

# COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 50 2021

## OVERVIEW OF REPORT

This report summarises national laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, in South Africa. This report is based on data for specimens reported up to 18 December 2021 (Week 50 of 2021).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of tests reported in week 50 of 2021 (n=383,161: 298,569 PCR and 84,592 antigen tests) was lower than the number of tests reported in the previous week.
- In week 50 the testing rate was highest in the Western Cape (931 per 100,000 persons) and lowest in Limpopo (194 per 100,000 persons).
- In week 50 the percentage testing positive was 36.7%, which was 1.0% higher than the previous week and the highest since the start of the epidemic.
- In week 50, compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive increased in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. The percentage testing positive decreased in Gauteng and the North West, and was unchanged in Mpumalanga and Limpopo.
- The percentage testing positive in week 50 was >38% in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. The percentage testing positive was lowest in Gauteng (29.1%).

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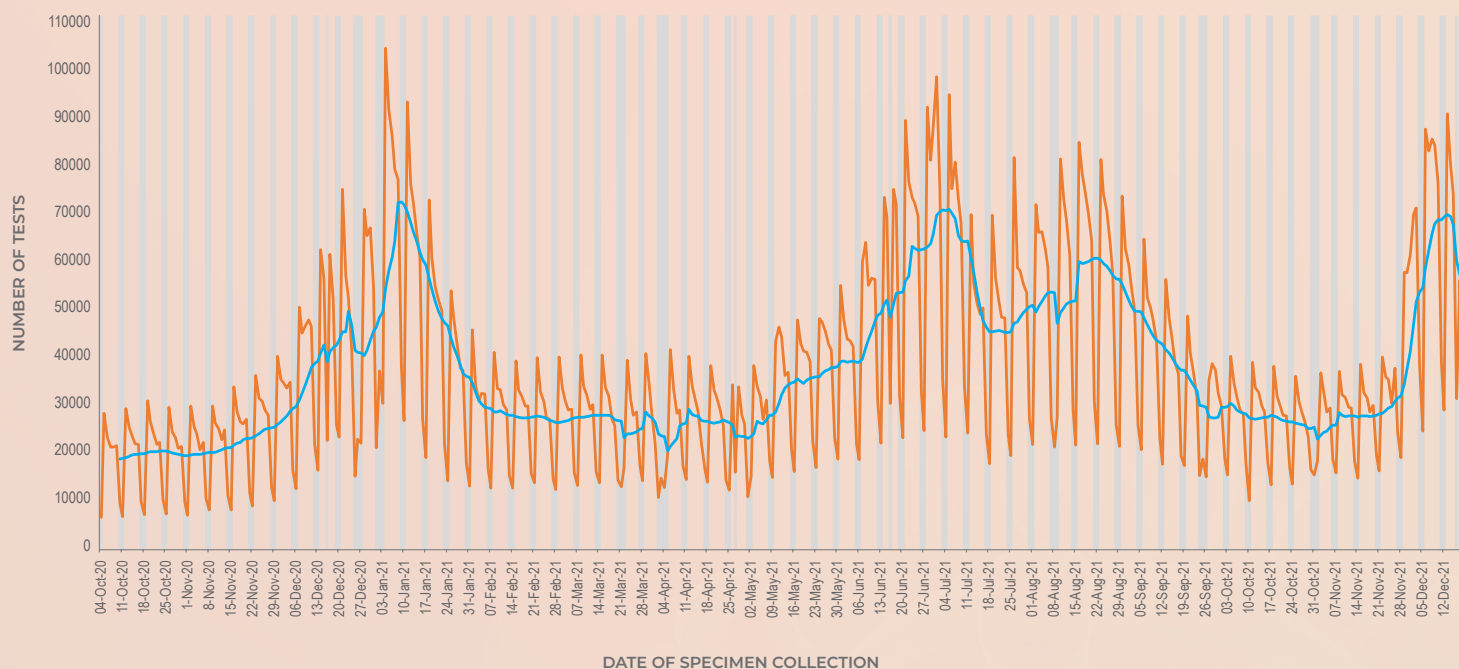
## Executive Summary:

- In the period 1 March 2020 through 18 December 2021, 20,558,765 tests for SARS-CoV-2 have been reported nationally: 17,463,506 PCR and 3,095,259 antigen tests.
- The number of tests reported in week 50 of 2021 (n=383,161: 298,569 PCR and 84,592 antigen tests) was lower than the number of tests reported in the previous week.
- Gauteng reported the largest proportion of tests (34.9%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (20.7%) and Western Cape (17.0%).
- The overall testing rate decreased from 797 per 100,000 persons in week 49 to 643 per 100,000 persons in week 50.
- In week 50 the testing rate increased in the Northern Cape province, and decreased or was unchanged in all other provinces. A notable decrease was observed in Gauteng, from 1349 per 100,000 persons in week 49 to 862 per 100,000 persons in week 50. The testing rate was highest in the Western Cape (931 per 100,000 persons) and lowest in Limpopo (194 per 100,000 persons).
- The testing rate in week 50 was highest in the 50-54 years age group (1094 per 100,000 persons).
- In week 50 the percentage testing positive was 36.7%, which was 1.0% higher than the previous week ( $P<0.001$ ) and the highest percentage testing positive since the start of the epidemic.
- In the past week, the percentage testing positive increased by 1.4% in the public sector (38.4% in week 49 to 39.8% in week 50,  $P<0.001$ ) and by 0.9% in the private sector (33.7% in week 49 to 34.6% in week 50,  $P<0.001$ ).
- In week 50, compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive increased in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. The percentage testing positive decreased in Gauteng and the North West, and was unchanged in Mpumalanga and Limpopo.
- The percentage testing positive in week 50 was >38% in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. The percentage testing positive was lowest in Gauteng (29.1%).
- The percentage testing positive was >30% across all age groups  $\geq 5$  years, and was highest in the 10-14 years age group (39.1%).
- Health sub-districts showing the highest percentage testing positive were spatially diffuse: 6 of the 25 districts with the highest percentage testing positive were in the Northern Cape; 5 in KwaZulu-Natal, 4 in Limpopo, 3 in Mpumalanga, and two each in the Free State and North West.
- Antigen tests accounted for 22.1% (84,592/383,161) of tests reported in week 50, however the number of antigen tests is likely underestimated due to under-reporting and delayed reporting of antigen tests.
- In week 50 the public sector accounted for 72.3% of antigen tests reported. A decrease in the number of antigen tests reported was observed across all provinces in the past week, with a notable decrease in Gauteng.
- The mean turnaround time for PCR tests reported in week 50 was 1.0 days; 1.7 days in the public sector and 0.7 days in the private sector. Turnaround times for public sector PCR tests increased in the North West, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal in the past week, and were >2 days in the North West and Free State provinces.
- The mean turnaround time for antigen tests reported in week 50 was 4.3 days in the public sector and 0.1 days in the private sector.

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**Figure 1.** Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests reported by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 4 October 2020 – 18 December 2021. Blue line shows the 7-day moving average of the number of tests reported. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays

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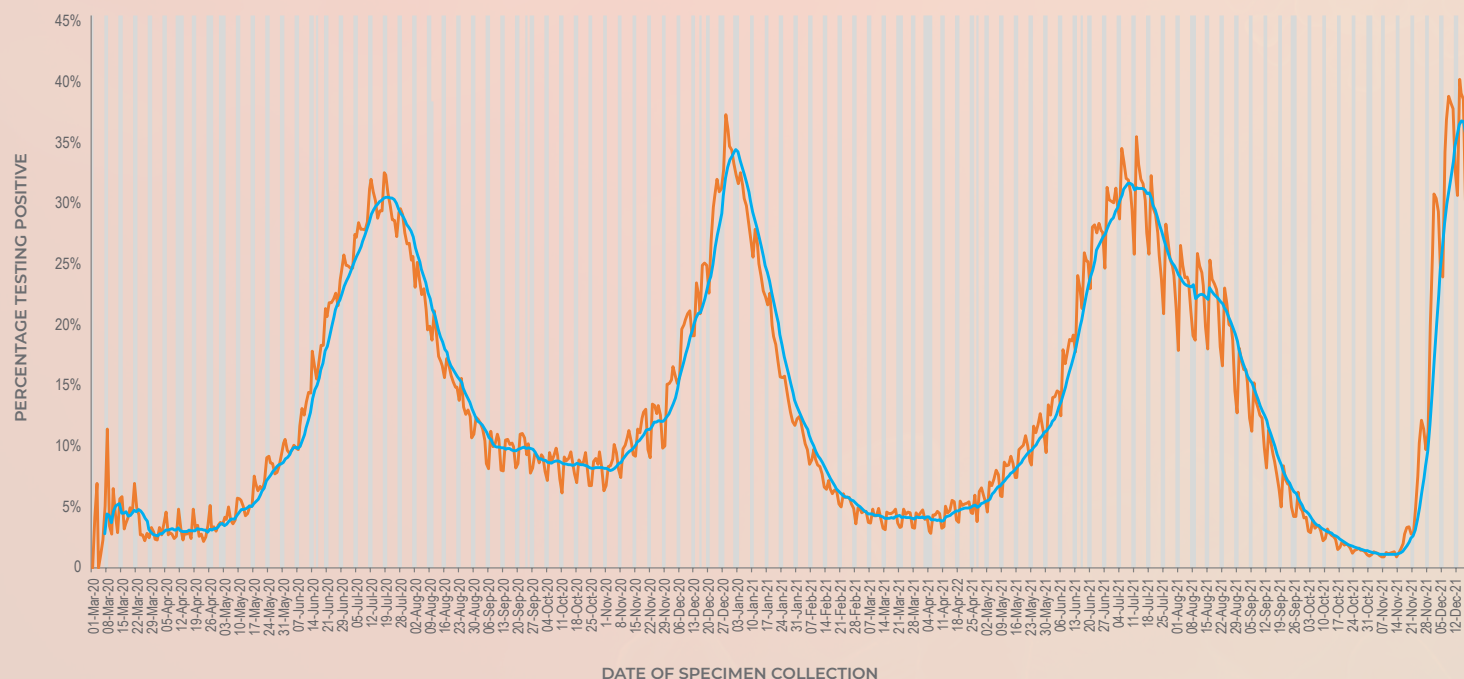
**Table 1.** Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests reported, South Africa, 3 January – 18 December 2021

