting. Due to revisions that occur each week one week's cumulative figures cannot be subtracted from a previous week's to obtain weekly data by UTLA.

**In the latest week, almost 3 in every 4 people who were reached and asked to provide information about their contacts, provided one or more close contacts.**

Out of the 139,422 people reached between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 103,857 (74.5%) provided details of one or more close contacts. This is a decrease from the previous week, in which 75.9% of people reached provided details of one or more contact.

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).

**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\_11' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

The breakdown for method used to reach cases is not currently available. Further information is given in the [NHS Test and Trace methodology](#).

## Close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace

**The number of close contacts identified has decreased by 18% in the latest week.**

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 331,593 people<sup>13</sup> were identified as recent close contacts, of which 330,470 (99.7%) were not managed by local HPTs and 1,123 (0.3%) were managed by local HPTs.

The number of contacts not managed by local HPTs increased between the weeks ending 2 December 2020 and 6 January 2021 but decreased afterwards. Since the week ending 19 May 2021, the number of closed contacts identified had been increasing, however this week is the second consecutive weekly decrease since.

From 18 November 2020, 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 2020, 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.

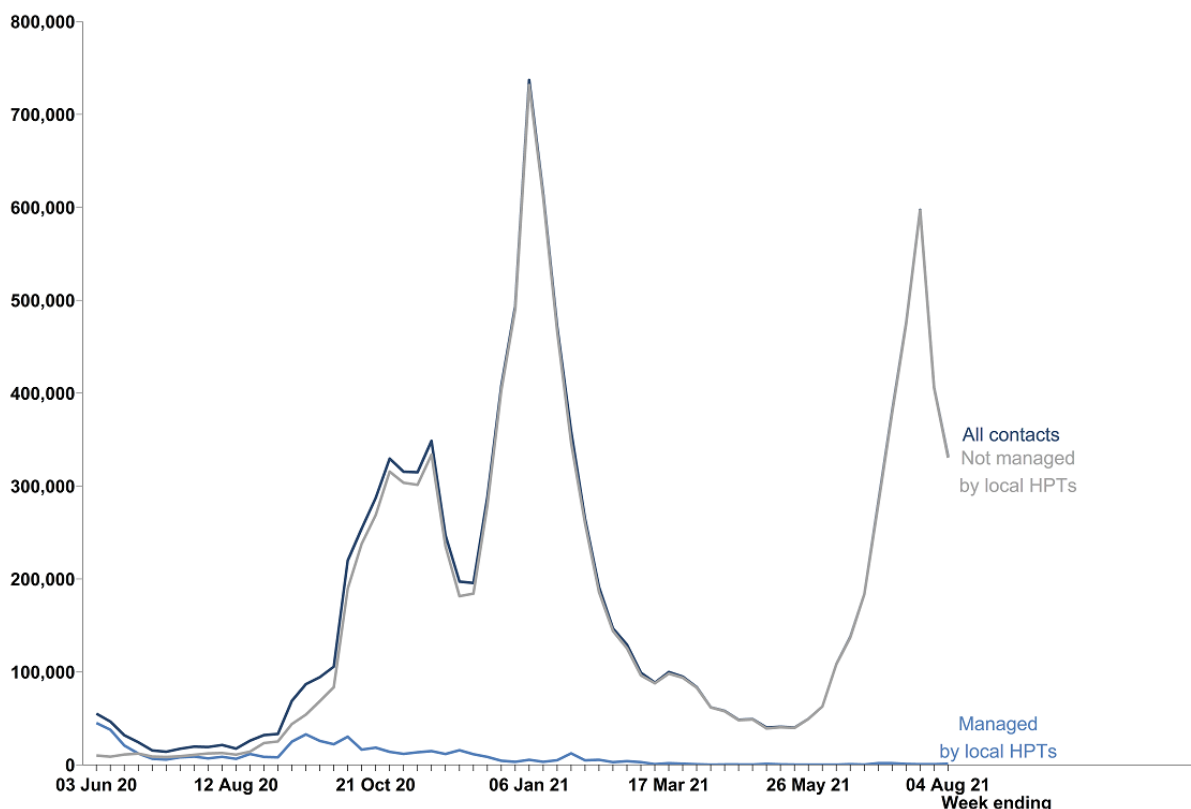
Considering only the contacts where communication details were provided, 92.9% were reached and told to self-isolate in the most recent week. This is a decrease from the 93.5% observed in the previous week.

