

Contact Tracing Service Management Information Update



Issued 26 May 2022

Contact tracing is an important part of the Covid-19 Test, Trace and Protect Strategy¹ 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

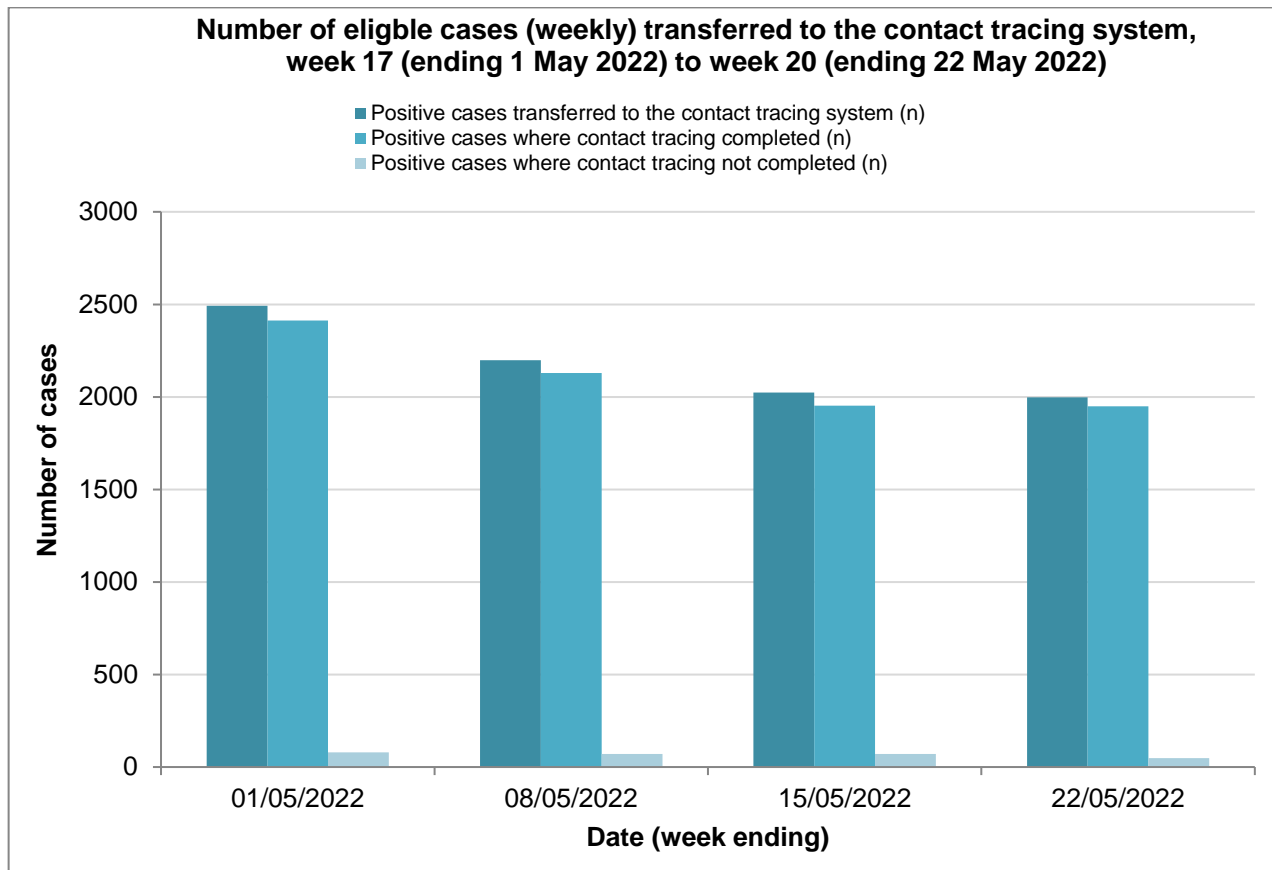
	In 7 days up to midnight 15 May 2022	In 7 days up to midnight 22 May 2022
Number of eligible positive cases transferred to the contact tracing system ²	2023	1997
Number of positive cases where contact tracing completed	1952	1949
Total number of positive cases where contact tracing not completed	71	48
• Number of incomplete cases sent an SMS advising self-isolation and inviting to digitally self-trace	43	26
• Number of incomplete cases telephoned at least once	70	45

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.

