Contact Tracing Service
Management Information Update

Test ✔
Trace ✔
Protect ✔
HSC Health and Social Care

Issued 16 December 2021

Contact tracing is an important part of the Covid-19 Test, Trace and Protect Strategy[1] in Northern Ireland. Contact tracing involves identifying people who have been in close contact with cases of Covid-19, informing them of this, and providing them with information on the symptoms to be aware of, what to do if symptoms develop and if they need to self-isolate or get tested.

Current data

Weekly data

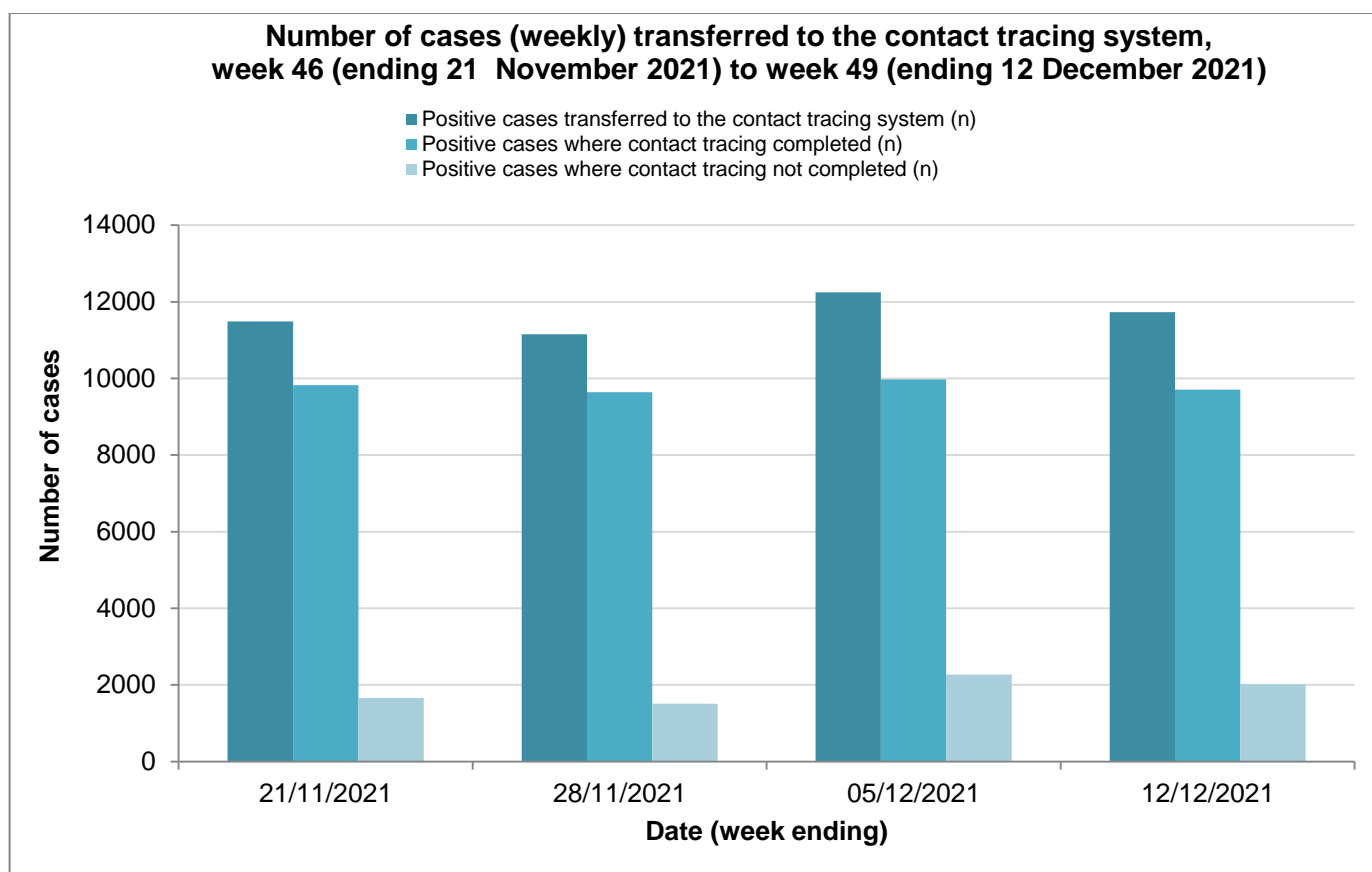| Data as of Sunday 12 December @ 12 midnight	In 7 days up to 12 December 2021
Number of positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system[2]	**11731**
Number of positive cases where contact tracing completed	9709
Total number of positive cases where contact tracing not completed	2022
• Number of incomplete cases sent an SMS advising self-isolation and inviting to digitally self-trace	1925
• Number of incomplete cases telephoned at least once	2012
Number of contacts identified[3]	**28142**
Number of contacts reached	27912
Number of contacts not reached	230