Week number	Week beginning	No. of tests n (%)	No. of positive tests	Percentage testing positive (%)
1	03-Jan-21	501304 (2.4)	151051	30.1
2	10-Jan-21	418056 (2.0)	104816	25.1
3	17-Jan-21	327476 (1.6)	63269	19.3
4	24-Jan-21	249595 (1.2)	34644	13.9
5	31-Jan-21	203760 (1.0)	22373	11.0
6	07-Feb-21	193321 (0.9)	16475	8.5
7	14-Feb-21	190675 (0.9)	12189	6.4
8	21-Feb-21	184706 (0.9)	10385	5.6
9	28-Feb-21	189711 (0.9)	8691	4.6
10	07-Mar-21	193441 (0.9)	8339	4.3
11	14-Mar-21	185521 (0.9)	8154	4.4
12	21-Mar-21	173266 (0.8)	7354	4.2
13	28-Mar-21	163966 (0.8)	7062	4.3
14	04-Apr-21	180869 (0.9)	7292	4.0
15	11-Apr-21	185345 (0.9)	8846	4.8
16	18-Apr-21	184898 (0.9)	9469	5.1
17	25-Apr-21	160005 (0.8)	9180	5.7
18	02-May-21	193950 (0.9)	13459	6.9
19	09-May-21	240283 (1.2)	19936	8.3
20	16-May-21	248480 (1.2)	24212	9.7
21	23-May-21	262593 (1.3)	29773	11.3
22	30-May-21	270283 (1.3)	36102	13.4
23	06-Jun-21	337795 (1.6)	59446	17.6
24	13-Jun-21	370472 (1.8)	87939	23.7
25	20-Jun-21	432130 (2.1)	118489	27.4
26	27-Jun-21	489661 (2.4)	146545	29.9
27	04-Jul-21	443559 (2.2)	141381	31.9
28	11-Jul-21	320436 (1.6)	100883	31.5
29	18-Jul-21	312753 (1.5)	88358	28.3
30	25-Jul-21	350079 (1.7)	88217	25.2
31	01-Aug-21	370787 (1.8)	87996	23.7
32	08-Aug-21	358097 (1.7)	83259	23.3
33	15-Aug-21	420113 (2.0)	95234	22.7
34	22-Aug-21	390301 (1.9)	78056	20.0
35	29-Aug-21	343603 (1.7)	54980	16.0
36	05-Sep-21	299054 (1.5)	38765	13.0
37	12-Sep-21	258778 (1.3)	23977	9.3
38	19-Sep-21	207298 (1.0)	13975	6.7
39	26-Sep-21	205516 (1.0)	9459	4.6
40	03-Oct-21	195521 (1.0)	6432	3.3
41	10-Oct-21	190527 (0.9)	5009	2.6
42	17-Oct-21	184261 (0.9)	3397	1.8
43	24-Oct-21	174266 (0.8)	2551	1.5
44	31-Oct-21	179054 (0.9)	2084	1.2
45	07-Nov-21	192299 (0.9)	2294	1.2
46	14-Nov-21	193960 (0.9)	4777	2.5
47	21-Nov-21	218149 (1.1)	18809	8.6
48	28-Nov-21	371490 (1.8)	96792	26.1
49	05-Dec-21	475171 (2.3)	169809	35.7
50	12-Dec-21	383161 (1.9)	140563	36.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,558,765 (100.0)</b>	<b>3,567,472</b>	<b>17.4</b>

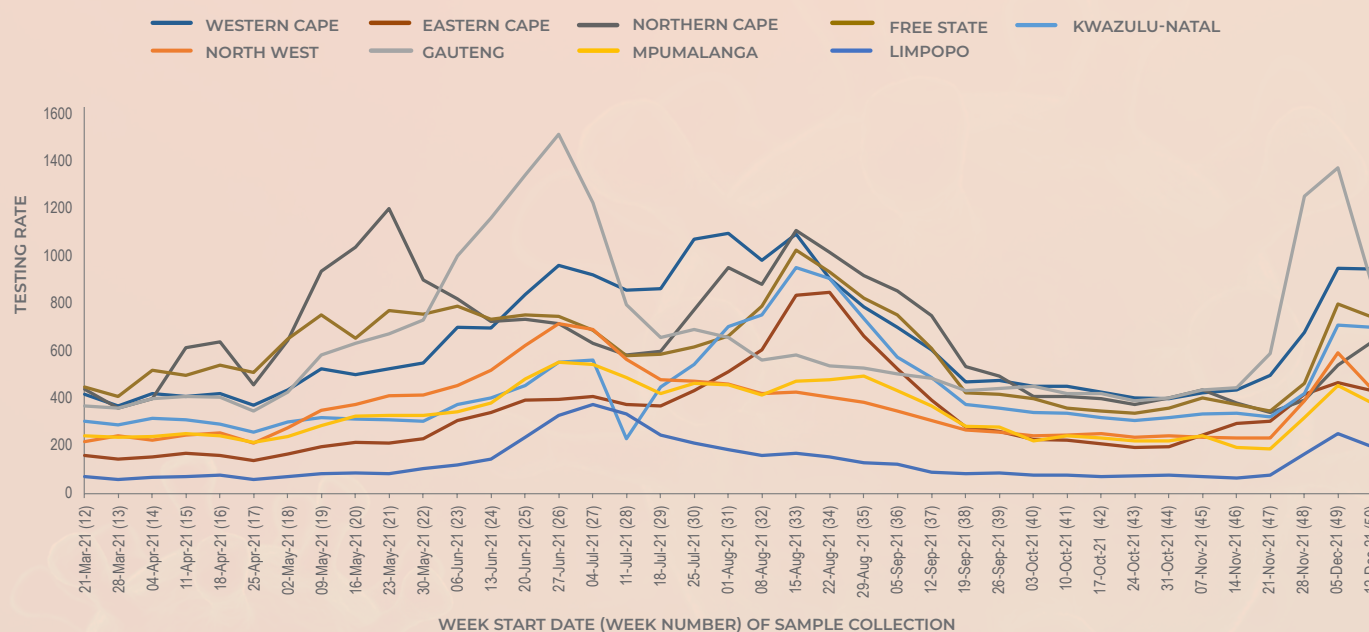


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**Figure 2.** Percentage of tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March 2020 – 18 December 2021. Blue line shows the 7-day moving average of the percentage testing positive. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays.



**Figure 3.** Testing rate per 100,000 persons by province and week of specimen collection, South Africa, 21 March 2021 – 18 December 2021

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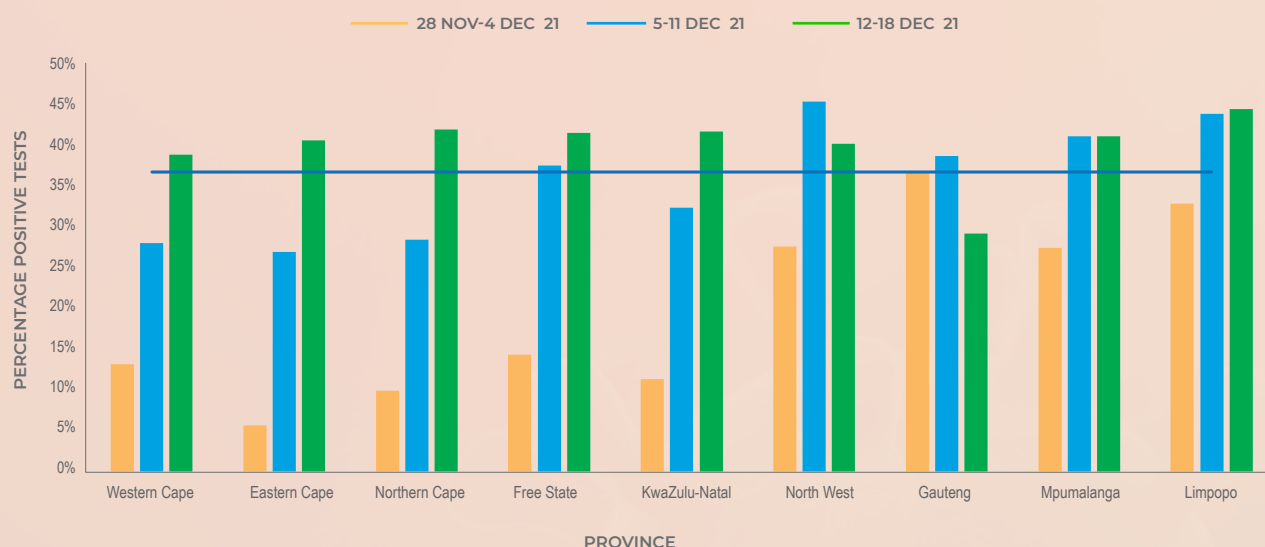
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**Table 2.** Weekly number of tests and positive tests reported by province, South Africa, 28 November – 18 December 2021