**Figure 9: number of recent close contacts identified, England**

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<sup>13</sup> The number of people identified includes duplicates as an individual may be named as a close contact for more than one case. See the [methodology](#) for more information.





This data can be found in the 'table\_13' tab in 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

**88.3% of contacts not managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate in the latest week.**

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 330,470 recent close contacts not managed by local HPTs were identified of which 291,794 (88.3%) were reached and told to self-isolate. Despite the numbers of contacts increasing rapidly over the last few weeks the percentage of contacts reached has increased overall since the week ending 16 June 2021. In the latest week, 22,436 (6.8%) contacts not managed by local HPTs were not reached and 16,240 (4.9%) people had no communication details. For more information on the different outcomes of contact tracing see the terminology section.

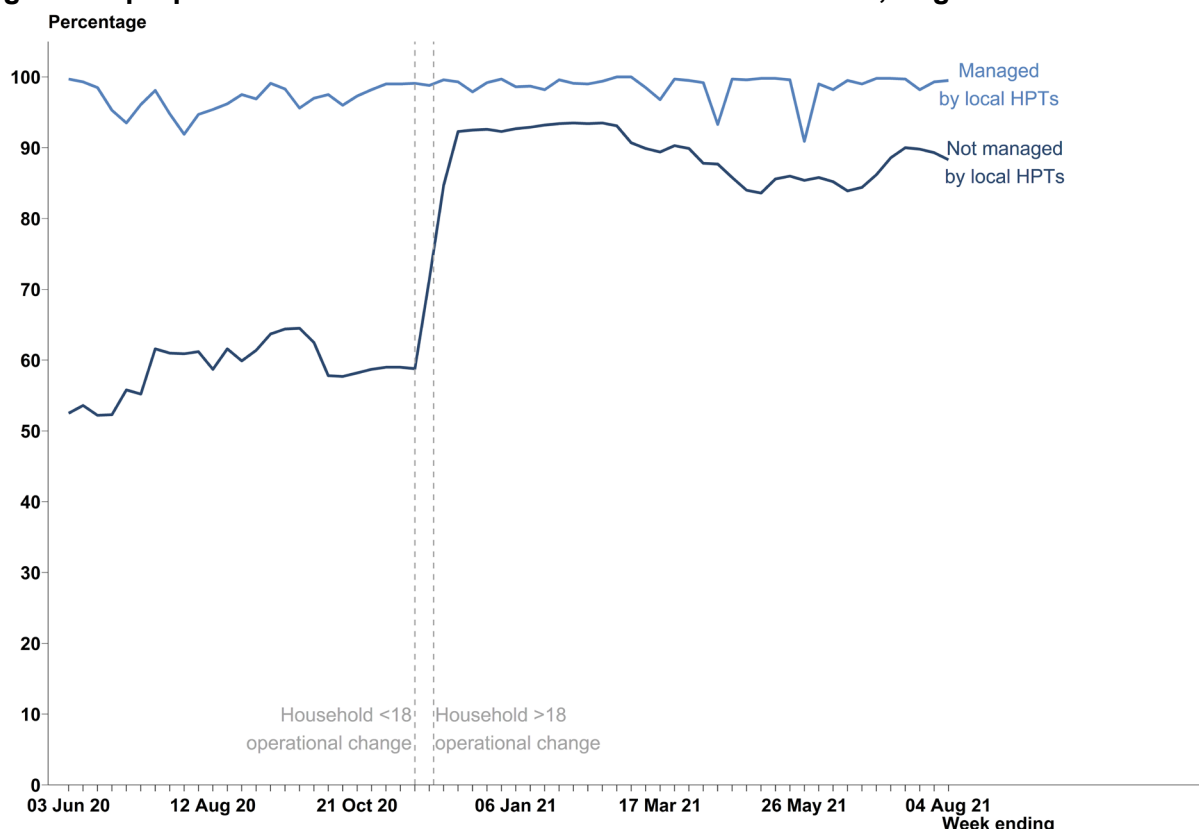
**99.5% of contacts managed by local HPTs were reached and told to self-isolate.**

Between 21 July and 4 August 2021, 1,123 close contacts were identified who were managed by local HPTs, of which 1,117 (99.5%) were reached and told to self-isolate and

6 (0.5%) were not reached. Since Test and Trace launched, 98.0% 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. 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 10: proportion of contacts reached and told to self-isolate, England<sup>14</sup>**

