

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report Highlights

Prepared by HPSC on 1st December 2020

Week 48 2020 (week ending 28th November 2020)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 30th November 2020 at 9:15am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 28/11/2020

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak setting and by closure status, up to midnight on Saturday 28/11/2020, N=9,401.

Outbreak Location	Closed	Open	Total	Total Week 48
Hospital	129	60	189	10
Nursing home	303	51	354	6
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	31	3	34	0
Residential institution	234	48	282	4
Other healthcare service	8	17	25	1
Private house	2435	4688	7123	262
Workplace	178	135	313	21
Travel related	52	8	60	1
Transport	4	6	10	0
Extended family	108	89	197	8
Childcare facility	29	55	84	5
Community outbreak	87	115	202	6
Hotel	5	6	11	0
Guest house/ B&B	1	0	1	0
Public house	15	8	23	1
Restaurant / Cafe	33	9	42	0
Social gathering	29	24	53	1
Retail outlet	16	11	27	2
School*	86	126	212	12
University/college**	17	13	30	4
Religious/Other ceremony	7	11	18	1
Sporting activity/fitness	13	13	26	0
Other recreation activity	1	0	1	0
Personal grooming service	1	4	5	0
Other	55	21	76	2
Unknown	0	1	1	0
Not specified	0	2	2	1
Total	3877	5524	9401	348

*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. **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, **313** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces¹ have been notified up to midnight on 28/11/2020. COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

- These outbreaks involved a variety of workplaces and facilities
- **84** COVID-19 notified outbreaks have been notified in businesses associated with food/beverage production or processing, of which **60** were in meat/poultry/fish processing plants in all HSE Areas (Table 2)

There were 21 new COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified during week 48. Two outbreaks occurred in meat/poultry/fish processing plants. One outbreak occurred on a construction site and one on a construction industry-related site.

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified up to midnight on 28/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to workplace outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 48 2020	Week 10-48 2020	Number open	Cases notified in week 48	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Workplace - Meat/poultry/fish processing plant	2	60	16	17	1886	42	12	<5
Workplace - Construction industry**	2	46	22	<5	195	<5	<5	<5
Workplace – other	17	207	97	25	896	27	6	<5
Total	21	313	135	44	2977	71	19	<5

¹Workplace 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. *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.

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 28/11/2020 (Table 3). COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on CIDR.

There were four new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 48:

- Three outbreaks were among members of the Roma community
- One outbreak occurred in 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 28/11/2020 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified			Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks				
	Week 48	Week 10-48	Number open	Cases notified in week 48	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Roma community	3	12	7	5	174	17	7	5
Irish Traveller community	1	81	55	8	1184	55	6	<5
Direct provision centres	0	35	4	<5	365	15	<5	<5
Homeless^/those with addiction issues	0	14	3	<5	77	5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	9	3	<5	57	<5	<5	<5
Total	4	151	72	13	1857	95	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.