Province	Population <sup>a</sup>	28 Nov – 4 Dec 2021		5-11 Dec 2021		12-18 Dec 2021		Tests per 100,000 persons	Change in percentage positive <sup>b</sup>
		No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)		
Western Cape	7005741	46745	6190 (13.2)	65315	18290 (28.0)	65240	25283 (38.8)	931	10.8%
Eastern Cape	6734001	27758	1600 (5.8)	30990	8339 (26.9)	28820	11691 (40.6)	428	13.7%
Northern Cape	1292786	5018	500 (10.0)	6897	1962 (28.4)	8134	3408 (41.9)	629	13.5%
Free State	2928903	13345	1915 (14.3)	22963	8612 (37.5)	21376	8855 (41.4)	730	3.9%
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	47690	5431 (11.4)	80600	26053 (32.3)	79316	33025 (41.6)	688	9.3%
North West	4108816	15792	4353 (27.6)	23930	10828 (45.2)	17784	7140 (40.1)	433	-5.1%
Gauteng	15488137	190557	69622 (36.5)	208980	80769 (38.6)	133580	38921 (29.1)	862	-9.5%
Mpumalanga	4679786	14707	4026 (27.4)	20943	8596 (41.0)	17566	7212 (41.1)	375	0.0%
Limpopo	5852553	9588	3150 (32.9)	14496	6347 (43.8)	11326	5023 (44.3)	194	0.6%
Unknown		290	5 (1.7)	57	13 (22.8)	19	5 (26.3)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>59622350</b>	<b>371490</b>	<b>96792 (26.1)</b>	<b>475171</b>	<b>169809 (35.7)</b>	<b>383161</b>	<b>140563 (36.7)</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

<sup>a</sup> 2020 Mid-year population Statistics SA

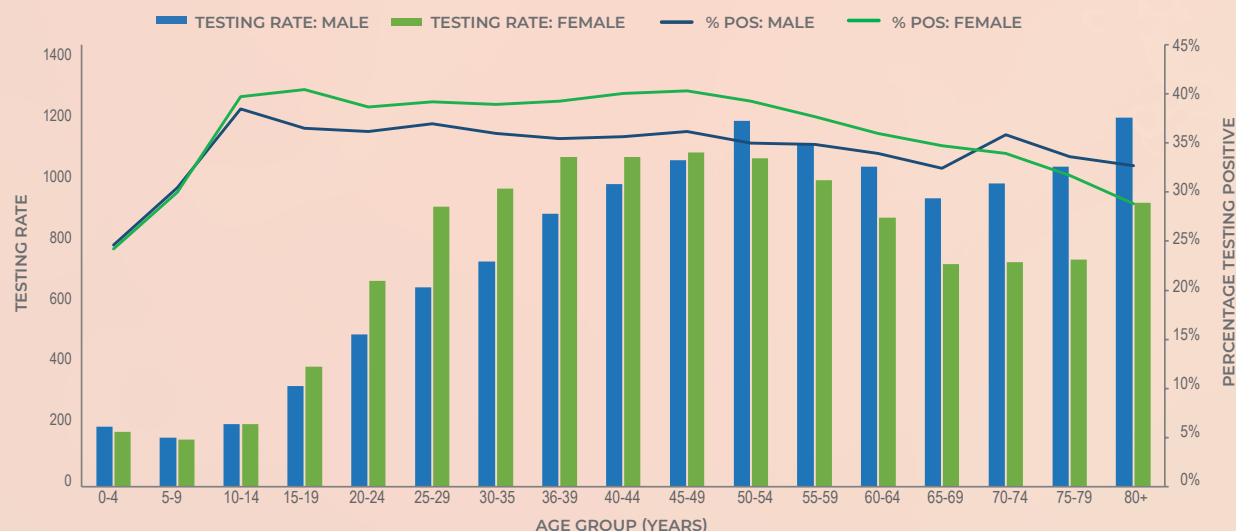
<sup>b</sup> Current week compared to previous week



**Figure 4.** Weekly percentage testing positive by province, South Africa, 28 November – 18 December 2021. The horizontal blue line shows the national mean for week 50, beginning 12 December 2021

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**Figure 5.** Testing rates per 100,000 persons and percentage testing positive by age group and sex, South Africa, week 50, 12-18 December 2021

**Table 3.** Health sub-districts with the highest proportion testing positive based on public and private sector data for the week of 12 - 18 December 2021

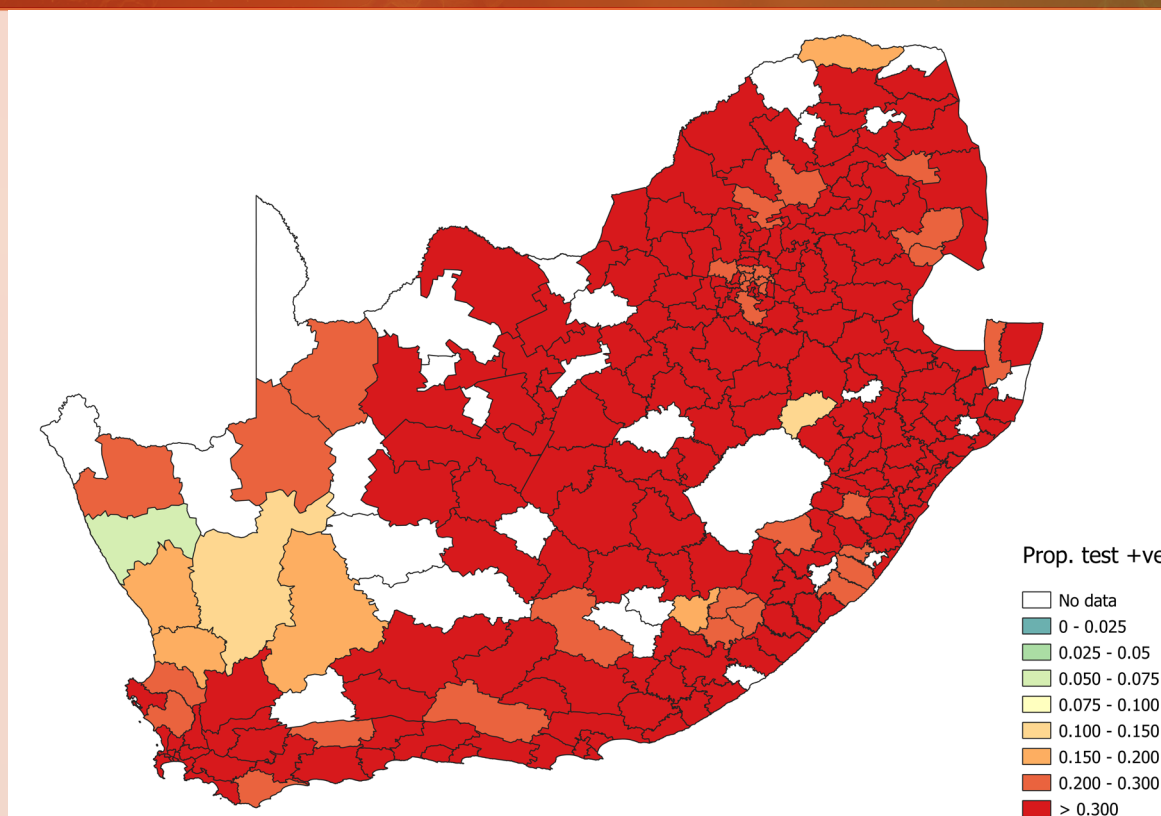
Health district or sub-district	Province	PTP (95% CI)	Previous week
Thembelihle	Northern Cape	0.810 (0.747-0.874)	0.763 (0.645-0.881)
Letsemeng	Free State	0.783 (0.696-0.870)	0.718 (0.654-0.783)
Dipaleseng	Mpumalanga	0.666 (0.524-0.808)	0.638 (0.524-0.751)
uMlalazi	KwaZulu-Natal	0.650 (0.602-0.699)	0.368 (0.321-0.414)
Randfontein	Gauteng	0.615 (0.593-0.637)	0.661 (0.642-0.680)
Emakhazeni	Mpumalanga	0.612 (0.516-0.708)	0.562 (0.481-0.643)
Umsobomvu	Northern Cape	0.608 (0.475-0.742)	0.216 (0.107-0.325)
Tokologo	Free State	0.598 (0.456-0.741)	0.347 (0.255-0.439)
Victor Khanye	Mpumalanga	0.591 (0.459-0.722)	0.682 (0.596-0.768)
Fetakgomo	Limpopo	0.584 (0.470-0.699)	...
Ikwezi	Eastern Cape	0.583 (0.448-0.719)	...
Ramotshere Moiloa	North West	0.578 (0.520-0.636)	0.608 (0.558-0.659)
Siyathemba	Northern Cape	0.578 (0.440-0.715)	...
Ga-Segonyana	Northern Cape	0.577 (0.475-0.680)	0.464 (0.394-0.535)
Greater Giyani	Limpopo	0.576 (0.488-0.665)	0.478 (0.396-0.559)
Mpofana	KwaZulu-Natal	0.572 (0.491-0.653)	0.391 (0.259-0.523)
Dikgatlong	Northern Cape	0.567 (0.466-0.669)	...
Emadlangeni	KwaZulu-Natal	0.567 (0.464-0.670)	0.572 (0.457-0.688)
Thulamela	Limpopo	0.563 (0.531-0.596)	0.503 (0.467-0.539)
Siyancuma	Northern Cape	0.556 (0.482-0.629)	0.349 (0.247-0.451)
Lepele-Nkumpi	Limpopo	0.554 (0.495-0.612)	0.539 (0.482-0.596)
Ndwedwe	KwaZulu-Natal	0.548 (0.482-0.614)	0.321 (0.254-0.388)
CT Khayelitsha	Western Cape	0.548 (0.516-0.579)	0.509 (0.476-0.541)
Ditsobotla	North West	0.541 (0.458-0.623)	0.712 (0.647-0.777)
Kwa Sani	KwaZulu-Natal	0.541 (0.393-0.688)	0.114 (0.028-0.201)

