Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

Test, Trace, Protect (contact tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19)): up to 25 July 2020

Management information update on contact tracing delivered as part of the Test, Trace, Protect strategy in Wales up to 25 July 2020.

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1. What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing is an important part of the Welsh Government's **Test, Trace, Protect strategy**. The strategy is being delivered through the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service.

As soon as people start to display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should arrange to take a test as quickly as possible whilst they and members of their household self-isolate. Contact tracing is reliant on tests being taken quickly. On receiving a positive result people are asked to support the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service by reporting their recent contacts to the local contact tracer so that they can be contacted and notified to self-isolate (and take a test if they too are displaying symptoms), to help stop the spread of the virus.

It may not be possible to trace all individuals referred to the contact tracing service. For various reasons contact details will not have been provided for some individuals and others may not have responded to calls, texts or emails from tracing teams.

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2. National headline figures

Between 19 July and 25 July:

- of the 107 positive cases that were eligible for follow-up, 100 (93%) were reached and asked to provide details of their recent contacts
- of the 380 close contacts that were eligible for follow-up, 317 (83%) were successfully contacted and advised accordingly, or had their case otherwise resolved

In total, since 21 June:

- of the 836 positive cases that were eligible for follow-up, 734 (88%) were reached and asked to provide details of their recent contacts
- of the 2,124 close contacts that were eligible for follow-up, 1,916 (90%) were successfully contacted and advised accordingly, or had their case otherwise resolved

Table 1: Number of positive cases referred to the contact tracing system, up to 25 July 2020

	Latest week 19 to 25 July 2020	Cumulative total 21 June to 25 July 2020
Eligible for follow-up by local contract tracing teams	107	836
Not eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams	119	504
Total	226	1,340

Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

The majority of cases not eligible for follow-up by local contact tracers occur in closed settings such as hospitals, care homes and prisons. These cases are

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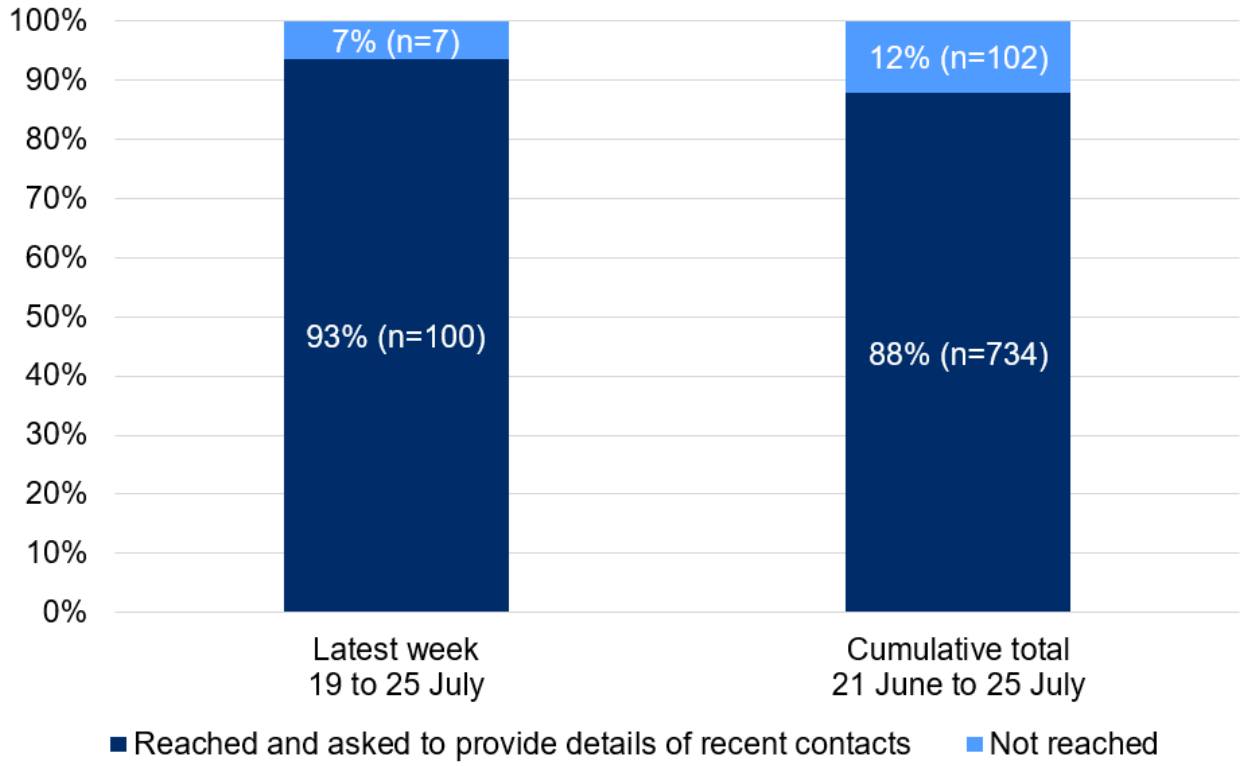
escalated to regional teams for onward management.