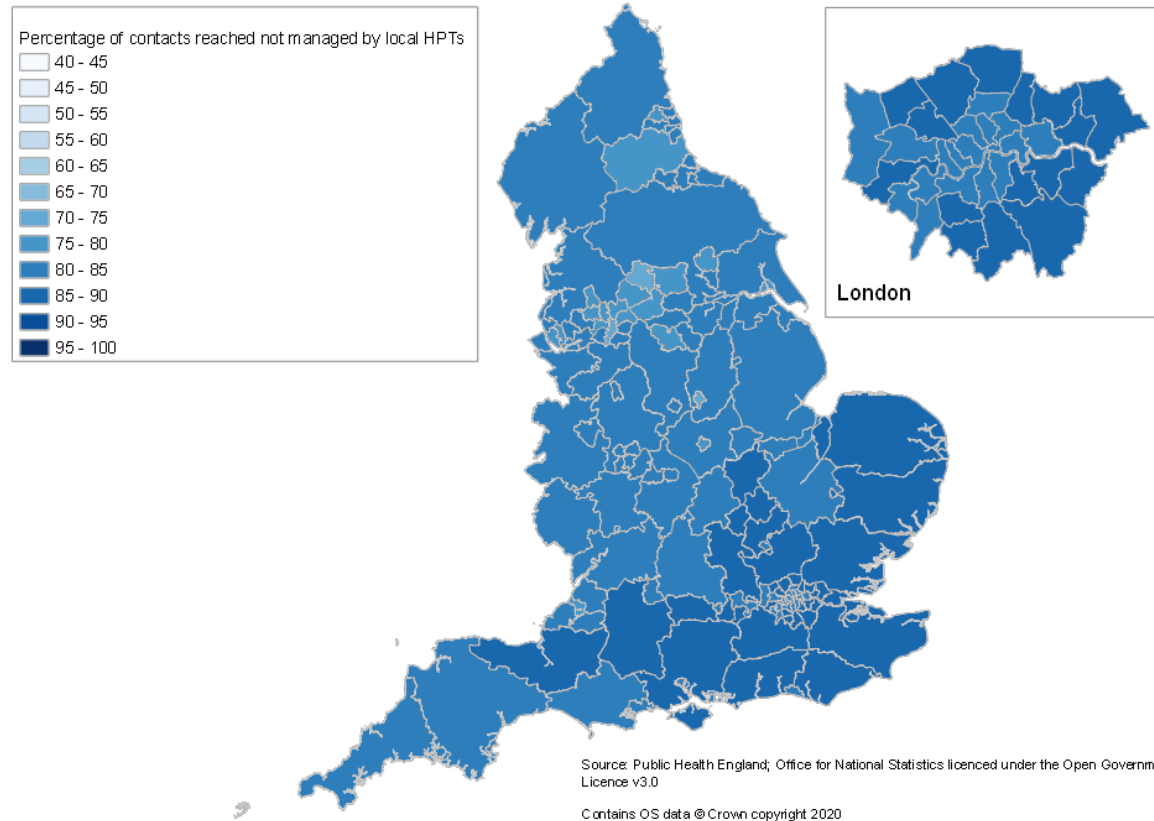


This data can be found in the 'table\_13' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

<sup>14</sup> 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 (UTLA)

Figure 11: percentage of contacts not managed by local HPTs who were reached and told to self-isolate by UTLA since Test and Trace began



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This data is available as an [interactive map](#) or to download as a csv on the weekly publication collection page.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> 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 weeks to obtain weekly data by UTLA.