[1] Department of Health. Covid-19 Test, Trace and Protect Strategy. Belfast: May 2020.SS
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/Test-Trace-Protect-Support-Strategy.pdf
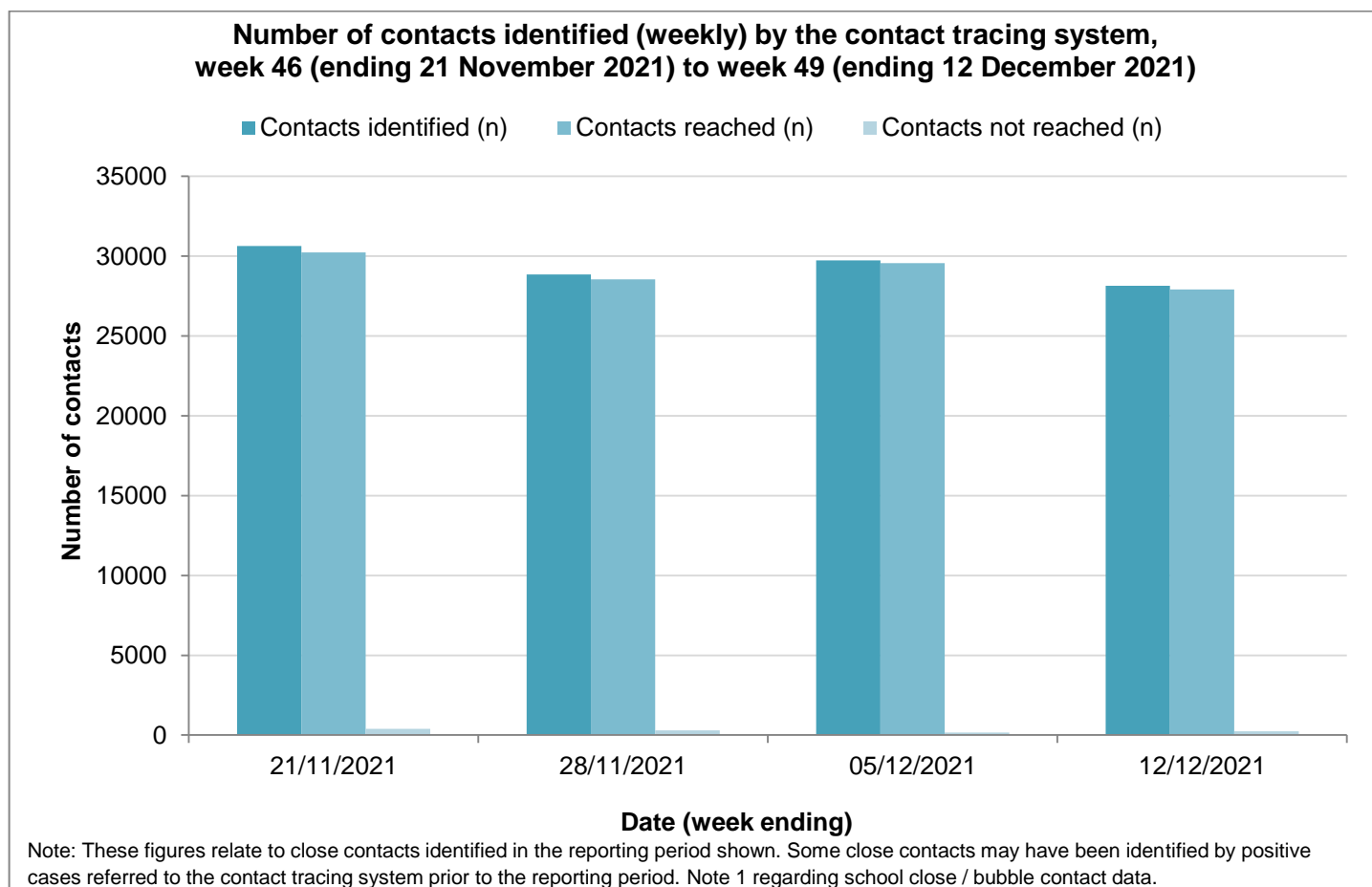[2] CTS aims to deduct duplicates and cases where no contact details are available. Care home residents who test positive are followed up