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: adjusted positive test proportion; Elements marked in **red** have current week proportions testing positive that are **higher** than, and CIs that do not overlap with, the previous week proportions and CIs. Elements marked in **blue** have current week proportions testing positive that are **lower** than, and CIs that do not overlap with, the previous week proportions and CIs.

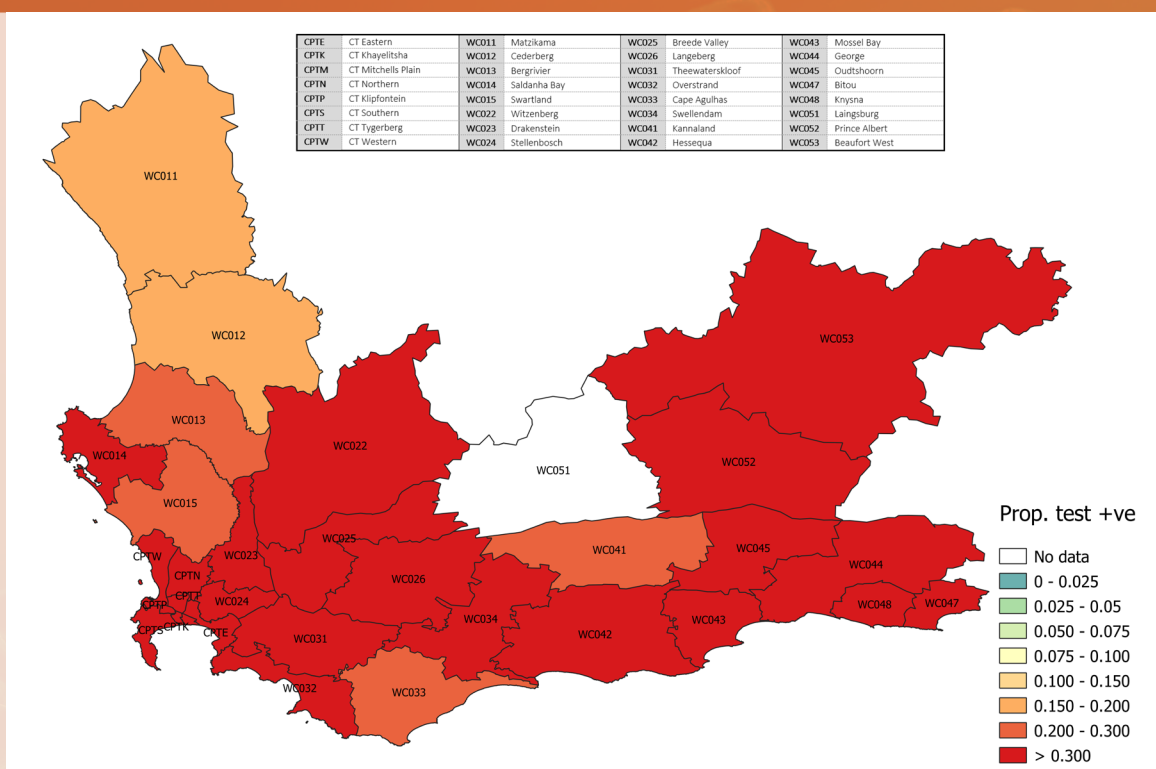


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**Figure 6.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in South Africa for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.



**Figure 7.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in the Western Cape Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