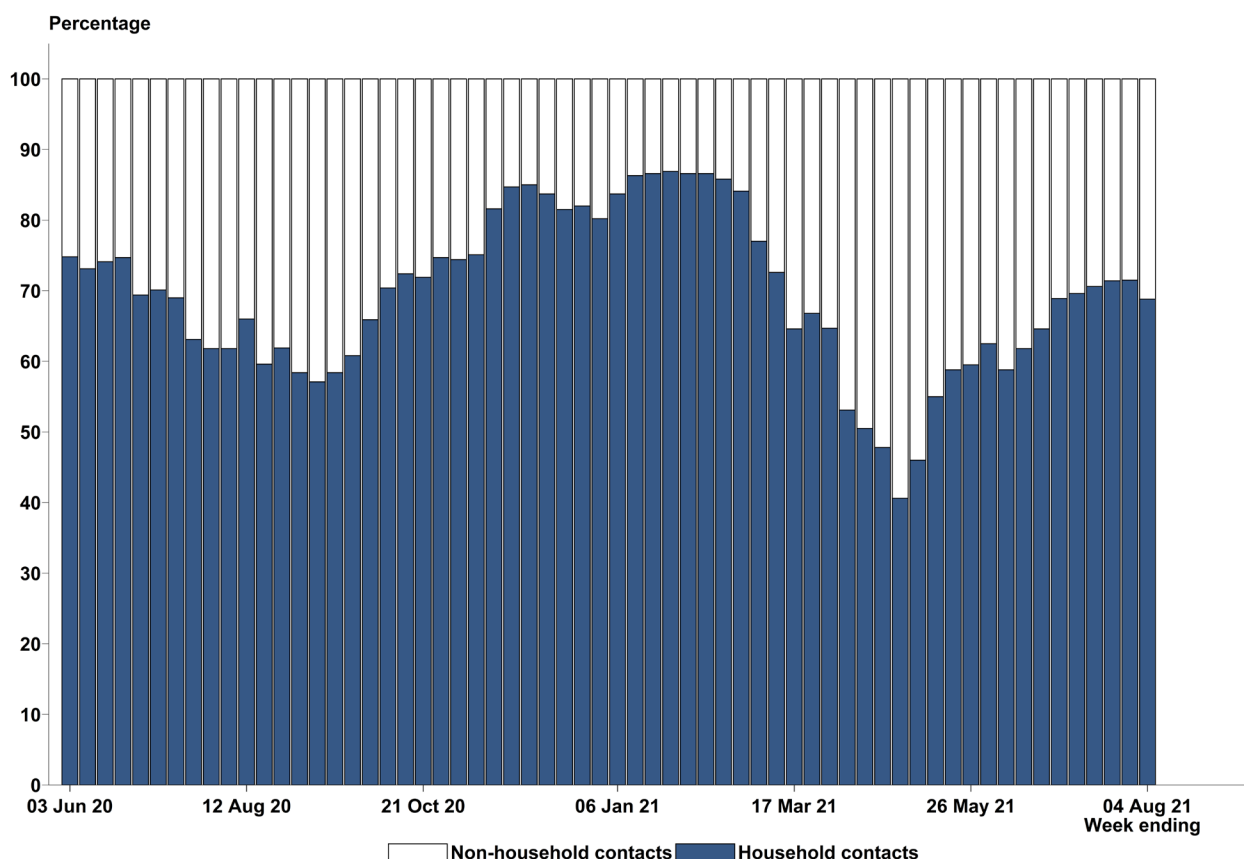
**In the most recent week, over 6 in every 10 contacts not managed by local HPTs were from the same household as the case they were identified from, a decrease from the previous week.**

The proportion of close contacts not managed by local HPTs that were from the same household as the case they were identified from decreased overall from the week ending 20 January 2021. Between the weeks ending 10 February and 28 April, the proportion of household contacts decreased to 40.6%. Since this dip there has been an overall increase to the current proportion of 68.8%.

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 96.7% of household contacts were successfully reached and told to self-isolate. This is a decrease from the previous week.

In the latest reporting week, 69.8% of contacts who were from a different household to the case from which they were identified were successfully reached and told to self-isolate. This is an increase from the 69.6% reported in the previous week.

**Figure 12: 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\_14' tab of the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly publication collection page.