under separate health protection arrangements and are not included in this information.
[3] This does not include staff and patient contacts in a hospital/Trust setting, as these are managed by the relevant Health and Social Care trust. See Note 1 regarding school close / bubble contact data.
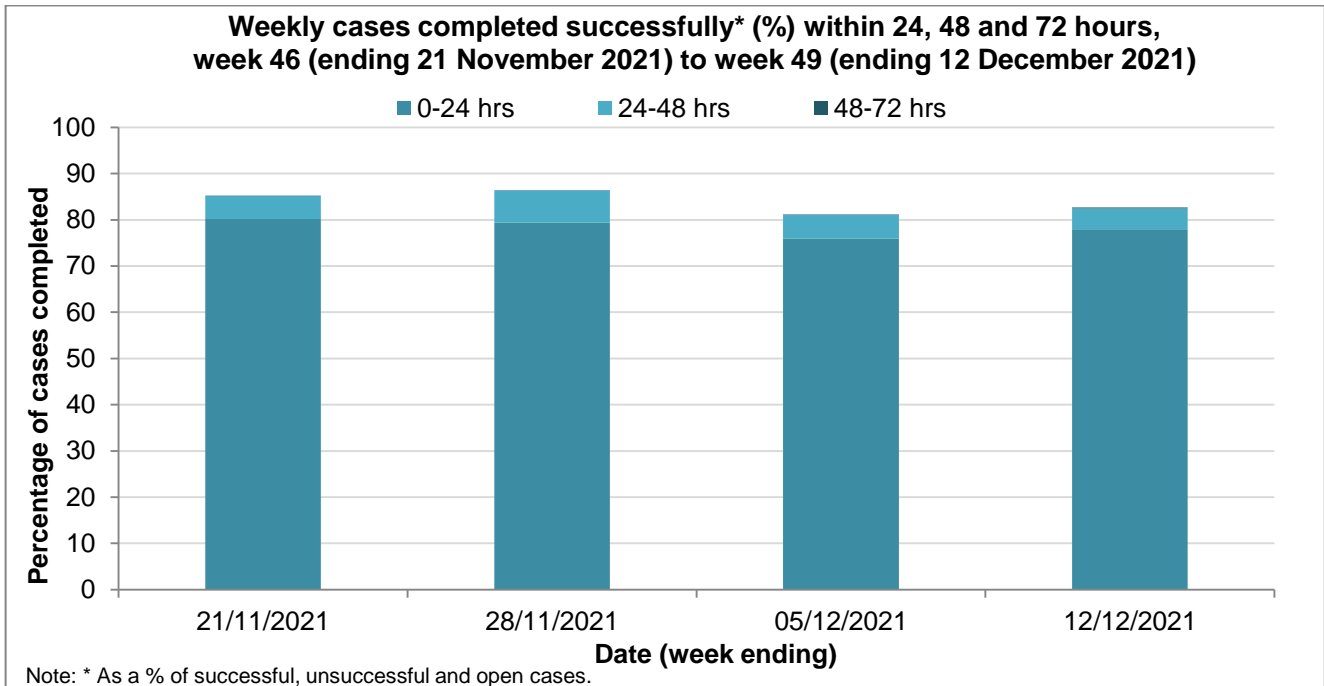
Number of cases – past 4 weeks

