

# Contact Tracing Service Management Information Update



**Issued 6 January 2022**

The testing and contact tracing system has been experiencing unprecedented levels of demand over the holiday period. The NI Contact Tracing Service has focused its resources on areas which have the greatest public health benefit. In order to streamline processes we have reduced the amount of information collected from cases and this means we are temporarily unable to produce the weekly report in its usual format.

Contact tracing is an important part of the Covid-19 Test, Trace and Protect Strategy<sup>1</sup> 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

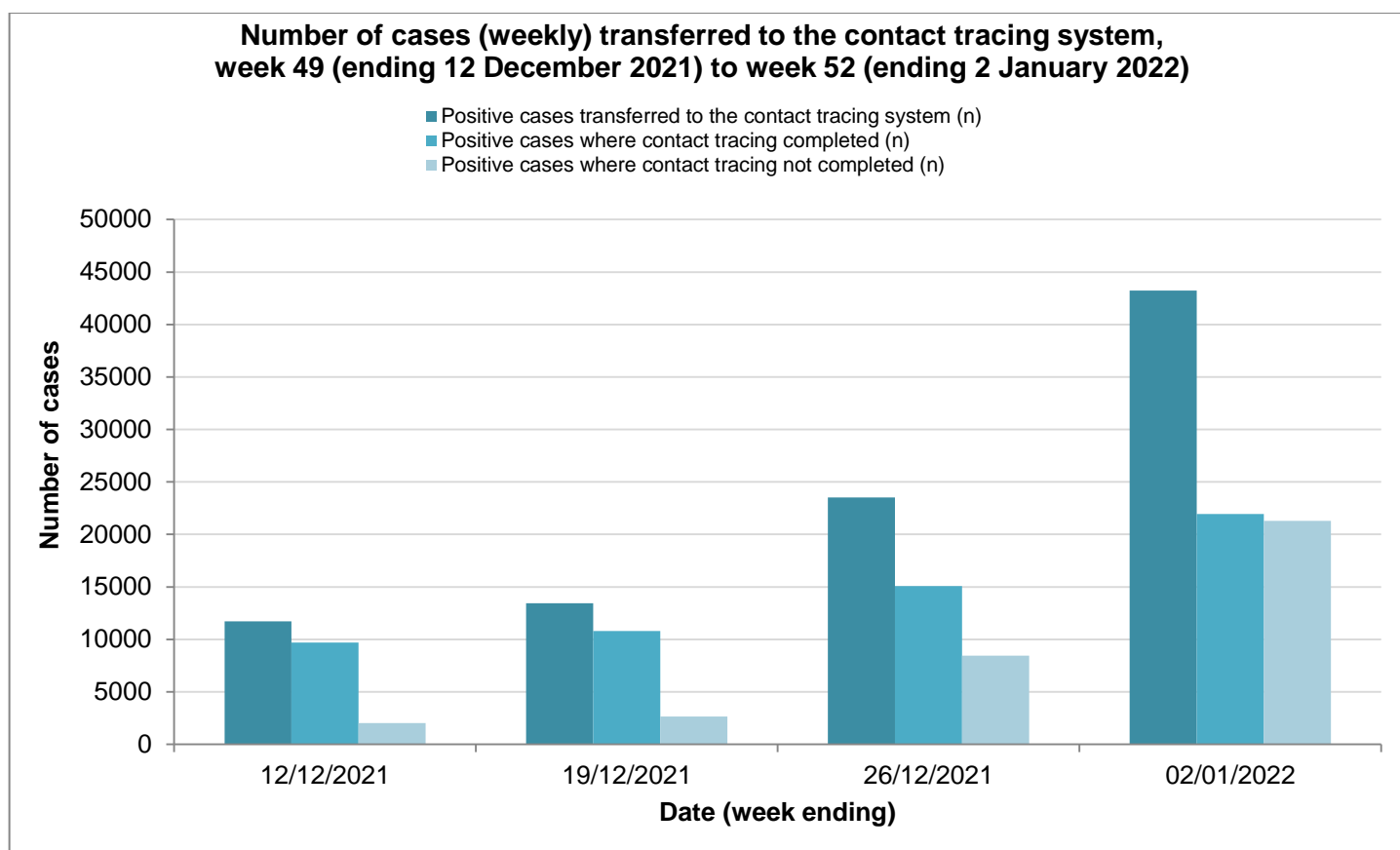
Data as of Sunday 2 January @ 12 midnight	In 7 days up to 2 January 2022
Number of positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system <sup>2</sup>	43243
Number of positive cases where contact tracing completed	21953
Total number of positive cases where contact tracing not completed	21290
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of incomplete cases sent an SMS advising self-isolation and inviting to digitally self-trace</li></ul>	20593
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of incomplete cases telephoned at least once</li></ul>	13994

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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.