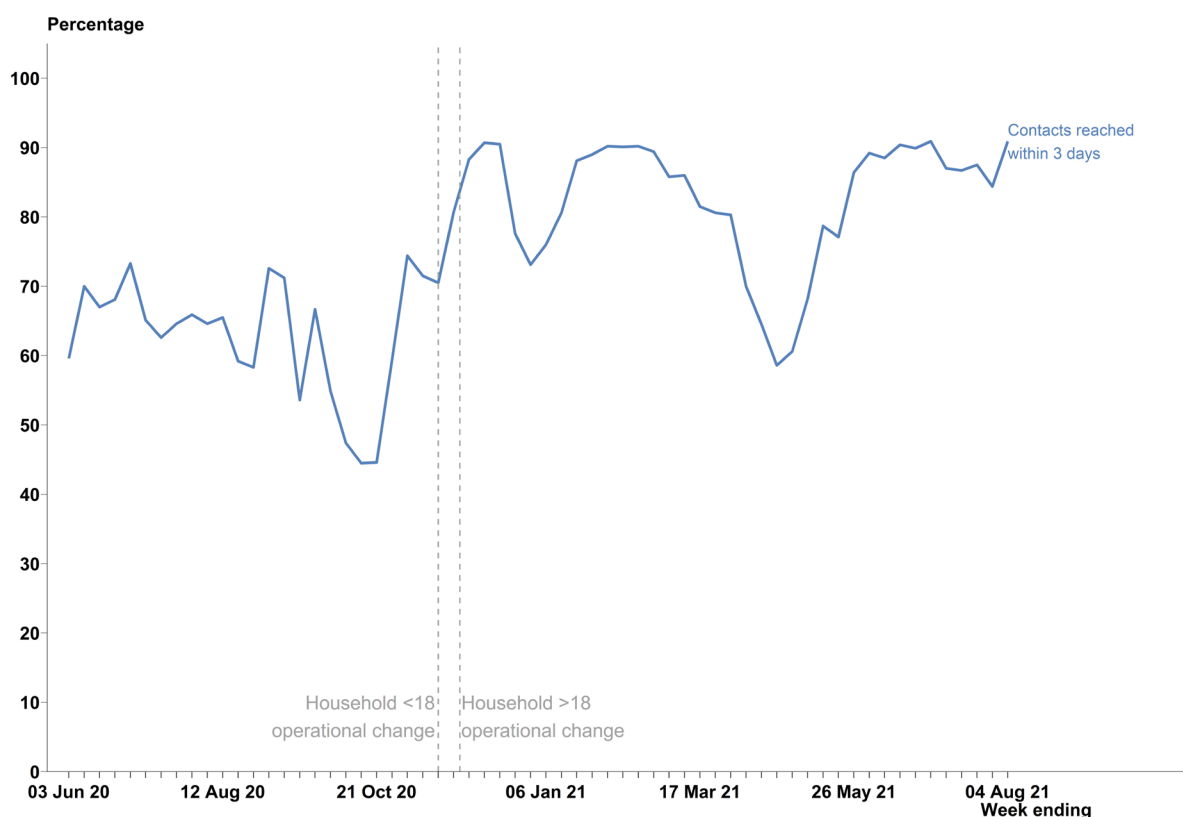
## NHS Test and Trace end to end timing metrics

**For contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate, over 9 out of 10 were reached within 3 days of the case that reported them taking their test.**

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 260,043 (90.9%) contacts that were reached and told to self-isolate were reached within 3 days of the case that reported them taking a test which subsequently returned a positive result. This is an increase from 84.4% in the previous week.

The percentage reached within 3 days decreased from week ending 9 December 2020 over the Christmas period and returned to those levels afterwards, before decreasing again in March and April 2021. Since then, the percentage has increased overall, reaching a peak last seen in week ending 30 June 2021.

**Figure 13: proportion of recent close contacts who were told to self-isolate within 3 days of the case taking a test (excludes cases managed by local HPTs), England**



This data can be found in the 'table\_17' tab in the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

This is an end to end measure, and therefore is comprised of several subsidiary measures. Table 3 provides the timing metrics from when a case is transferred into the contact tracing system.

**Table 4: contact tracing timing metrics, England**

	Previous reporting week	Current reporting week	Since Test and Trace launched: 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021
Percentage of cases not managed by local HPTs reached and asked to provide details about close contacts within 24 hours of their case being transferred to contact tracing	81.7%	82.5%	74.2%
Percentage of contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate who were reached within 24 hours of being identified	98.0%	97.9%	93.7%
Percentage of contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate who were reached within 24 hours of the case that reported them being transferred to the contact tracing system	73.5%	75.5%	67.4%

Note that because the timing statistics given in table 4 are from when a case was transferred to the contact tracing system, delays in transferring cases to contact tracing will not be captured. However, they will be captured in the full end to end measure from when the test was taken.

**For contacts not managed by local HPTs who were told to self-isolate, the median time taken for contacts to be reached from the case that identified them reporting to first observe symptoms<sup>16</sup> was 78 hours.**

