

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 24th November 2020

Week 47 2020 (week ending 21st November 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 23rd November 2020 at 09:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 21/11/2020.

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 21/11/2020, N=9,062.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 47
Hospital	126	53	179	15
Nursing home	300	48	348	5
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	31	4	35	2
Residential institution	232	46	278	5
Other healthcare service	5	18	23	1
Private house	2054	4815	6869	652
Workplace	172	121	293	20
Travel related	51	7	58	1
Transport	4	6	10	1
Extended family	103	84	187	18
Childcare facility	29	51	80	2
Community outbreak	73	123	196	17
Hotel	4	7	11	1
Guest house/ B&B	1	0	1	0
Public house	15	7	22	0
Restaurant / Cafe	32	10	42	2
Social gathering	29	24	53	3
Retail outlet	16	9	25	0
School*	65	137	202	19
University/college**	13	13	26	4
Religious/Other ceremony	6	10	16	2
Sporting activity/fitness	12	14	26	0
Other recreation activity	1	0	1	0
Personal grooming service	1	4	5	0
Other	48	26	74	2
Unknown	0	1	1	0
Not specified	0	1	1	0
Total	3423	5639	9062	772

*These outbreaks are outbreaks associated with school children +/- school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks. **These outbreaks are associated with a university/college location and do not include outbreaks among third level students that occurred at other locations.

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **293** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 21/11/2020

- Workplace outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities
- **82** COVID-19 notified outbreaks involved various food/beverage related industries, of which **58** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2)

There were 20 new COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified during week 47. Four outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants and two outbreaks occurred in other food production/processing businesses. One outbreak occurred on a construction site.

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified up to midnight on 21/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks*.

Data source: CIDR

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 47 2020	Week 10-47 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 47	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths**
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	4	58	15	30	1835	40	11	<5
Workplace - Construction industry***	1	44	20	<5	182	<5	<5	<5
Workplace - other	15	191	86	33	840	23	5	<5
Total	20	293	121	65	2857	65	17	<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 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 21/11/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

There were 5 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 47:

- Three outbreaks were among members of the Irish Traveller community
- Two outbreaks occurred in prisons

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 21/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks*. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 47	Week 10-47	Number open	Cases notified in week 47	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths**
Roma community	0	9	4	<5	160	16	7	5
Irish Traveller community	3	82	63	9	1150	52	6	<5
Direct provision centres	0	35	4	7	365	15	<5	<5
Homeless^ / those with addiction issues	0	14	3	<5	77	5	<5	<5
Prisons	2	9	3	5	56	<5	<5	<5
Total	5	149	77	23	1808	91	15	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.