

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 3rd November 2020

Week 44 2020 (week ending 31st October 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 2nd November 2020 at 9:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 31/10/2020

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 31/10/2020, N=6,703.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 44
Hospital	115	33	148	8
Nursing home	281	56	337	8
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	31	1	32	0
Residential institution	201	57	258	16
Other healthcare service	2	11	13	4
Private house	1690	3125	4815	320
Workplace	126	111	237	11
Travel related	47	6	53	0
Transport	1	4	5	1
Extended family	64	79	143	5
Childcare facility	11	52	63	9
Community outbreak	30	104	134	6
Hotel	2	7	9	0
Guest house/ B&B	0	1	1	0
Public house	7	15	22	1
Restaurant / Cafe	13	22	35	2
Social gathering	11	35	46	2
Retail outlet	14	10	24	2
School*	31	125	156	30
University/college	2	14	16	7
Religious/Other ceremony	1	10	11	0
Sporting activity/fitness	4	17	21	1
Other recreation activity	0	1	1	0
Personal grooming service	0	5	5	1
Other	26	51	77	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Not specified	0	41	41	40 [#]
Total	2710	3993	6703	480

*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.

[#]Available data on CIDR indicate that these are small family outbreaks

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **237** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 31/10/2020

- Workplace outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities
- **84** COVID-19 notified outbreaks involved various food/beverage related industries, of which **52** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2), and **five** were in mushroom farms/facilities (four in HSE Northeast and one in HSE Southeast)
- In **week 44**, two outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified up to midnight on 31/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks.

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 44 2020	Week 10-44 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 44	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	2	52	12	9	1752	38	11	<5
Workplace - Construction industry**	0	34	17	<5	137	<5	<5	<5
Workplace - other	9	151	82	30	667	19	5	<5
Total	11	237	111	39	2556	58	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 31/10/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

There were 5 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 44

- One was in a prison
- One was in a Direct Provision Centre
- Three outbreaks were among members of the Irish Traveller community

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 31/10/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 44	Week 10-44	Number open	Cases notified in week 44	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	3	52	42	22	857	39	<5	<5
Direct provision centres	1	32	4	5	318	15	<5	<5
Homeless^ / those with addiction issues	0	13	4	<5	63	5	<5	<5
Prisons	1	7	1	5	29	<5	<5	<5
Total	5	110	52	36	1348	75	12	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.