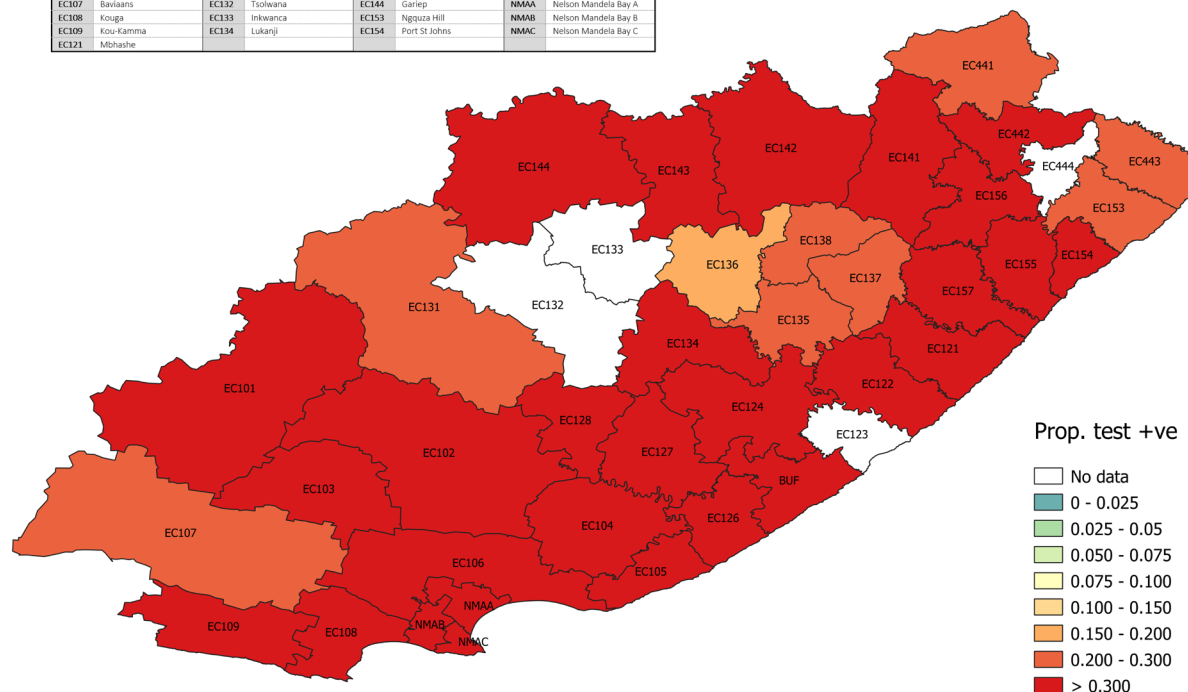


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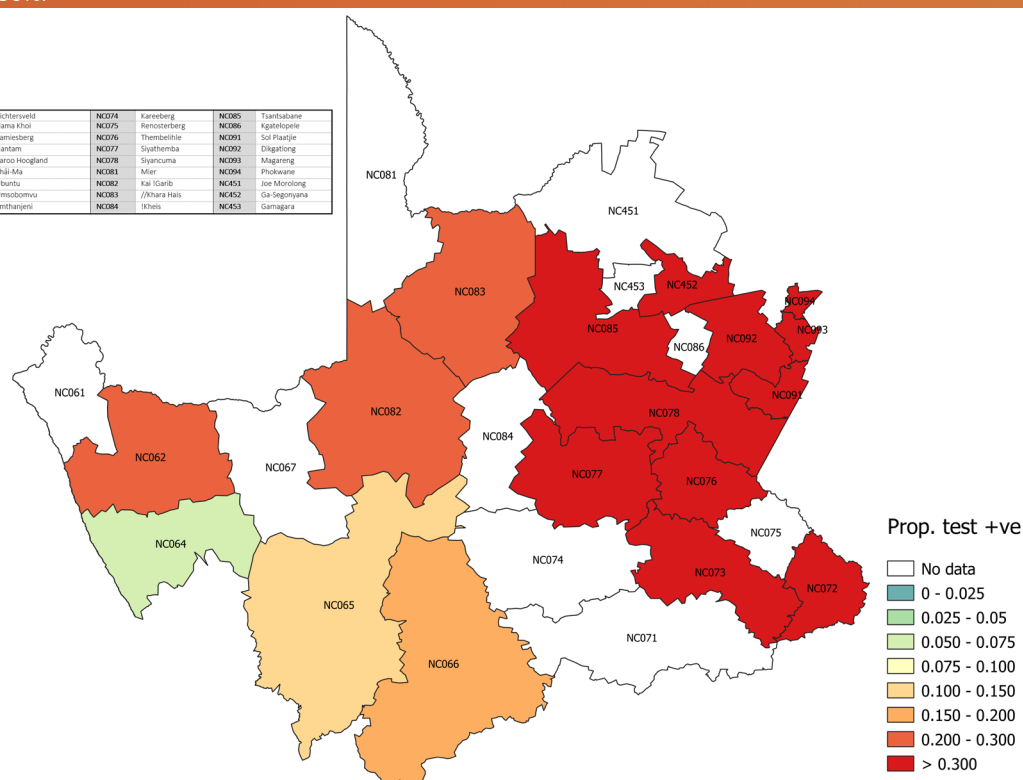
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BUF	Buffalo City	EC122	Mngoma	EC135	Intsika Yethu	EC155	Nyandeni
EC101	Camdeboo	EC123	Great Kei	EC136	Emalahleni	EC156	Mhlontlo
EC102	Blue Crane Route	EC124	Amahlathi	EC137	Engcobo	EC157	King Sabata Dalindyebo
EC103	Ikwazi	EC126	Ngqushwa	EC138	Sakhisizwe	EC441	Matatiele
EC104	Matatiele	EC127	Nkonkobe	EC141	Elundini	EC442	Umtintsweni
EC105	Ndlambe	EC128	Nxuba	EC142	Semjati	EC443	Mbizana
EC106	Sundays River Valley	EC131	Inxuba Yethemba	EC143	Maletswai	EC444	Ntabankulu
EC107	Baviaans	EC132	Tsolwana	EC144	Gariep	NMAA	Nelson Mandela Bay A
EC108	Kouga	EC133	Inkwanca	EC153	Ngqiza Hill	NMAB	Nelson Mandela Bay B
EC109	Kou-Kamma	EC134	Lukanji	EC154	Port St Johns	NMAC	Nelson Mandela Bay C
EC121	Mohale's						



**Figure 8.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in the Eastern Cape Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

NC061	Richtersveld	NC074	Kareeberg	NC085	Tsantabane
NC062	Namaqualand	NC075	Rensselaersburg	NC086	Aganokoppe
NC064	Kamiesburg	NC076	Thembelille	NC091	Sol Plaatje
NC065	Hantam	NC077	Siyathemba	NC092	Dikgatong
NC066	Karoo Hoogland	NC078	Siyancuma	NC093	Magareng
NC067	Shalika	NC081	Karoo	NC094	Prokariene
NC071	Uitenhage	NC082	Kaligari	NC451	Joe Morolong
NC072	Umsobomvu	NC083	/Kharu Hais	NC452	Ge-Segonyana
NC073	Ernstjani	NC084	Itshetshe	NC453	Gamagara



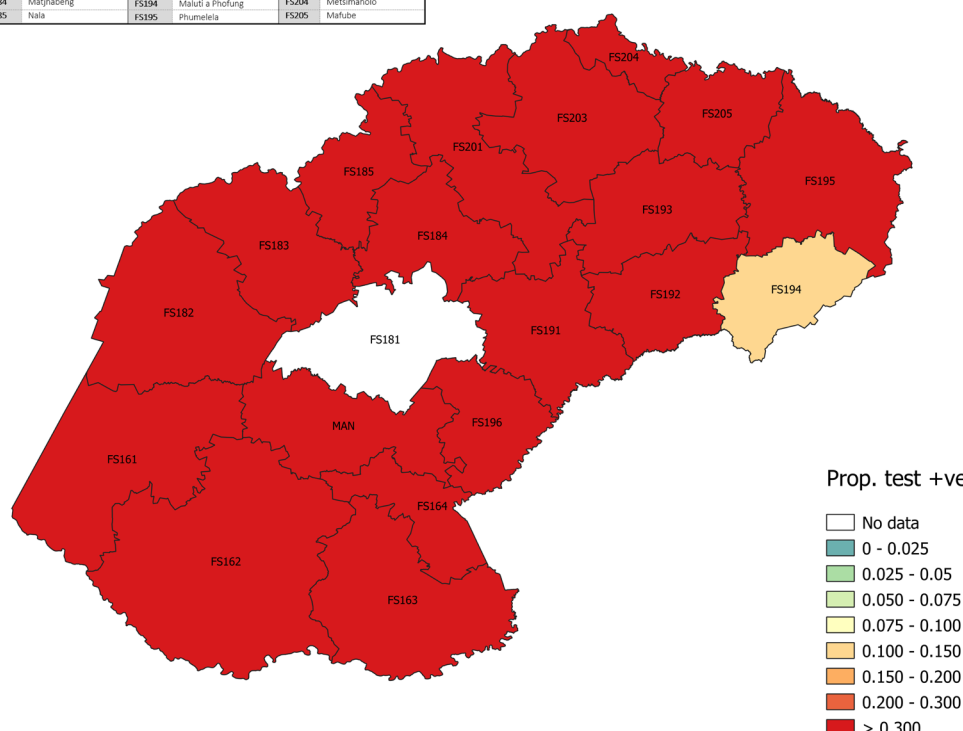
**Figure 9.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Northern Cape Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

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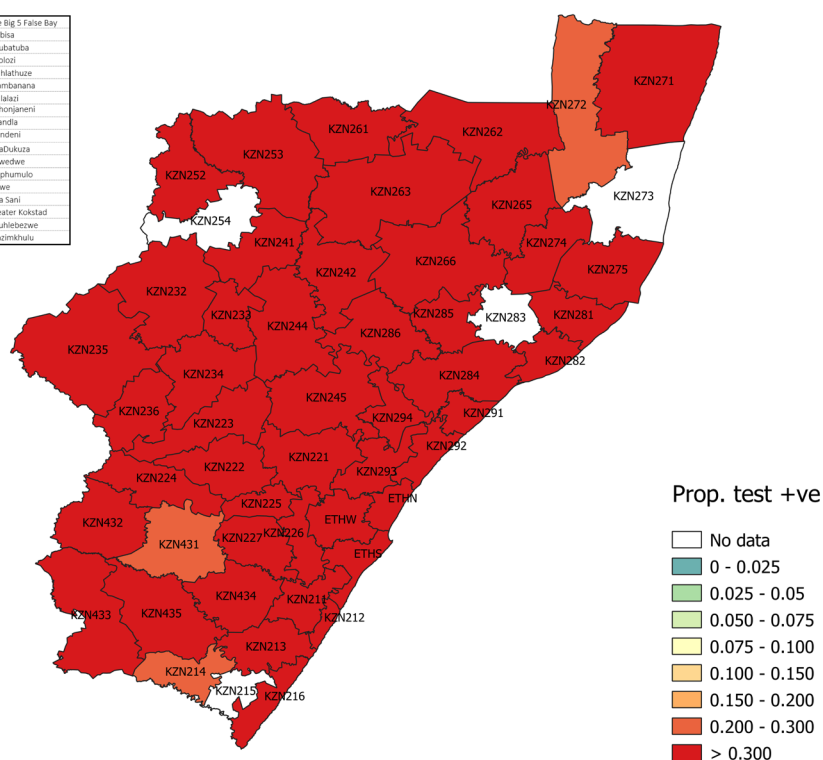
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MAN	Mangaung	FS181	Masilonyana	FS191	Setsotho	FS196	Mantsope
FS161	Lesemeng	FS182	Tlokologo	FS192	Dihlabeng	FS201	Mogalakga
FS162	Kopanong	FS183	Tswelopele	FS193	Nkatoana	FS203	Ngwathe
FS163	Mohokare	FS184	Matjhabeng	FS194	Maluti a Phofung	FS204	Metsimholo
FS164	Naledi	FS185	Nala	FS195	Phumelela	FS205	Matube



**Figure 10.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Free State Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

