

# Contact Tracing Service Management Information Update



**Issued 12 May 2022**

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

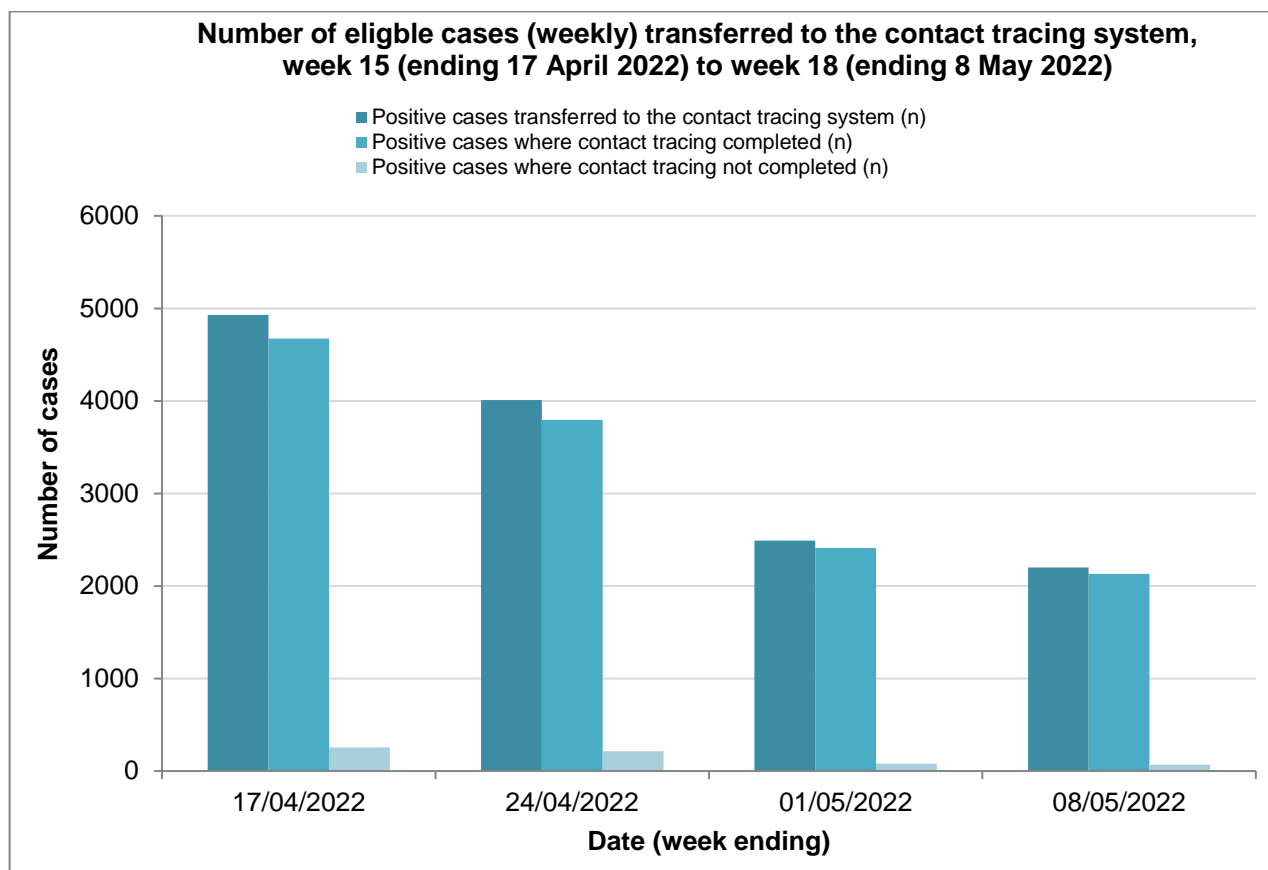
	In 7 days up to midnight 1 May 2022	In 7 days up to midnight 8 May 2022
Number of eligible positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system <sup>2</sup>	<b>2492</b>	<b>2199</b>
Number of positive cases where contact tracing completed	2412	2129
Total number of positive cases where contact tracing not completed	80	70
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of incomplete cases sent an SMS advising self-isolation and inviting to digitally self-trace</li><li>• Number of incomplete cases telephoned at least once</li></ul>	54 76	33 67

<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.