Number of cases (weekly) transferred to the contact tracing system, week 46 (ending 21 November 2021) to week 49 (ending 12 December 2021)

- Positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system (n)
- Positive cases where contact tracing completed (n)
- Positive cases where contact tracing not completed (n)

X-axis: Date (week ending) — 21/11/2021, 28/11/2021, 05/12/2021, 12/12/2021
Y-axis: Number of cases (0 to 14000)

Number of contacts – past 4 weeks

Number of contacts identified (weekly) by the contact tracing system, week 46 (ending 21 November 2021) to week 49 (ending 12 December 2021)

- Contacts identified (n)
- Contacts reached (n)
- Contacts not reached (n)

X-axis: Date (week ending) — 21/11/2021, 28/11/2021, 05/12/2021, 12/12/2021
Y-axis: Number of contacts (0 to 35000)

Note: These figures relate to close contacts identified in the reporting period shown. Some close contacts may have been identified by positive cases referred to the contact tracing system prior to the reporting period. Note 1 regarding school close / bubble contact data.

Case completion by time period

Of the 11,731 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 6 December and 12 December 2021, 78% were reached within 24 hours and 82% were reached within 48 hours.
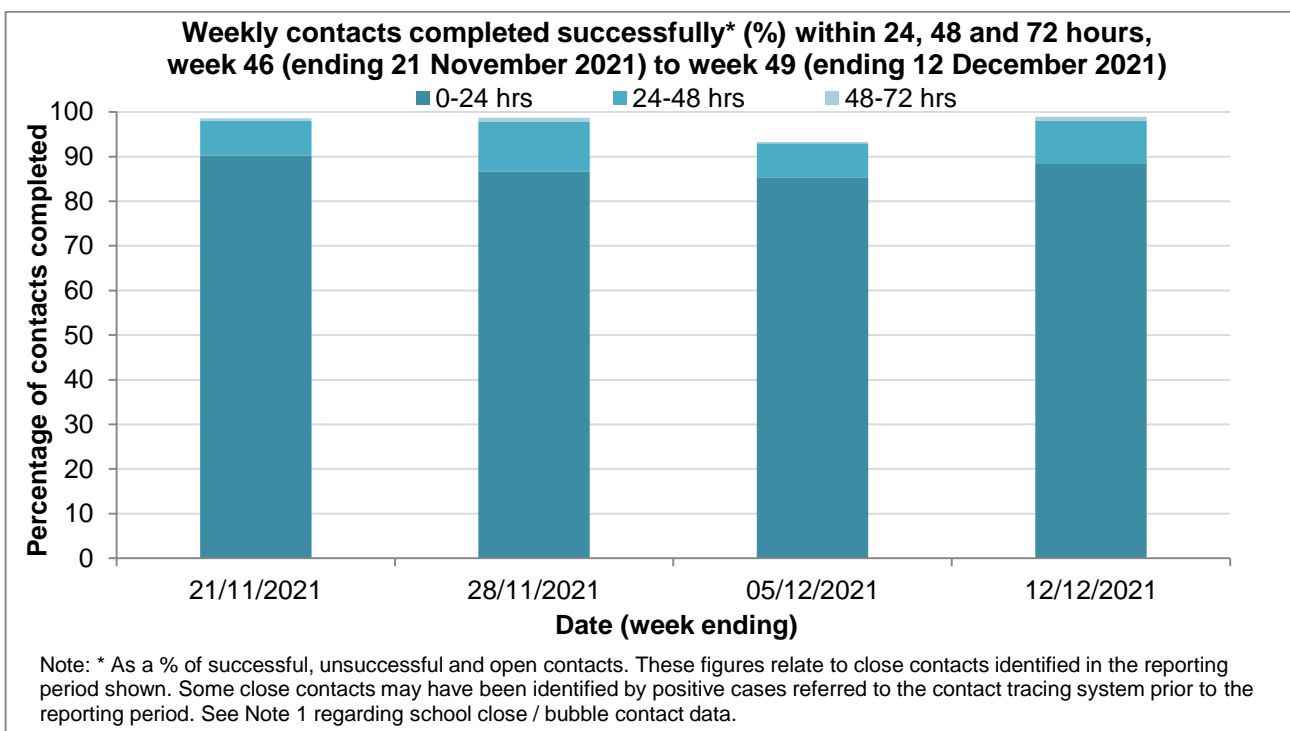
Weekly – past 4 weeks

