



Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 20th October 2020

Week 42 2020 (week ending 17th October 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 19th October 2020 at 09:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 17/10/2020.

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 17/10/2020, N=5,590.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 42
Hospital	110	27	137	7
Nursing home	274	37	311	5
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	30	3	33	1
Residential institution	196	33	229	8
Other healthcare service	0	7	7	4
Private house	1654	2328	3982	461
Workplace	103	95	198	18
Travel related	46	7	53	0
Transport	0	3	3	1
Extended family	57	76	133	17
Childcare facility	8	28	36	7
Community outbreak	21	97	118	24
Hotel	2	6	8	4
Guest house/ B&B	0	1	1	1
Public house	6	15	21	8
Restaurant / Cafe	13	19	32	3
Social gathering	6	35	41	11
Retail outlet	13	5	18	2
School*	22	96	118	46
University/college	1	5	6	2
Religious/Other ceremony	1	5	6	0
Sporting activity/fitness	3	16	19	9
Other recreation activity	0	1	1	0
Personal grooming service	0	2	2	2
Other	25	50	75	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	2	2	2
Total	2591	2999	5590	649

*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, **198** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 17/10/2020

- Workplace outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities.
- **75** notified COVID-19 outbreaks involved various food/beverage related industries, of which **47** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2), and **five** were in mushroom farms/facilities.

In **week 42**, three outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants while four 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 17/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks*.

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 42 2020	Week 10-42 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 42	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths**
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	3	47	13	7	1686	37	11	<5
Workplace - Construction industry***	4	32	21	<5	126	<5	<5	<5
Workplace - other	11	119	61	46	528	16	5	<5
Total	18	198	95	54	2340	54	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 17/10/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

- There were 19 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 42:
 - 17 were among members of the Irish Traveller community
 - There were 105 confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks among members of the Irish Traveller community notified during week 42, while an additional 153 confirmed COVID-19 cases notified during week 42 were linked to outbreaks among members of the Irish Traveller community that had been notified in previous weeks
- 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 17/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks*. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 42	Week10-42	Number open	Cases notified in week 42	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	17	41	31	258	698	29	<5	<5
Direct provision centres	0	31	7	<5	313	15	<5	<5
Homeless^ / those with addiction issues	2	13	4	5	35	5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	6	0	<5	24	<5	<5	<5
Total	19	97	43	263	1151	65	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.