



Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 28th October 2020

Week 43 2020 (week ending 24th October 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 27th October 2020 at 09:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 24/10/2020.

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 24/10/2020, N=6,228.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 43
Hospital	115	25	140	5
Nursing home	277	51	328	15
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	31	2	33	1
Residential institution	200	43	243	13
Other healthcare service	1	7	8	2
Private house	1682	2816	4498	521
Workplace	122	104	226	25
Travel related	47	6	53	0
Transport	1	3	4	1
Extended family	64	75	139	5
Childcare facility	11	44	55	19
Community outbreak	24	104	128	9
Hotel	2	7	9	1
Guest house/ B&B	0	1	1	0
Public house	7	14	21	1
Restaurant / Cafe	13	20	33	1
Social gathering	10	33	43	2
Retail outlet	14	9	23	5
School*	30	96	126	46
University/college	2	7	9	2
Religious/Other ceremony	1	10	11	4
Sporting activity/fitness	4	16	20	1
Other recreation activity	0	1	1	0
Personal grooming service	0	3	3	1
Other	25	47	72	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	1	1	0
Total	2683	3545	6228	680

*These outbreaks are outbreaks associated with school children +/- or school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks.

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **226** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 24/10/2020

- Workplace outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities.
- **81** notified COVID-19 outbreaks involved various food/beverage related industries, of which **50** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2), and **five** were in mushroom farms/facilities.

In **week 43**, three outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants while one outbreak occurred in another food processing facility. Two outbreaks occurred on construction sites or in businesses associated with the construction industry.

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified up to midnight on 24/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks*.

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 43 2020	Week 10-43 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 43	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths**
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	3	50	11	41	1748	38	11	<5
Workplace - Construction industry***	2	34	18	5	137	<5	<5	<5
Workplace - other	20	142	75	29	627	19	5	<5
Total	25	226	104	75	2512	58	16	<5

* Case numbers <5 are not presented here

**All COVID-19 cases that died and were linked to outbreaks in these settings have been laboratory confirmed. No deaths in probable/possible cases linked to outbreaks in these settings have been notified.

***Cases linked to some construction site outbreaks may reside in Northern Ireland and consequently will be notified in that jurisdiction. These cases will not be included in the case numbers for Ireland.

¹ Workplace outbreaks exclude the following workplaces, hospitals, residential facilities, hotels, public houses, retail outlets, and other settings (outbreaks in GP practices and outbreaks associated with home carers). These are reported under those headings.

COVID-19 Outbreaks Vulnerable Populations

This brief overview of COVID-19 outbreaks in vulnerable populations/settings only includes outbreaks involving the Roma community, Irish Traveller community, outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified up to midnight on 24/10/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

- There were seven new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 43
 - All were among members of the Irish Traveller community in three of the eight HSE areas
- For outbreaks involving prisons, available data reported on CIDR indicate that all cases were in staff

Table 3. Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in settings involving vulnerable populations, including the Roma community, Irish Traveller community, outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified up to midnight on 24/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks*. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 43	Week10-43	Number open	Cases notified in week 43	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths**
Roma community	0	6	1	<5	81	13	6	5
Irish Traveller community	7	48	38	49	787	33	<5	<5
Direct provision centres	0	31	4	<5	313	15	<5	<5
Homeless^ / those with addiction issues	0	13	4	9	59	5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	6	0	<5	24	<5	<5	<5
Total	7	104	47	58	1264	69	12	7

* Case numbers <5 are not presented here

^ This includes some facilities that provide long term supported accommodation. Also includes staff of homeless facilities.

**All COVID-19 cases that died and were linked to outbreaks in these settings have been laboratory confirmed. No deaths in probable/possible cases linked to outbreaks in these settings have been notified.