Weekly cases completed successfully* (%) within 24, 48 and 72 hours, week 46 (ending 21 November 2021) to week 49 (ending 12 December 2021)

■ 0-24 hrs   ■ 24-48 hrs   ■ 48-72 hrs

Y-axis: Percentage of cases completed (0 to 100)
X-axis: Date (week ending) — 21/11/2021, 28/11/2021, 05/12/2021, 12/12/2021

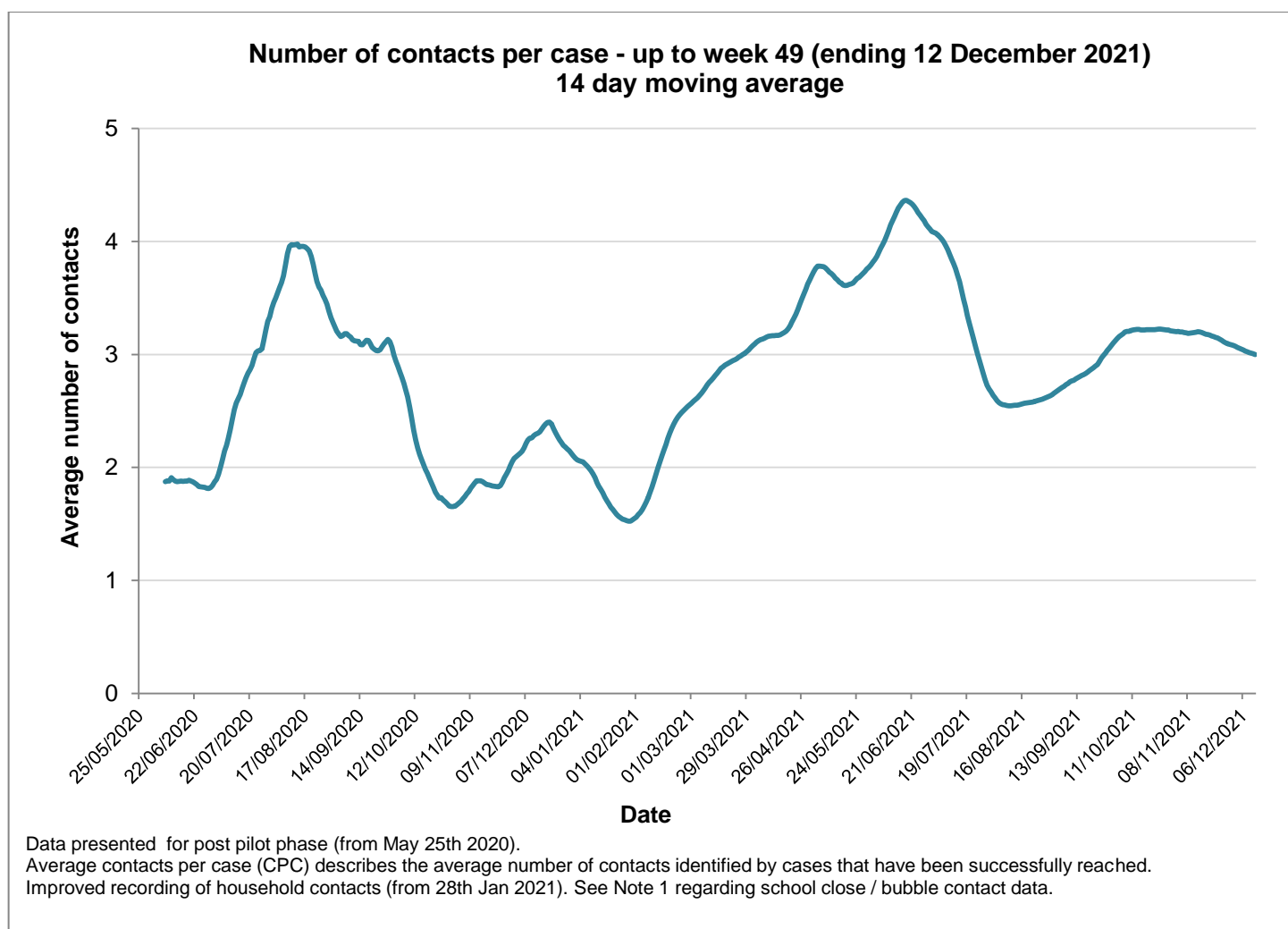Note: * As a % of successful, unsuccessful and open cases.