ETHN	eThekweni North	KZN233	Indaka	KZN273	The Big 5 False Bay
ETHS	eThekweni South	KZN234	Umtshezi	KZN274	Hlabisa
ETHW	eThekweni West	KZN235	Okhahlamba	KZN275	Mtubatuba
KZN211	Vukameliso	KZN236	Imbabazane	KZN281	Mfolosi
KZN212	Umdoni	KZN241	Endumeni	KZN282	uMkhathuzwe
KZN213	Umtsheni	KZN242	Nqutu	KZN283	Ntambanana
KZN214	uMuzwabantu	KZN244	Mtinga	KZN284	uMlalazi
KZN215	Ezingolweni	KZN245	Umvoti	KZN285	Mthonjaneni
KZN216	Hlabisa Coast	KZN252	Newcastle	KZN286	Nkandla
KZN221	uMshwathi	KZN253	Emadlangeni	KZN291	Mandeni
KZN222	uMngeni	KZN254	Dannhauser	KZN292	KwaDukuza
KZN223	Mpofana	KZN261	eDumbe	KZN293	Ndweni
KZN224	Impendle	KZN262	uPhongolo	KZN294	Maghamulo
KZN225	The Mpondweni	KZN263	Aloriquisi	KZN311	Ingwe
KZN226	Mkhambathini	KZN265	Nongoma	KZN332	Kwa-Sani
KZN227	Richmond	KZN266	Ulundi	KZN333	Greater Kokstad
KZN232	Emnambithi/Ladysmith	KZN271	Umhlabuyalingana	KZN334	Ubuhlebezwe
		KZN272	Josi	KZN335	Umkhathululu

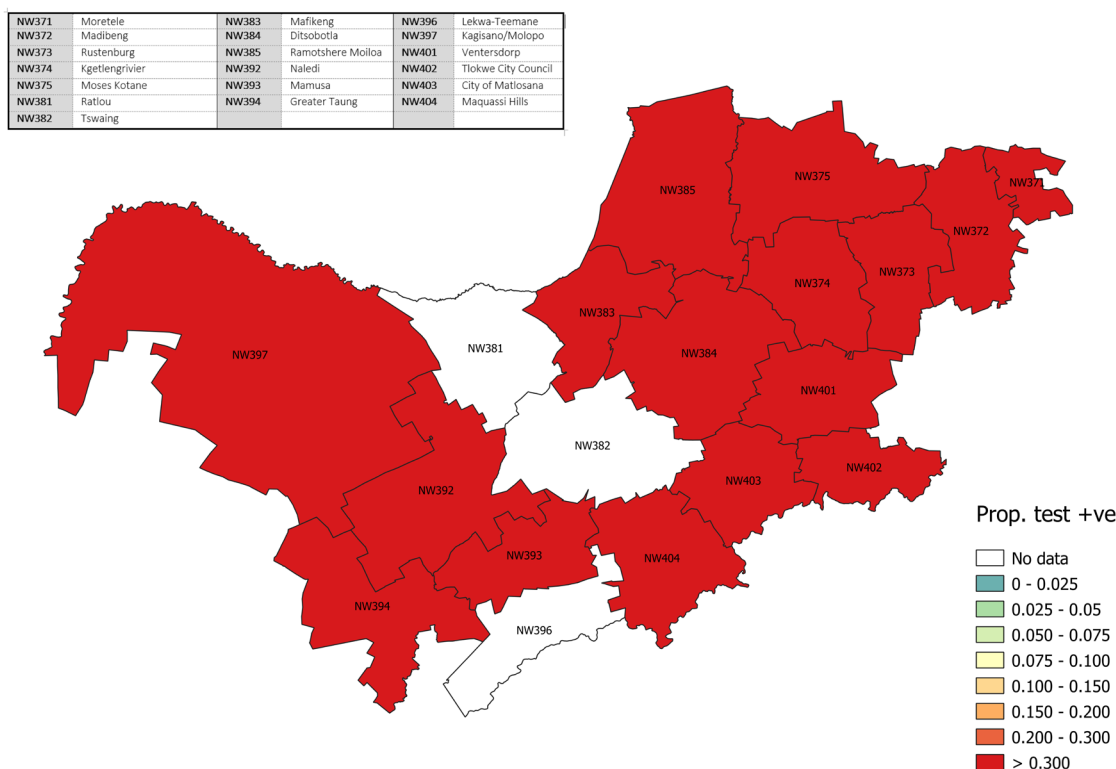


**Figure 11.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in KwaZulu-Natal Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

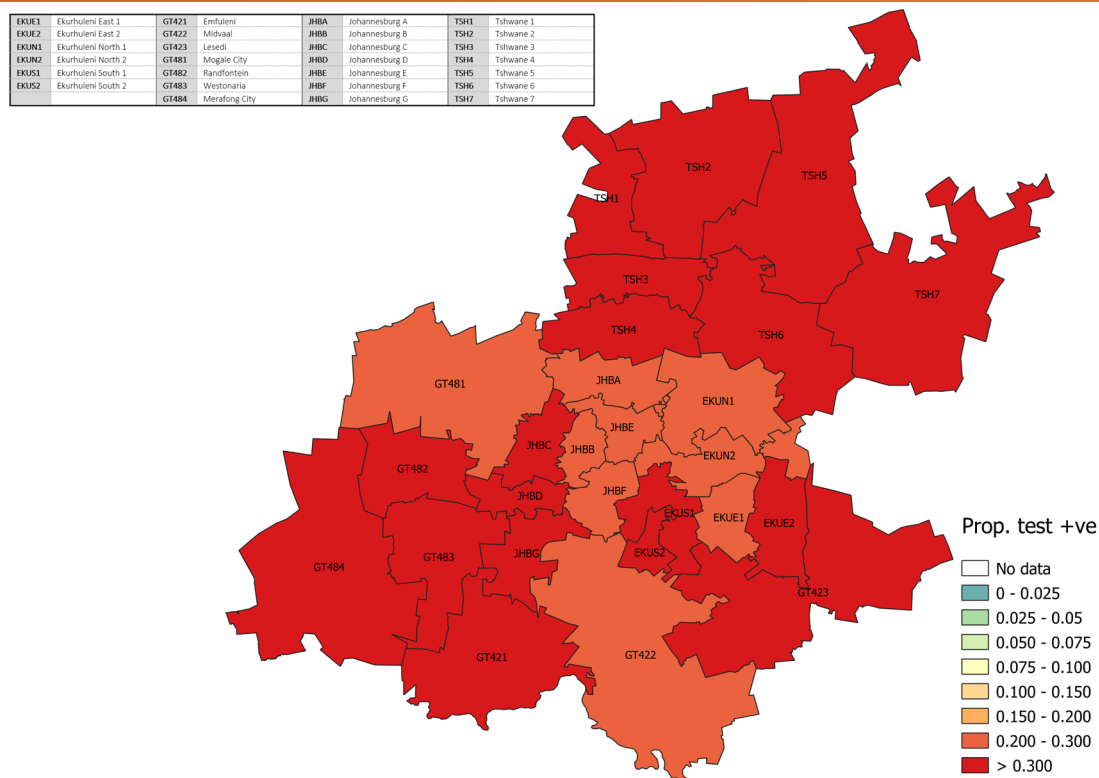
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**Figure 12.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in North West Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.



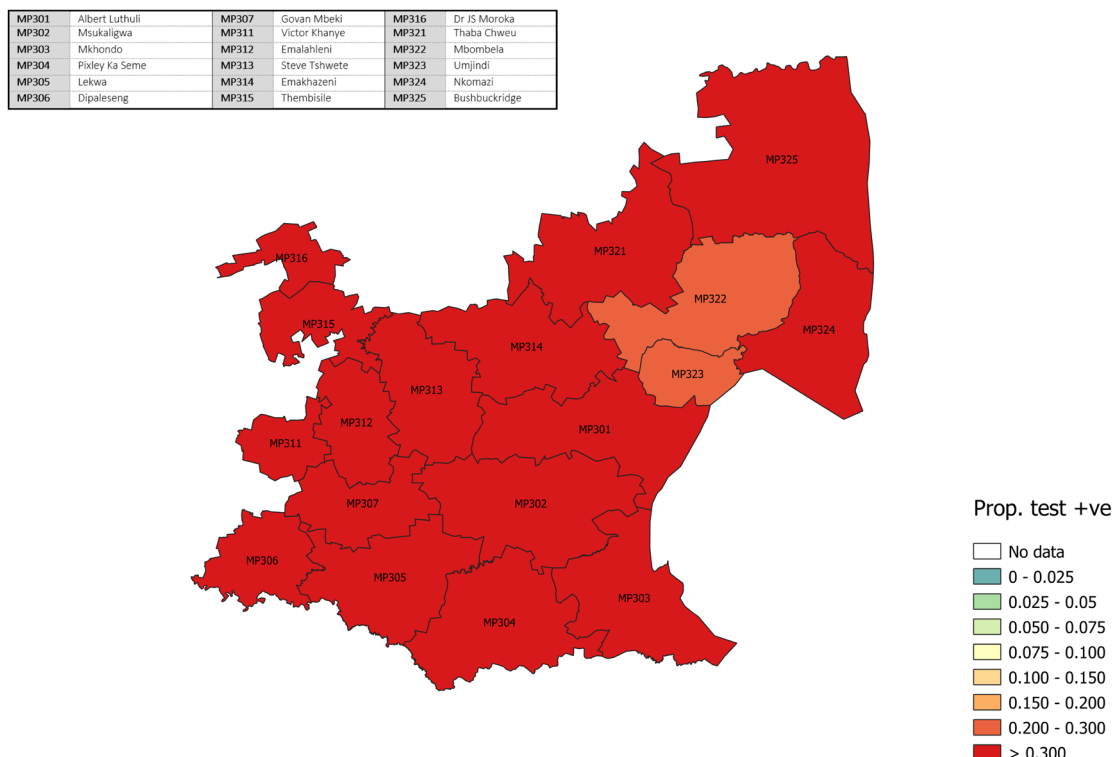
**Figure 13.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Gauteng Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.