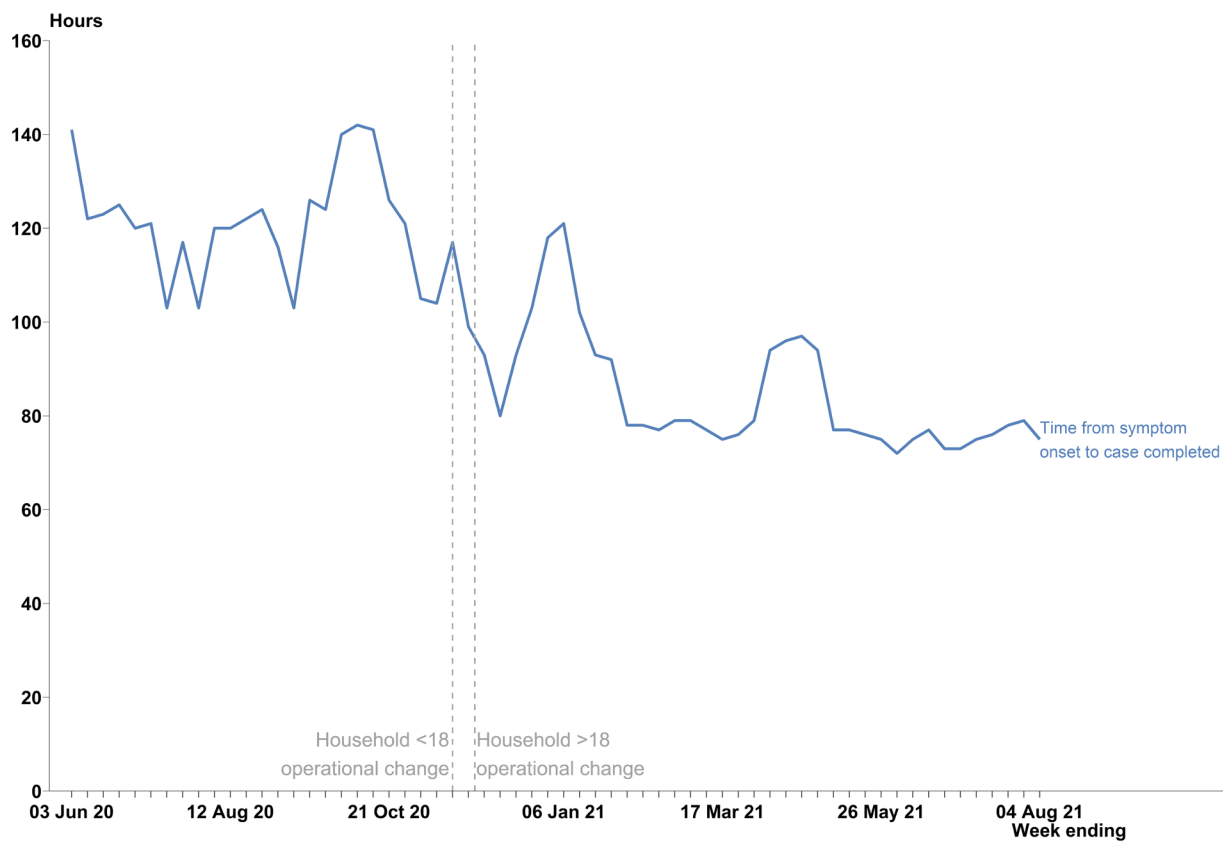
Since October 2020 there has been an overall decrease in the median time taken for contacts to be reached from the case that identified them first reporting symptoms. The median time increased in April 2021, but since the week ending 21 April 2021, it has decreased overall to its current value. In the most recent week, the median time has decreased from 79 hours to 75 hours.

Please note this data only includes contacts reported by cases who reported to experience at least one symptom. This data is collected by asking symptomatic people who tested positive and were subsequently reached by NHS Test and Trace to recall which day they first observed coronavirus symptoms. More information is available in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

<sup>16</sup> The date a case first observed symptoms is the date they reported to NHS Test and Trace after a positive test. This only includes contacts where the case that reports them reporting experiencing at least one symptom to NHS Test and Trace.



**Figure 14: median time from case first reporting symptoms to contact reached (excludes cases managed by local HPTs), England**



This data can be found in the 'table\_18 tab in the 'NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May 2020 to 4 August 2021: data tables' on the weekly collection page.

## 1.3 Managed quarantine service (MQS)

### Background on the Service

From 15 February 2021, individuals<sup>17</sup> allowed to enter England from an amber or red listed country or territory may have to quarantine for 10 days and take a PCR test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of quarantining as part of the Managed Quarantine Service (MQS).

People arriving in England who have visited or passed through a country and territory where travel to the UK is banned (red list countries and territories<sup>18</sup>) are required to quarantine in a managed quarantine hotel. Only British or Irish Nationals or people with residence rights in the UK are allowed to do this. People arriving from amber list countries and territories are required to quarantine at home<sup>19</sup>.

