

## Interim report of the profile of COVID-19 cases in healthcare workers in Ireland,

Report prepared by HPSC on 07/12/2021

This report includes data on healthcare worker (HCW) cases of COVID-19 (all case classifications – confirmed, probable, possible) notified to the national infectious disease surveillance system (CIDR) from week 45, 2021 (07/11/2021 – 13/11/2021) to week 48, 2021 (28/11/2021-04/12/2021). CIDR is a dynamic information system and data are continuously validated and updated.

### Healthcare worker definition

Healthcare worker (HCW) status is determined both by self-classification and workplace. The definition includes anyone who self-identifies as a HCW irrespective of where they work. In addition, all staff that work in any healthcare facility (includes cleaners, household staff etc.) are classified as HCWs. The category includes healthcare workers employed both by public and private providers.

### Summary

**Table 1:** Summary of healthcare worker COVID-19 cases, 07/11/2021-04/12/2021

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
Total number of COVID-19 cases	123,666	-
Total number of HCW cases	1,838	1.5%
<i>% HCW cases where HCW status known</i>		3.2%
Median age (range)	41 (17-76)	
Total number hospitalised	22	1.2%
The median age (range) of hospital inpatient	44 (22-62)	
Admitted to ICU	1	0.05%

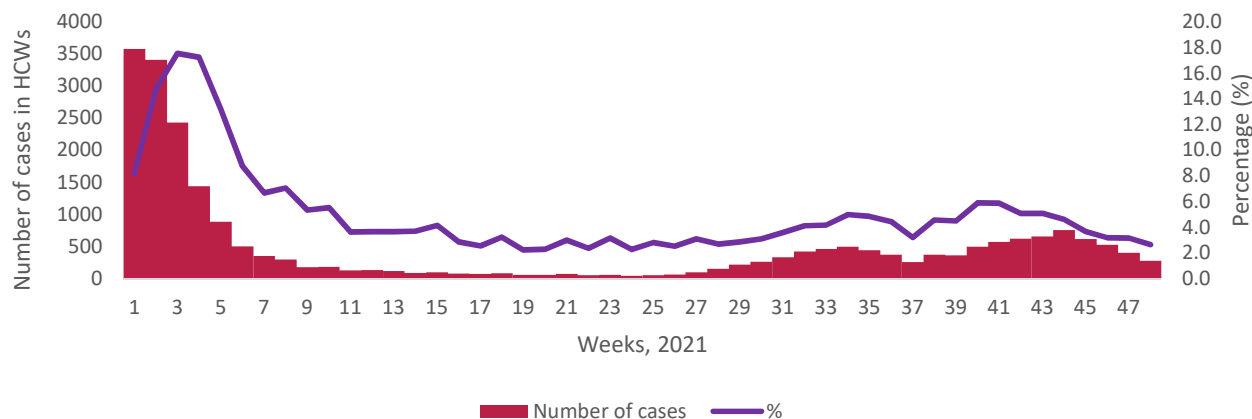
There was a total of 123,666 COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC as of 04/12/2021, 1,838 were healthcare workers (HCWs), which represents 3.2% of cases where HCW status was known.

The proportion of females is disproportionately high (77.9%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (49.9%), most likely due to some HCW specialities e.g. nursing, being female dominated.

Table 2 describes the profile of all HCW COVID-19 cases, in Ireland notified to HPSC during the period 07/11/2021-04/12/2021.

Table 3 describes the country of birth of all HCW COVID-19 cases in Ireland notified to HPSC during the period 07/11/2021-04/12/2021.

Table 4 describes most likely transmission source of all HCW COVID-19 cases in Ireland notified to HPSC during the period 07/11/2021-04/12/2021.



**Figure 1:** Number and percentage of healthcare worker (% where HCW status is known) COVID-19 cases by week of notification, weeks 1-48, 2021, Ireland

**Table 2:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by sex, age-group, HCW role and work location, 07/11/2021-04/12/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=1,838	%
Females		1,432	77.9%
Age-group	13-18	4	0.2%
	19-24	176	9.6%
	25-34	395	21.5%
	35-44	550	29.9%
	45-54	440	23.9%
	55-64	246	13.4%
	65-74	26	1.4%
	75-84	1	0.1%
HCW Role	Nurse	388	21.2%
	Healthcare assistant	340	18.5%
	Admin/Clerical worker	168	9.1%
	Doctor	104	5.7%
	Catering/Kitchen worker	67	3.6%
	Pharmacy worker	56	3.0%
	Physiotherapist	27	1.5%
	Occupational therapist	21	1.1%
	Porter	15	0.8%
	Radiographer	11	0.6%
	Cleaning/household staff	9	0.5%
	Other HCW	111	6.0%
	Unknown	521	28.4%
Location of HCW role	Acute Hospital	510	27.8%
	Community services	248	13.5%
	Nursing Home	198	10.8%
	Centre for disabilities	94	5.1%
	Community Hospital/LSU	89	4.8%
	GP surgery	36	2.0%
	Mental Health Facility	35	1.9%
	Hospice	22	1.2%
	Other HCW place of work	227	12.4%
	Unknown	379	20.5%

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by ethnicity and country of birth, 07/11/2021-04/12/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=1,838	%
Country of birth	Ireland	1,275	69.4%
	India	92	5.0%
	Philippines	53	2.9%
	Poland	53	2.9%
	Nigeria	19	1.0%
	Romania	19	1.0%
	Other	126	6.9%
	Unknown	201	10.9%
Ethnicity	White	1,474	80.2%
	Indian subcontinent	102	5.5%
	Black African	35	1.9%
	Mixed background	16	0.9%
	Other	87	4.7%
	Unknown	124	6.8%

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by likely transmission source, 07/11/2021-04/12/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=1,838	%
Most likely transmission source			
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	761	41.5%
	Community transmission	708	38.5%
	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	186	10.1%
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	22	1.2%
	Travel related	17	0.9%
	Under investigation	144	7.8%

### Interpretation

The number of COVID-19 cases in HCWs decreased between weeks 45 and 48 (n= 1,838) compared to the previous 4-week period (weeks 41-44; n= 2,614). The percentage of all cases who are HCWs (% where HCW status is known) decreased in weeks 45-48 from 5.1% (2,614/51,316) compared to 3.2% (1,838/56,684) in weeks 41-44. This decrease may be due to uptake of the COVID-19 booster vaccine by HCWs in recent weeks. The proportion of cases who are HCWs remains far lower than that seen during the January 2021 surge when the HCW vaccination programme was in its early phase, and 12.2% (10,865/89,044) of cases were HCWs.

Twenty-two of all reported HCWs cases for period between weeks 45 and 48 were hospitalised, one of whom was treated in ICU. No deaths of HCW cases were reported.

### Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.