

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 17th November 2020

Week 46 2020 (week ending 14th November 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 16th November 2020 at 9:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 14/11/2020

Number of outbreaks notified in week 46 = 1057

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 14/11/2020, N=8,311.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 46
Hospital	121	45	166	9
Nursing home	297	48	345	6
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	31	2	33	1
Residential institution	222	50	272	7
Other healthcare service	4	17	21	1
Private house	2018	4210	6228	954
Workplace	164	109	273	20
Travel related	49	8	57	1
Transport	2	7	9	3
Extended family	103	64	167	12
Childcare facility	26	51	77	2
Community outbreak	72	100	172	15
Hotel	2	8	10	0
Guest house/ B&B	0	1	1	0
Public house	15	8	23	1
Restaurant / Cafe	25	14	39	1
Social gathering	24	26	50	2
Retail outlet	14	12	26	1
School*	57	130	187	10
University/college	8	14	22	3
Religious/Other ceremony	6	8	14	1
Sporting activity/fitness	11	15	26	1
Other recreation activity	1	0	1	0
Personal grooming service	0	5	5	1 [#]
Other	47	29	76	2
Unknown	0	1	1	1
Not specified	0	10	10	2
Total	3319	4992	8311	1057

*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. [#]This outbreak was notified on 13/11/20 but first case onset was 13/10/20

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **273** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 14/11/2020

- These outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities
- **89** COVID-19 notified outbreaks involved various food/beverage related industries, of which **55** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2)
- In **week 46**, three outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants. Four outbreaks occurred in businesses associated with the construction sector

There were 20 new COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified during week 46:

- Eight in HSE East
- Four in HSE Southeast
- Three in HSE South
- Five were in other HSE-Areas

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified up to midnight on 14/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks.

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 46 2020	Week 10-46 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	3	55	11	5	1778	38	11	<5
Workplace - Construction industry**	4	43	20	<5	162	<5	<5	<5
Workplace - other	13	175	78	20	766	21	5	<5
Total	20	273	109	27	2706	60	16	<5

*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 in the full weekly outbreak report.

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 14/11/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

There were 7 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 46:

- Four outbreaks were among members of the Irish Traveller community
 - Two in HSE East, one in HSE South and one in HSE Northeast
 - One of the outbreaks in HSE East involved 23 linked cases
- One outbreak was among members of the Roma community in HSE East
- There were two outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres

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 14/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 46	Week 10-46	Number open	Cases notified in week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Roma community	1	9	4	10	158	16	7	5
Irish Traveller community	4	79	60	10	1130	50	6	<5
Direct provision centres	2	36	5	5	375	15	<5	<5
Homeless^ / those with addiction issues	0	14	3	<5	77	5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	7	1	<5	47	<5	<5	<5
Total	7	145	73	26	1787	89	15	7

^ 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.