Under the traffic light framework set out on 9 April (to take effect from 17 May), those returning to England from green list countries and territories are not required to quarantine and need to present a negative pre-departure test to be taken within the 72 hours before departure, as well as a PCR test on or before day 2 of their arrival in England.

A country or territory may be designated green, amber or red following a ministerial decision-making process. Designations of countries and territories are published by the Department for Transport and are reviewed on a regular basis. Therefore, they are subject to change and the data released will reflect the lists as they were on the date of release. For more detail see [guidance on entering the UK](#).

This bulletin only contains data relating to red list and amber list countries and territories. Table 21 in the accompanying data tables contains data for all countries and territories (including green list countries and territories) where a traveller has been registered in the corresponding time period. A full explanation of the data sources and methods used to produce these statistics can be found in the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

### People starting quarantine

Since the MQS launched on 15 February 2021, 2,313,638 people have started quarantining at home or in a managed quarantine hotel. Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 194,452 people started quarantining, compared to 139,489 in the previous week.

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<sup>17</sup> Full guidance on who is required to quarantine can be found on [Quarantine and testing if you've been in an amber list country](#)

<sup>18</sup> See the [current countries on the red travel ban list](#)

<sup>19</sup> See the [countries on the amber travel list](#)

The number of international arrivals from amber list countries and territories had been steadily rising since the inception of MQS in February 2021, until a brief drop between the weeks ending 21 April 2021 and 19 May 2021. In the latest week the number of people starting their quarantine period at home has risen from 128,908 to 184,395. This is the largest this figure has been to date, and the second consecutive week on week rise since the week ending 23 June 2021.

The number of people starting their quarantine in a hotel had also been rising steadily since February but has been gradually decreasing since the week ending 30 June 2021 and is 10,057 for the current week.

Since 10 March 2021, international arrivals arriving from amber list countries and territories have had the option to book their quarantine package through a private provider. As of the publication on 8 July 2021, these figures are now included in the data. The proportion of quarantine packages that are purchased through a private provider has been steadily rising since its introduction and since week ending 26 May, private bookings account for approximately 90% of all home quarantine packages booked. For more information, see the [NHS Test and Trace statistics methodology](#).

**Table 5: number of people starting their quarantine at home or in a managed quarantine hotel, England**

	<b>Previous reporting week: number of people starting quarantine</b>	<b>Current reporting week: number of people starting quarantine</b>	<b>Since MQS launched. 15 February to 4 August 2021: number of people starting quarantine</b>
People starting quarantine at home	128,908	184,395	2,161,510
People starting quarantine in a managed quarantine hotel	10,581	10,057	152,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,489</b>	<b>194,452</b>	<b>2,313,638</b>

## People taking tests

Between 29 July and 4 August 2021, 200,591 registered and processed tests have been taken by people quarantining at home and 17,561 registered and processed tests have been taken by people quarantining in a managed quarantine hotel. International arrivals who are quarantining at home have the option to book their PCR tests through a private provider. From the publication on 8 July onward, these tests are now included in the totals,

and across the month of June accounted for approximately 90% of PCR tests taken by people quarantining at home.

The number of tests registered and processed each week will not be the same as the number of people quarantining in that same week for several reasons:

- The cohort of people starting their quarantine will not be the same cohort of people who take their day 2 test in a given week. For example, people starting their quarantine towards the end of the week will have their day 2 tests fall into the following week.
- There may be differences in the population quarantining and those who are required to take a test, for example children under 5 do not need to take a test.
- Passengers with a positive test on day 2 are not required to take a day 8 test.
- Correct completion and return of test data is required by the person taking the test to ensure that tests are correctly registered.

**Table 6: number of registered and processed PCR taken by people quarantining at home, England**

	<b>Previous reporting week: number of tests processed and registered</b>	<b>Current reporting week: number of tests processed and registered</b>	<b>Total 25 March to 4 August 2021: number of tests processed and registered</b>
Day 2 – Quarantining at home (amber list arrivals)	103,121	125,731	1,550,795
Day 8 – Quarantining at home (amber list arrivals)	57,595	48,885	1,148,930
Day 5 – Quarantining at home (amber list arrivals) Test to Release	30,168	25,975	328,028
Total registered tests processed (amber list arrivals)	190,884	200,591	3,027,753

**Table 7: number of registered and processed PCR taken by people quarantining at a managed quarantine hotel, England**

	<b>Previous reporting week: number of tests processed and registered</b>	<b>Current reporting week: number of tests processed and registered</b>	<b>Total 25 March to 4 August 2021: number of tests processed and registered</b>
Day 2 – Quarantining at managed quarantine hotel (red list arrivals)	9,334	10,679	152,691
Day 8 – Quarantining at managed quarantine hotel (red list arrivals)	5,530	6,882	101,643
Total registered tests processed (red list arrivals)	14,864	17,561	254,334

The total number of PCR tests processed for passengers at home includes tests not registered to an individual. The full breakdown of tests registered and not registered across day 2 and day 8 for people quarantining at home can be found in ‘Table 20’ of the accompanying data tables.