Contact completion by time period

Of the 28,142 identified by the contact tracing service between 6 December and 12 December 2021, 89% were reached within 24 hours of the positive case that identified them being referred to the CTC, with 98% reached within 48 hours.

Weekly – past 4 weeks

Weekly contacts completed successfully* (%) within 24, 48 and 72 hours, week 46 (ending 21 November 2021) to week 49 (ending 12 December 2021)

■ 0-24 hrs   ■ 24-48 hrs   ■ 48-72 hrs

Y-axis: Percentage of contacts completed (0 to 100)
X-axis: Date (week ending) — 21/11/2021, 28/11/2021, 05/12/2021, 12/12/2021

Note: * As a % of successful, unsuccessful and open contacts. These figures relate to close contacts identified in the reporting period shown. Some close contacts may have been identified by positive cases referred to the contact tracing system prior to the reporting period. See Note 1 regarding school close / bubble contact data.

Number of contacts per case

**Number of contacts per case - up to week 49 (ending 12 December 2021)
14 day moving average**

Data presented for post pilot phase (from May 25th 2020).
Average contacts per case (CPC) describes the average number of contacts identified by cases that have been successfully reached.
Improved recording of household contacts (from 28th Jan 2021). See Note 1 regarding school close / bubble contact data.

Note 1 – Close contact data and timeliness measures
From 22nd Feb to Sept 9th 2021 school close / bubble contact data were excluded from the close contact totals
and timeliness measures (contact completed by time measure). This was because there was often a delay in school
close / bubble contacts being loaded onto the contact tracing system, which was impacting on the contact completed by
time measure. School close / bubble contact data had also been removed from contacts per case data. From 10th Sept
2021 only special school close / bubble contact data were excluded.

Note 2 – Epi week 48
During Epi week 48 it was found that 71 unsuccessful cases were misclassified as successful, all of whom were
telephoned at least once. Case timeliness measures were not impacted with 76% of cases reached within 24 hours and
81% within 48 hours.

Additional notes:
- Data extracted from contact tracing system at 10am on Wednesday 15th December 2021.
- SMS sent to contacts from 30th September 2020.
- Digital Self Trace for cases commenced on 9th October 2020.
- These data are management information collected from a live operational system and provide a summary of contact tracer activity.
- Reporting methods and parameters may change over time.
- Should not be compared with other published figures as they will not align.
- New IT systems and data outputs often take some time to bed in. Data should therefore be treated with caution while the system and understanding of the data develops. At this stage, there is a risk of data entry errors or delay, which may require that data are revised and updated in future. The process of finding and removing duplicate records may also need refining, which could result in revisions to the data.