

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

Report prepared by HPSC on 09/11/2021

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 41, 2021 (10/10/2021 – 16/10/2021) to week 44, 2021 (31/10/2021-06/11/2021). 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, 10/10/2021-06/11/2021

Characteristic of HCW COVID-19 cases	Number	%
<b>Total number of COVID-19 cases</b>	67,463	-
<b>Total number of HCW cases</b>	2,267	3.4%
<b>% HCW cases where HCW status known</b>		4.9%
<b>Median age (range)</b>	41 (16-76)	
<b>Total number hospitalised</b>	28	1.2%
<b>The median age (range) of hospital inpatient</b>	41 (24-63)	

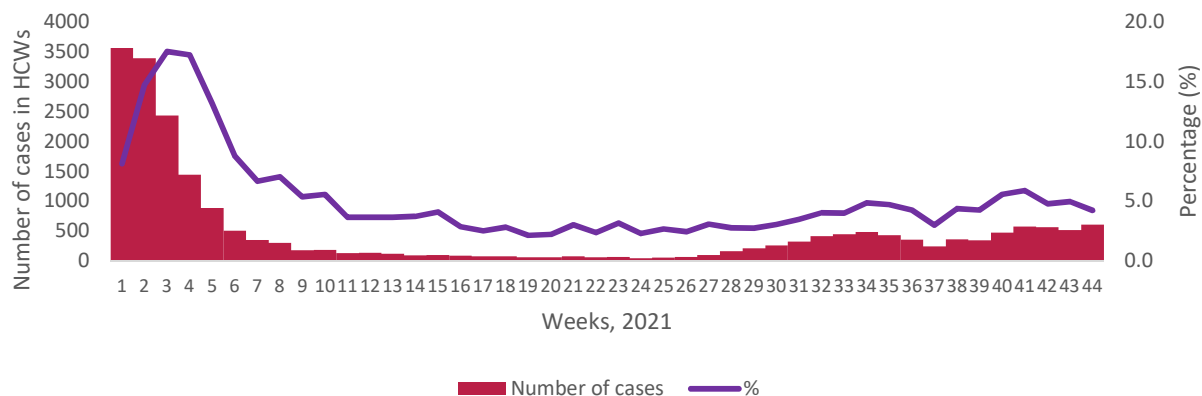
There was a total of 67,463 COVID-19 cases notified to HPSC as of 06/11/2021, 2,267 were healthcare workers (HCWs), which represents 4.9% of cases where HCW status was known.

The proportion of females is disproportionately high (77.7%) among HCW COVID-19 cases compared to non-HCW COVID-19 cases (50.0%), 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 10/10/2021-06/11/2021.

Table 3 describes the country of birth of all HCW COVID-19 cases in Ireland notified to HPSC during the period 10/10/2021-06/11/2021.

Table 4 describes most likely transmission source of all HCW COVID-19 cases in Ireland notified to HPSC during the period 10/10/2021-06/11/2021.



**Figure 1:** Number and percentage of healthcare worker (% where HCW status is known) COVID-19 cases by week of notification, weeks 1-44, 2021, Ireland

**Table 2:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by sex, age-group, HCW role and work location, 10/10/2021-06/11/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=2,267	%
Females		1,762	77.72%
Age-group			
	13-18	6	0.3%
	19-24	239	10.5%
	25-34	502	22.1%
	35-44	626	27.6%
	45-54	501	22.1%
	55-64	340	15.0%
	65 and over	53	2.4%
HCW Role			
	Nurse	524	23.1%
	Healthcare assistant	450	19.8%
	Admin/Clerical worker	205	9.1%
	Doctor	136	6.0%
	Catering/Kitchen worker	76	3.3%
	Pharmacy worker	71	3.1%
	Physiotherapist	32	1.4%
	Occupational therapist	27	1.2%
	Porter	26	1.2%
	Radiographer	17	0.7%
	Cleaning/household staff	10	0.4%
	Other HCW	419	18.5%
	Unknown	274	12.2%
Location of HCW role			
	Acute Hospital	700	30.8%
	Nursing Home	271	11.9%
	Community services	259	11.4%
	Centre for Adults/Children with disabilities	113	5.0%
	Community Hospital/Long Stay Unit	107	4.7%
	GP surgery	62	2.7%
	Mental Health Facility	53	2.4%
	Hospice	27	1.2%
	Other HCW place of work	310	13.6%
	Unknown	365	16.3%

**Table 3:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by ethnicity and country of birth, 10/10/2021-06/11/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=2,267	%
Country of birth	Ireland	1,666	73.5%
	India	118	5.2%
	Poland	36	1.6%
	Philippines	28	1.2%
	Lithuania	21	0.9%
	Romania	19	0.8%
	Nigeria	15	0.7%
	Other	147	6.5%
	Unknown	217	9.6%
	Ethnicity	White	1,884
Indian subcontinent		132	5.8%
Black African		29	1.3%
Mixed background		7	0.3%
Black other		6	0.3%
Other		74	3.2%
Unknown		135	6.0%

**Table 4:** Healthcare worker COVID-19 cases by likely transmission source, 10/10/2021-06/11/2021, Ireland

Total number of cases		N=2,267	%
Most likely transmission source	Community transmission	904	39.9%
	Close contact with a known confirmed case	813	35.9%
	Healthcare setting acquired: staff	312	13.7%
	Travel related	64	2.8%
	Healthcare setting acquired: patient	38	1.7%
	Under investigation	136	6.0%

### Interpretation

The number of COVID-19 cases in HCWs increased between weeks 41 and 44 (n= 2,267) if compared to the previous week's 37-40 (n= 1,417). The percentage of all cases who are HCWs (% where HCW status is known) increased slightly in weeks 41-44 to 4.9% (2,267/46,421) compared to 4.3% (1,417/32,803) in weeks 37-40. 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 16.4% (2,433/14,809) of cases were HCWs.

Twenty-eight of all reported HCWs for period of 10/10/2021-06/11/2021 were hospitalised, none of them were treated in ICU and no deaths 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.