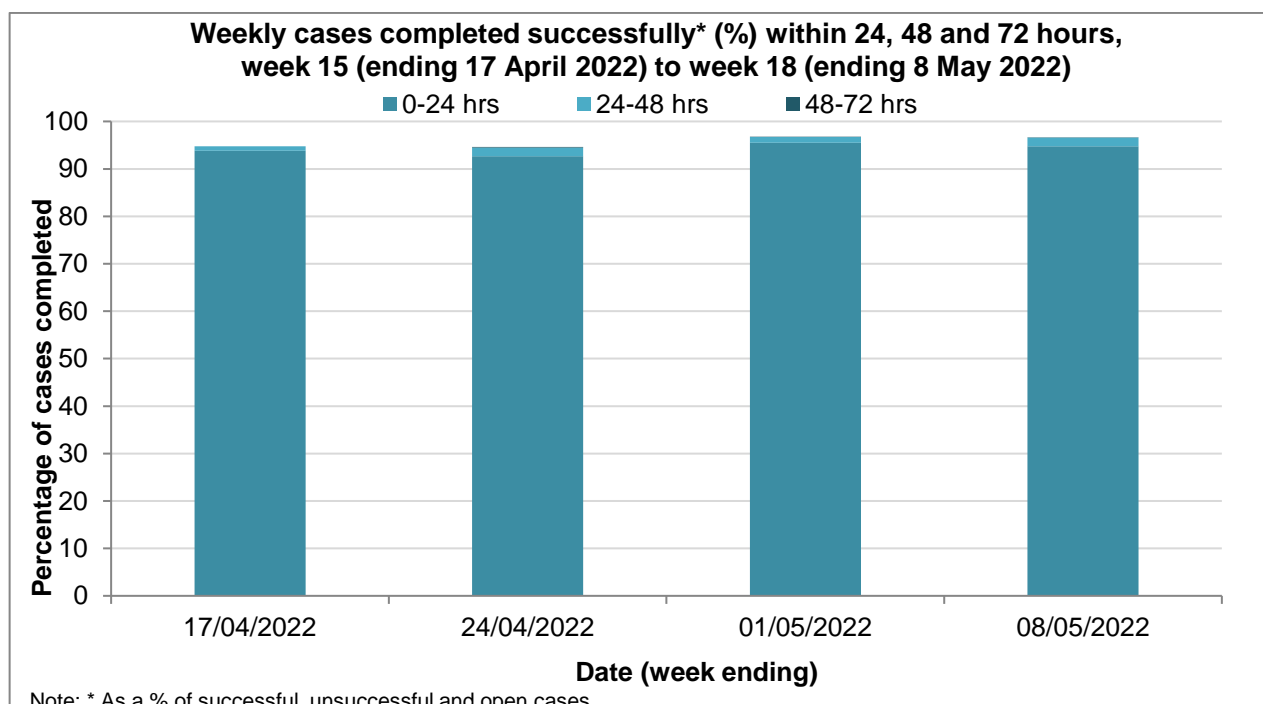
## Number of cases – past 4 weeks



## Case completion by time period

Of the 2,492 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 25 April and 1 May 2022, 96% were reached within 24 hours and 97% were reached within 48 hours. Of the 2,199 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 2 May and 8 May 2022, 95% were reached within 24 hours and 97% were reached within 48 hours.

## Weekly – past 4 weeks



Note 1 – Cessation of confirmatory PCR testing and associated increase in recording of multiple positive LFD results  
The cessation of confirmatory PCR testing on January 5th 2022 has led to an increase in multiple positive LFD results being recorded. Where cases have recorded multiple positive LFD results during the period of interest the first case received by the CTS during the period has been used. LFDs loaded in bulk on 6th Jan have been excluded.

Note 2 - Adult LFD cases

Cases are sent an initial SMS containing public health advice and an invitation to self-trace digitally. For those that do not self-trace digitally, from 18th January 2021 the CT service aims to follow up PCR cases and LFD cases aged under 18 years with a phone call, while LFD cases aged 18 years or older are followed up with an additional SMS message containing further public health advice and another invitation to self-trace digitally.

Note 3 – Cessation of collection of close contact data

Close contact information has not been recorded after 26th April 2022 and consequently close contact results are no longer included in this report.

Note 4 – Digital Self Tracing

Digital Self Tracing (DST) ceased on 27th April 2022.

Additional notes:

- Data extracted from contact tracing system at 10am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and 4pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Epi weeks 17 and 18 respectively.
- 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.