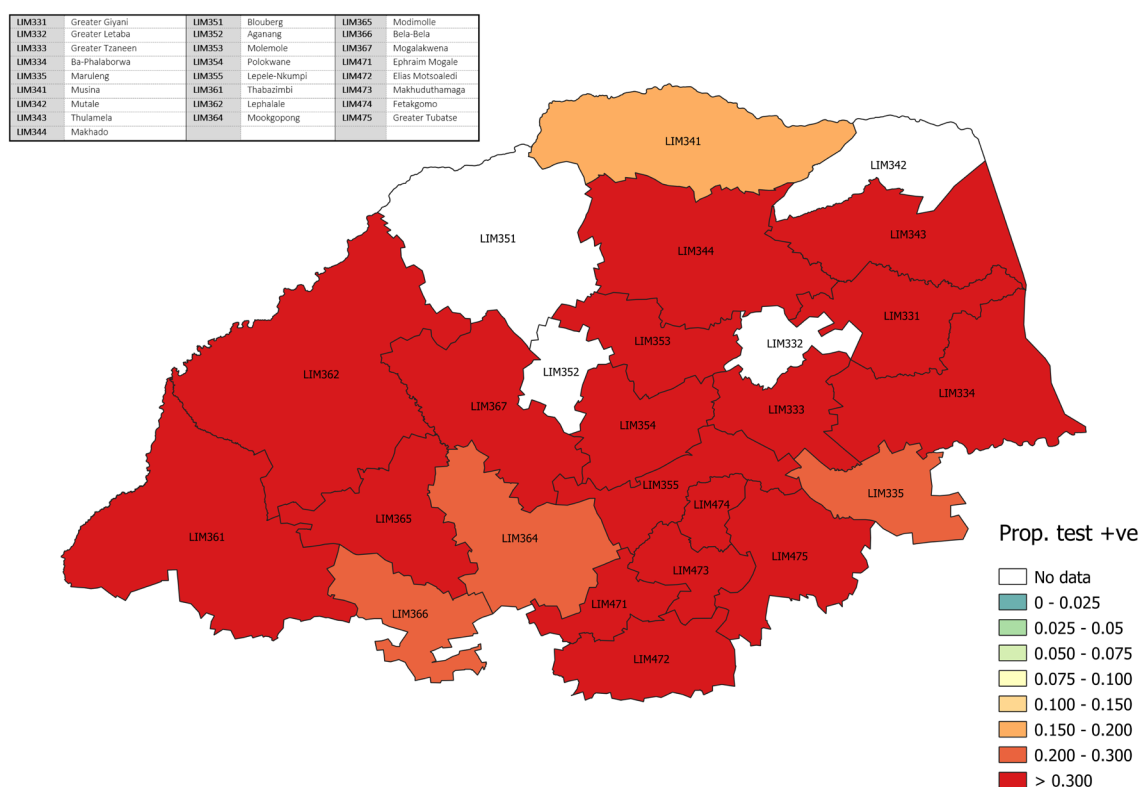
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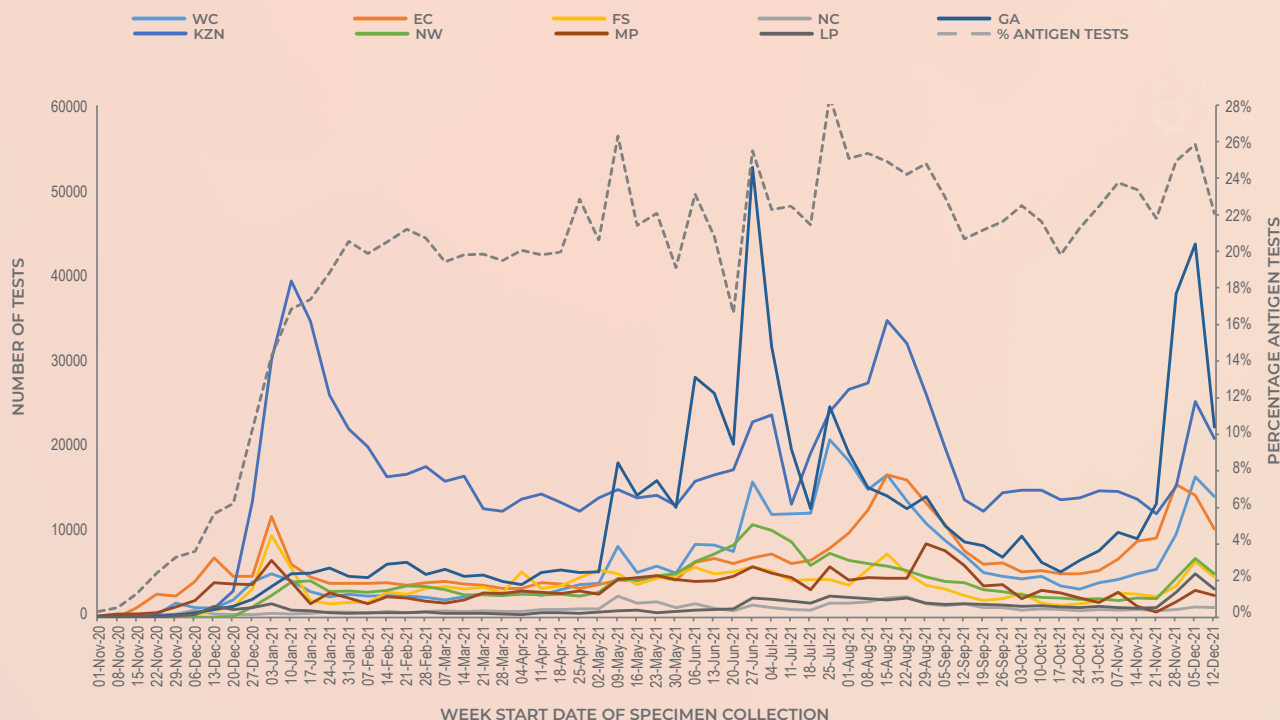
**Figure 14.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Mpumalanga Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.



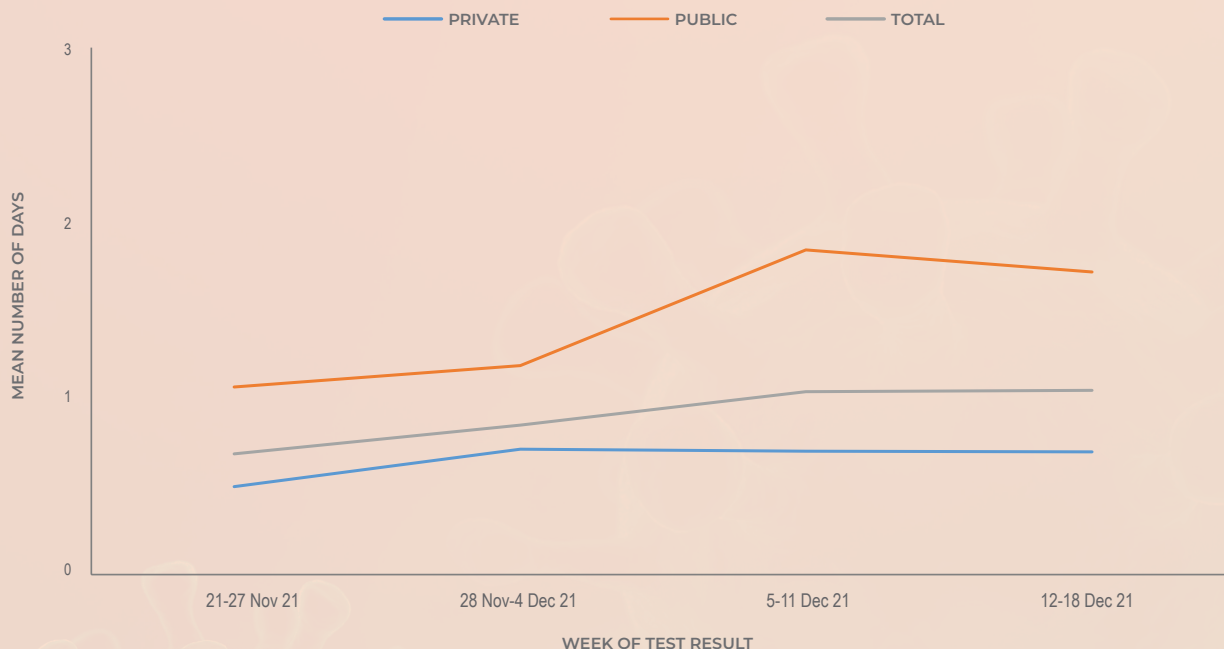
**Figure 15.** Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Limpopo Province for the week of 12-18 December 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