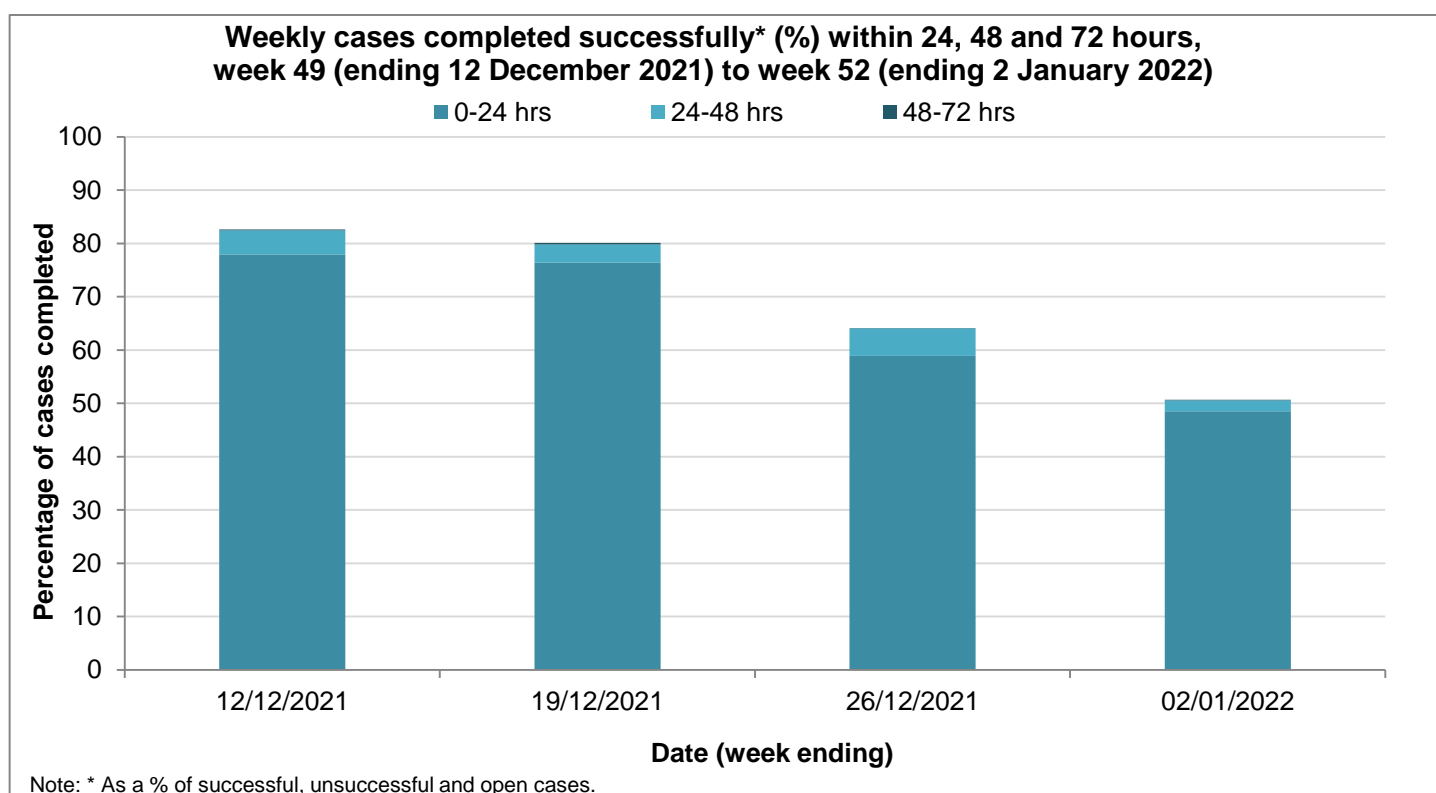
## Number of cases – past 4 weeks



## Case completion by time period

Of the 43,243 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 27 December and 2 January 2022, 49% were reached within 24 hours and 51% were reached within 48 hours.

## Weekly – past 4 weeks



#### Note 1 – Close contact data

From 24th December 2021, in response to the pressures on the CT service following the recent large increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases associated with the Omicron variant, cases have been advised to follow up with their own household close contacts. These household close contacts are not currently recorded on the contact tracing system and close contact data is therefore not included in this report. This is a temporary arrangement until information on household close contacts can be recorded again.

#### Note 2 – Contacts per case

Average contacts per case (CPC) data has also not been presented as, due to the reasons outlined in Note 1, this would underrepresent CPC data for cases at the moment.

#### Additional notes:

- Data extracted from contact tracing system at 10am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- SMS sent to contacts from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- Digital Self Trace for cases commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> 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.