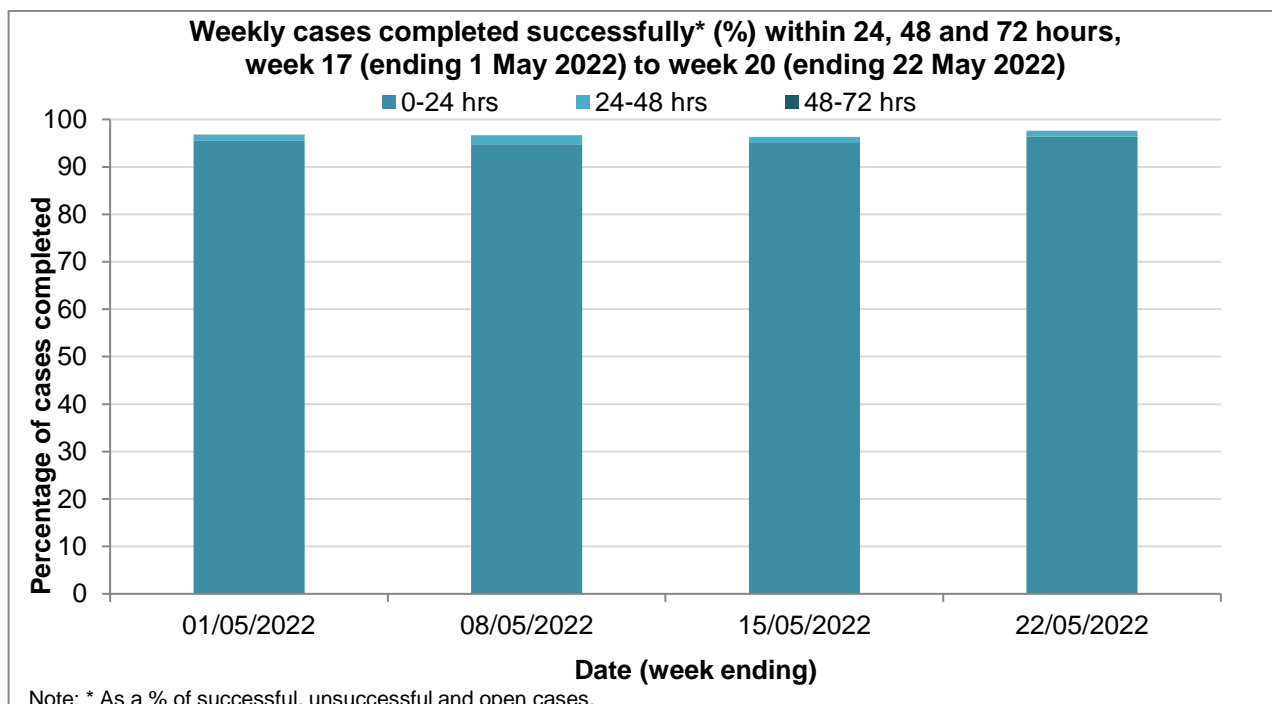
Number of cases – past 4 weeks



Case completion by time period

Of the 2,023 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 9 May and 15 May 2022, 95% were reached within 24 hours and 96% were reached within 48 hours. Of the 1,997 positive cases reported to the contact tracing service between 16 May and 22 May 2022, 96% 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 18th May 2022 and 1pm on Tuesday 24 May 2022 for Epi weeks 19 and 20 respectively.
- 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.