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SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 50 2021



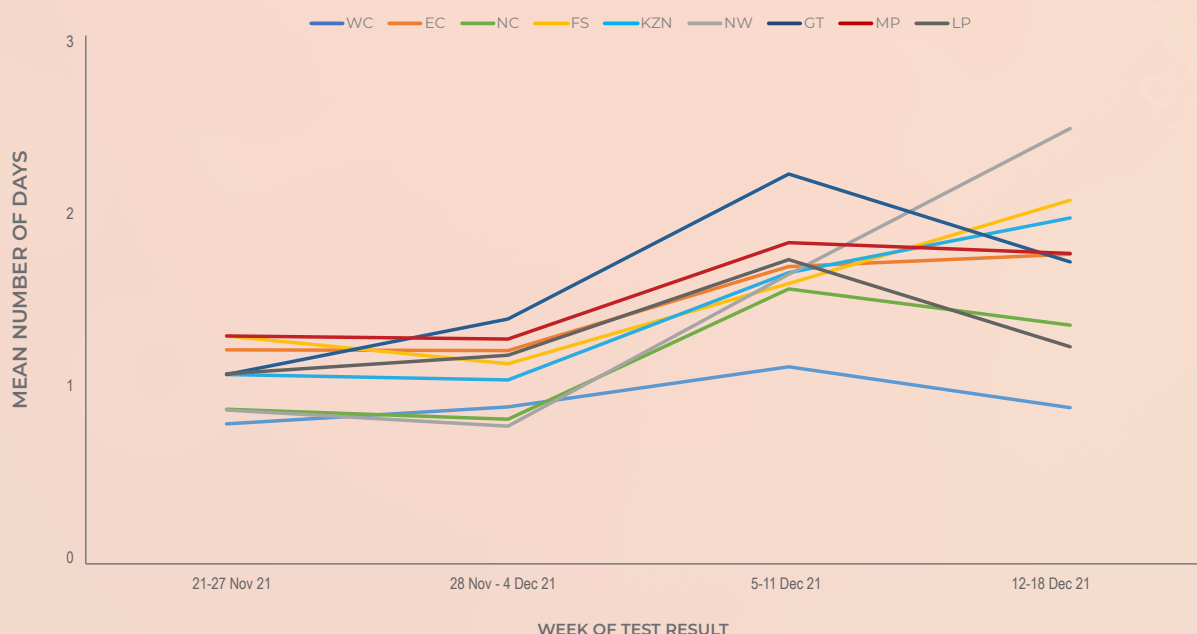
**Figure 16.** Number of antigen tests by province and overall percentage antigen tests, South Africa, 1 November 2020 – 18 December 2021. WC Western Cape; EC Eastern Cape; FS Free State; KZN KwaZulu-Natal; GA Gauteng; NC Northern Cape; NW North West; MP Mpumalanga; LP Limpopo



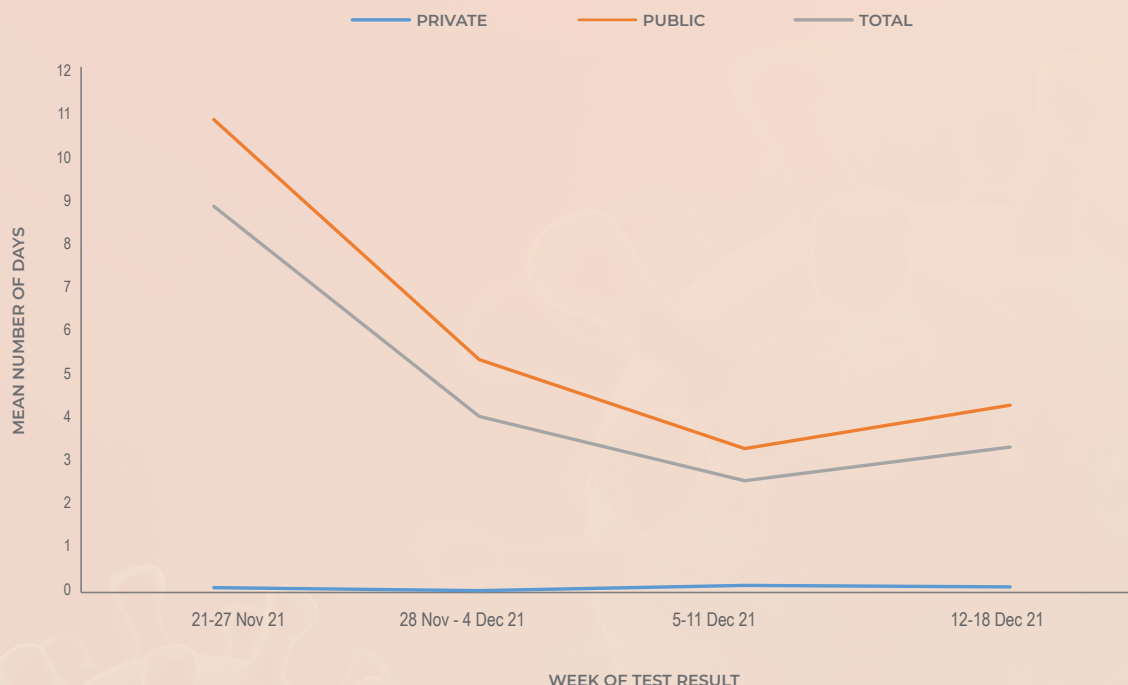
**Figure 17.** Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests by week of test result, South Africa, 21 November – 18 December 2021

# COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

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**Figure 18.** Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests in the public sector by week of test result and province, South Africa, 21 November – 18 December 2021. WC Western Cape; EC Eastern Cape; FS Free State; KZN KwaZulu-Natal; GT Gauteng; NC Northern Cape; NW North West; MP Mpumalanga; LP Limpopo



**Figure 19.** Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for antigen tests by week of test result, South Africa, 21 November – 18 December 2021



# COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

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## Methods

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 began on 28 January 2020 at the NICD and after the first case was confirmed on 5th March 2020, testing was expanded to a larger network of private and NHLS laboratories. Laboratory testing was conducted for people meeting the case definition for persons under investigation (PUI). This definition was updated several times over the reporting period but at different times included (i) symptomatic individuals seeking testing, (ii) hospitalised individuals for whom testing was done, (iii) individuals in high-risk occupations, (iv) individuals in outbreak settings, and (v) individuals identified through community screening and testing (CST) programmes which were implemented in April 2020 and was discontinued from the week beginning 17th May. CST was implemented differently in different provinces, and ranged from mass screening approaches (including asymptomatic individuals) to screening of individuals in contact with a confirmed case to targeted testing of clusters of cases. Respiratory specimens were submitted to testing laboratories. Testing was performed using reverse transcriptase real-time PCR, which detects SARS-CoV-2 viral genetic material. Laboratories used any one of several in-house and commercial PCR assays to test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 using rapid antigen-based tests was implemented towards the end of October 2020. Results of reported rapid antigen-based tests are included in this report, however data are incomplete and efforts are ongoing to improve data completeness.

Test results were automatically fed into a data warehouse after result authorisation. We excluded specimens collected outside South Africa and duplicate entries of the same test for an individual. From week 49 of 2020 onwards, test data were reported from the Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System (NMCCS). Date of specimen receipt in the laboratory was used when date of specimen collection was missing. Proportion testing positive (PTP) was calculated as the number of positive tests/total number of tests and presented as percentage by multiplying with 100. We used 2020 mid-year population estimates from Statistics South Africa to calculate the testing rate, expressed as tests per 100,000 persons. Laboratory turnaround

times were calculated as the mean number of days between specimen collection and reporting of the result. Categorical variables were compared using the chi-squared test, with a P-value < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

Health district and sub-district (in the metros) level results were mapped based on geo-locatable public (approximately 98% of public sector facilities in the country) and private (approximately 81% of private testing facilities) sector testing facilities. Estimates of overall prevalence were derived using regression techniques. Estimates were adjusted to produce district-specific positive test prevalences based on the national average age and sex profile of testing for that week. This adjustment allows more accurate comparison of the proportion testing positive across districts. Districts with fewer than 20 tests reported during the week have been excluded from the analysis.

## Limitations

- A backlog in testing of samples by laboratories affects the reported number of tests. As a result, numbers tested during this period may change in subsequent reports.
- If higher-priority specimens were tested preferentially this would likely result in an inflated proportion testing positive.
- Different and changing testing strategies (targeted vs. mass testing, PCR vs. antigen-based tests or prioritisation of severe or at-risk cases during epidemic waves) used by different provinces makes percentage testing positive and number of reported tests difficult to interpret and compare.
- Health district and sub-district level were mapped based on the testing facility and not place of residence.
- Patient admission status was categorised based on the reported patient facility and may not reflect whether the patient was actually admitted to hospital.
- Antigen tests may be underestimated as they are used in a number of different settings and results may not be reported.