The total number of PCR tests processed for passengers in a hotel only includes the number of tests that have been correctly registered. Evidence of negative tests or an extended stay following a positive test must be presented by passengers in hotels before they are able to leave.

When countries are moved on to the red list, an increase in passenger numbers in hotels may be seen. This will be reflected in an increase in day 2 tests. These passengers may not have had a day 8 test in the same reporting period.

People quarantining in England at home can end their quarantine early through the test to release scheme. This lets people choose to pay for a private COVID-19 test where it meets the minimum testing standards after they have been in England for 5 full days. If the results of the test are negative, quarantine can be ended. If positive, quarantine should be

extended for 10 days after taking the test. The private tests booked through this scheme are in addition to the day 2 and day 8 tests booked as part of the managed quarantine service. This data is now available in table 20 of the accompanying data tables.

In the latest week for arrivals from Amber-listed countries, 1,494 (1.2%) Day 2 tests on Amber arrivals were positive, compared to 384 (0.8%) Day 8 tests and 147 (0.6%) Test to Release tests.

For arrivals from Red-listed countries, 199 (1.9%) Day 2 tests processed were positive compared to 130 (1.4%) the previous week. While 55 (0.8%) Day 8 tests were positive compared to 46 (0.8%) the previous week.

Across the whole of the MQS programme to date, Day 2 tests in managed quarantine hotels has seen the highest proportion of positive tests, with 1.8% of tests processed returning a positive result

## **Risk assessment status, people tested, positivity and variants by country and territory**

Countries and territories are risk assessed based on data from a number of sources to determine whether they should be added to the list of countries and territories requiring quarantine at a managed quarantine hotel upon return (red list countries and territories), or at-home quarantining (amber list countries and territories). For more information on these decisions, please see the [COVID-19 risk assessment methodology document](#).

Passengers are asked to report their recent travel history when returning to the UK so that the number of positive test results taken while under managed quarantine, as well as the number of VOCs and VUIs sequenced from these positive tests, can be considered when assessing the risk of travel and whether countries and territories should be assigned to the red list.

Data for risk assessment status, testing, positivity and variants by country or territory can be found in the 'table 21' tab of the accompanying data tables. While the other managed quarantine service data tables will be updated weekly, Table 21 will be updated every three weeks following this publication and will consider a three-week reference period. This will align the data with the Joint Biosecurity Centre's assessments of the latest data, which are also conducted every three weeks. All weeks will be covered by the data.



## 2. Terminology

### 2.1 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 partnerships<sup>20</sup>, 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:
  - **in-person tests**, which involve a person being tested in-person at a coronavirus test site. These include:
    - **regional test sites**, which includes drive-through testing centres
    - **local test sites**<sup>21</sup>, 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 such as 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

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<sup>20</sup> See more detail in [Scaling up our testing programmes](#).

<sup>21</sup> Previously local test sites were included together with regional test sites but from 17 September 2020 have been split out as a separate group.



- **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
- **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

## 2.2 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 of 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 (for example 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 contact 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 contacts in the specific setting.
- **Communication details not provided:** people who were identified as recent close contacts but didn't have any associated contact details (for example phone number or email address).
- **Not reached:** the number of contacts who were not reached includes those contacts 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 contacts who have not been reached but where contact tracers are still in the process of trying to make contact.

## 3 Measuring the data

### 3.1 How the data were collected

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.

### 3.2 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 2020
- people tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) between 30 January and 27 May 2020
- demographic data for coronavirus testing in England between 28 May and 26 August 2020
- weekly rapid testing statistics

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
- 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.

### 3.3 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. The caveats and data quality issues in this publication should be taken into consideration when interpreting results, and this analysis should be taken in the wider context of [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) statistics and analysis](#).

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](#).

### 3.4 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.

More information about the revision of statistics published by DHSC can be found in the [statement on revision policy](#). More information on quality and how this publication adheres to the Code of Practice for statistics is available in the [Statement of Compliance](#).

## 3.5 Feedback

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