

## RTI 0810 – False positives or false negatives

### Data source

Data was sourced from the Notifiable Conditions System (NoCS). This system is owned by the Communicable Diseases Branch (CDB), Department of Health and captures notifiable conditions reported by Public Health Units and other healthcare providers. COVID-19 is a notifiable condition.

Date was extracted from the NoCS on 31 August 2020, for the period 01 February 2020 to 07 May 2020 (the date of the RTI application). Date is subject to change.

### Methodology

A manual process was undertaken to satisfy the terms of the RTI application, to capture:

- a) the number of patients who had more than one test
- b) varied results
  - Within the data extract for 31 August 2020 – persons were matched (using the NoCS generated field – PID) and flagged if they had more than one test (PCR only) for COVID
  - Within the data extract for 31 August 2020 – sample ID's (unique number generated by the testing laboratory) were matched and flagged if they had varied results (ie were negative and then positive, or vice versa)

### Results

Number of people who have had more than one test	Number of tests with varied results
7,875 people	*56 tests

\*This figure is restricted to repeat testing within a maximum of 3 days between specimen collection and excludes serology results. The majority of people with at least one positive result are likely to have had more than one test for different reasons and have both positive and negative test results. Initial policy required a negative test on a confirmed case before release from isolation, therefore this information is unlikely to be meaningful.