Chart 1: Positive cases eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams, up to 25 July 2020



Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

Table 2: Number of people identified as close contacts, up to 25 July 2020

	Latest week 19 to 25 July 2020	Cumulative total 21 June to 25 July 2020
Eligible for follow-up by local contract tracing teams	380	2,124
Not eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams	50	204
Total	430	2,328

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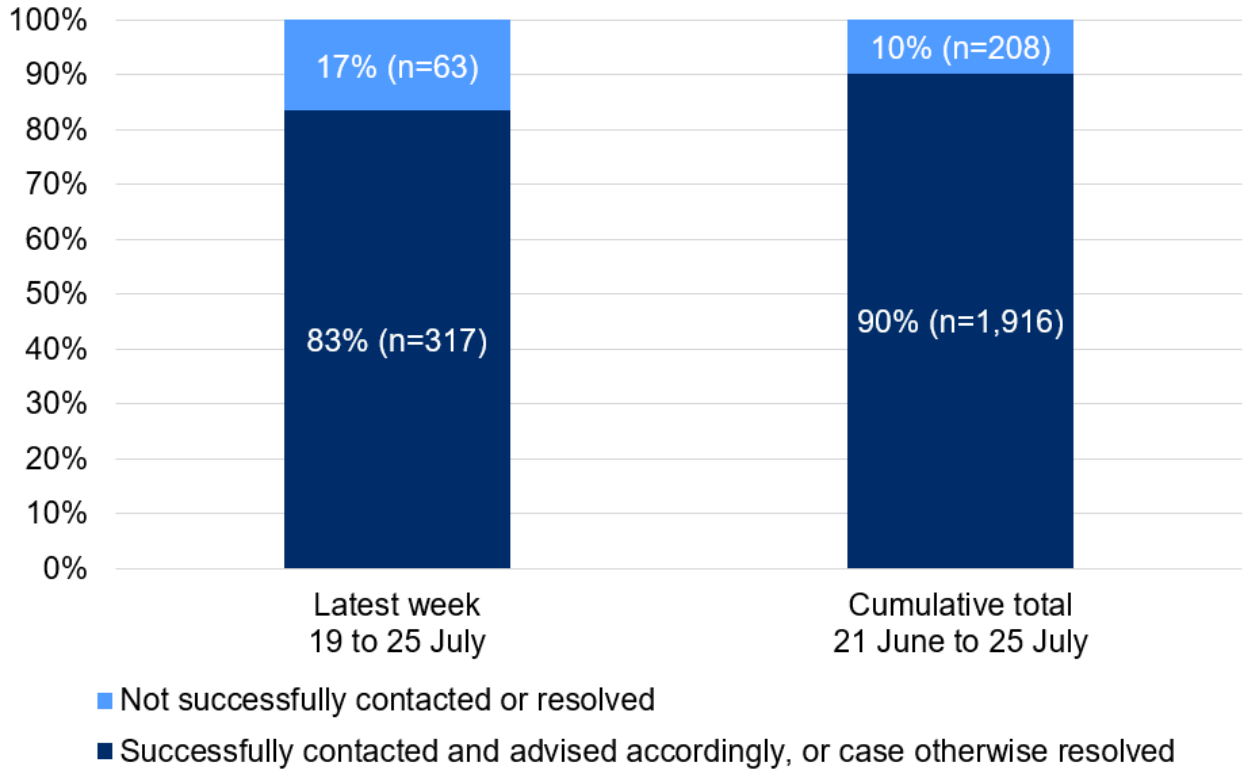
Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

These figures relate to all close contacts identified in the reporting period shown. Some may have been identified by positive cases referred to the contact tracing system prior to the reporting period. The figures may also include some close contacts eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams that were identified by positive cases escalated to regional teams for onward management.

Chart 2: Close contacts eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams, up to 25 July 2020



Source: NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

3. Data for 1 to 21 June

Early reporting, covering the first three weeks of contact tracing in Wales, was based on data reported by local and regional contact tracing teams prior to the introduction of the national digital system.

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In Wales, during the period from 1 June to 21 June, 1,905 positive cases were referred to local and regional contact tracing teams. This resulted in 2,616 contacts identified for follow-up, of which 2,117 have been successfully contacted and advised accordingly.

There will be a small amount of overlap in the reporting from the national digital system and the early reporting provided by local and regional contact tracing teams. For this reason we would not recommend combining figures from the two different reporting streams. Cumulative reporting in future versions of this release will focus on data from 21 June 2020.

4. Quality and methodology information

This data is management information provided to the Welsh Government by the NHS Wales Informatics Service. We are publishing this to provide a weekly summary of contact tracing activity in Wales during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This data has not undergone the same level of quality assurance as official statistics and the data may be subject to future revisions.

Data included in this release was extracted from the contact tracing system at 10:00am on 28 July 2020. This extract was taken 3 days after the end of the reporting period in order to capture follow-up activity relating to cases referred towards the end of the reporting period.

Close contacts cases “otherwise resolved” covers a small number of instances where the same contact is identified by multiple positive cases concurrently. On these occasions, contact tracing teams will work from a single record relating to that contact and mark the additional records as resolved.

The number of cases referred for contact tracing is different to the number of new cases published by Public Health Wales due to differences in timing and the level of validation carried out. We are carrying out further work to understand and explain these differences.

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National Statistics status

These statistics are not National Statistics. However, as far as has been practicable, they have been collected and validated in accordance with the pillars and principles within the **Code of Practice for Statistics**. We continue to develop the data collection and quality assurance process to improve the data.

These statistics have been produced quickly in response to developing world events.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ('national indicators') that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the **Well-being of Wales report**.

Further information on the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local wellbeing plans.

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Next update

This is currently a weekly statistical release. It will be published at 09:30am every Thursday. We will review the frequency in line with changing user need.

The next release will be on Thursday 6 August.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to **kas.covid19@gov.wales**.

Further information

For information and advice on contact tracing please refer to our **Test, trace, protect: coronavirus** guidance page.

5. Contact details

Statistician: Jon Ackland (for queries about the data)
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Media: 0300 025 8099

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