



Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 1st March 2021

Week 8 2021 (week ending 27th February 2021)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 1st March 2021 at 08:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 27/02/2021.

Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 10:	12,662
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from week 48:	3,627
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 48 OPEN:	2,613
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 48 CLOSED:	1,014
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in week 8 2021:	372

Waves (weeks)	Dates
Wave 1 (weeks 10-31)	01/03/2020 – 01/08/2020
Wave 2 (week 32-47)	02/08/2020 – 21/11/2020
Wave 3 (week 48 onwards)	22/11/2020 onwards

The COVID-19 outbreak definition is available in appendix 3 of this report and on the HPSC website at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/covid-19outbreakcasedefinitionforireland/>

Please note COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's national Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.

Note: Data are provisional

Summary (week 48 2020 to week 8 2021)

3,627 outbreaks have been reported from week 48 onwards (week beginning 22/11/2020; third wave of COVID-19 infection in Ireland) and key outbreak locations are as follows:

- 1,756 (48%) were in private houses*
- 196 (5.4%) were reported in hospitals
- 224 (6.2%) were reported in nursing homes
- 269 (7.4%) were reported in residential institutions
- 1,182 (33%) were reported in a range of other settings, including workplaces (n=291; 8.0%), restaurant/cafés (n=27; 0.7%) and travel/transport related settings (n=27; 0.8%). See Table 1 for further details.

1,014 outbreaks have been closed and 2,613 outbreaks are open (See appendix 1 for breakdown of outbreaks by location and outbreak status. Note that it is common practice not to close private house outbreaks on CIDR due to the large volume of outbreaks in this category).

12,662 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (week 8, 2021)

In **week 8** 2021, there were **372** COVID-19 outbreaks notified.

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in week 8 increased by 181 compared to week 7
- There were 21 new acute hospital outbreaks notified in week 8
- There were six nursing home outbreaks notified in week 8
- There were no new community hospital/long-stay unit outbreaks in week 8
- There were 19 residential institution outbreaks notified in week 8
- Eighteen outbreaks associated with childcare facilities, or with school children +/- school staff were notified in week 8
- Sixty-one outbreaks were linked to Third level student
- There were 37 workplace outbreaks notified and locations are summarised in the workplaces section of this report
- The remaining 267 outbreaks included private houses* (n=188), extended family (n=30), other healthcare services (n=7), retail (n=5), travel/transport related (n=2), restaurant/café (n=3), social gathering (n=6), community outbreaks (n=25) and one in an unknown location.

Late notifications of outbreaks

In **week 8**, 99 outbreaks were late notifications from November (n=2), December (n=34) and January (n=63) (See appendix 2 for breakdown of these outbreaks by month).

*Public Health report outbreaks to HPSC and link cases to these outbreaks. This process is taking longer with the recent surge in case numbers. Public Health are prioritising the reporting of outbreaks in key settings e.g. RCFs, hospitals. Therefore, the number of private house outbreaks is underestimated.

Note: Data are provisional

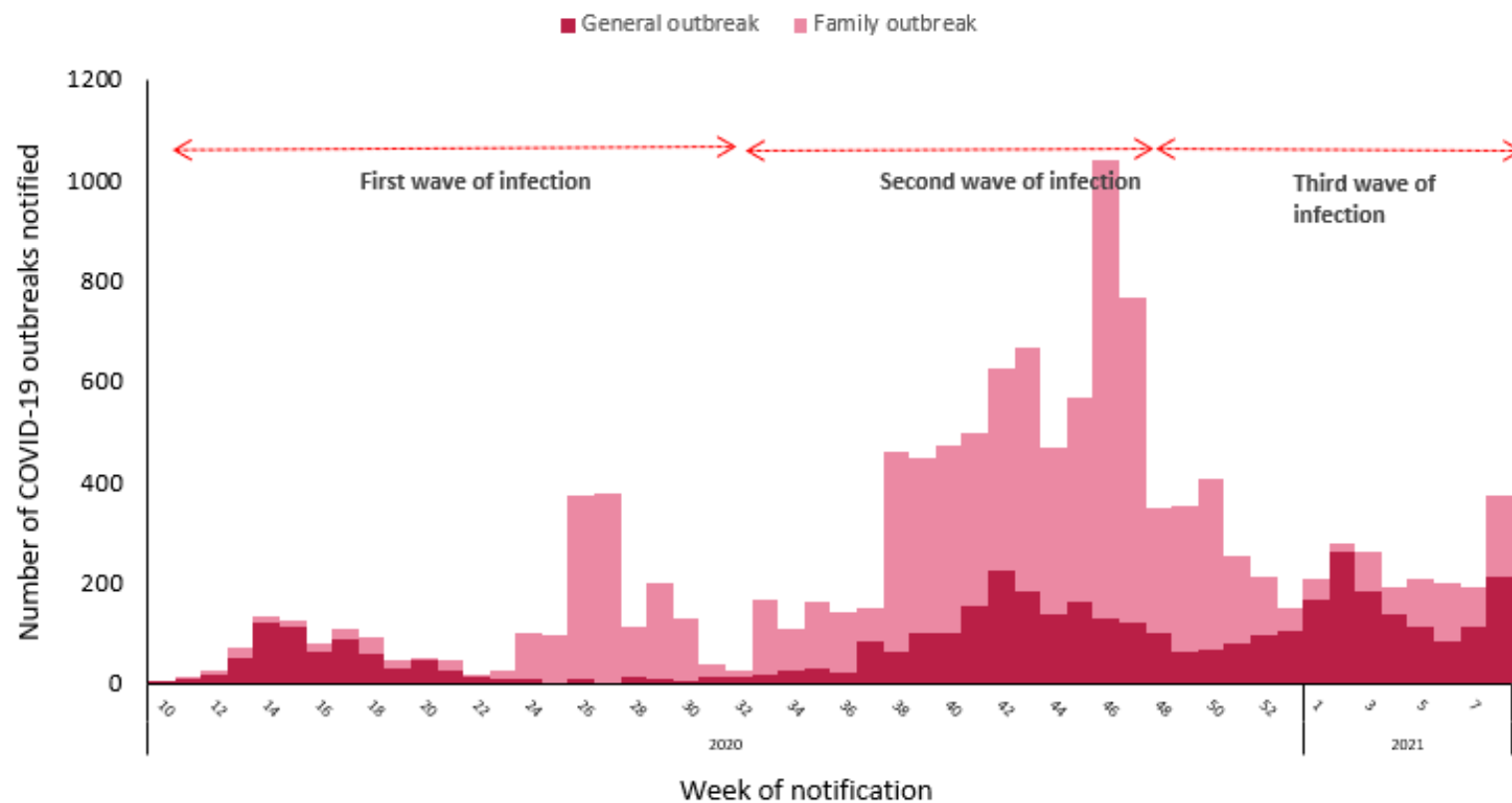


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5) to midnight on 27/02/2021, N=12,662. *Data source: CIDR*

Dashed red arrows indicate the timeline of the first, second and third waves of COVID-19 infection in Ireland (Second wave of infection commenced in week 32; week beginning 02/08/2020 and the third wave commenced in week 48 (22/11/2020)).

Note: Family outbreaks reported in July 2020 were composed largely of late notified outbreaks from the period March to May 2020.

Note: Data are provisional

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and by week of notification from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in week 8 2021 compared to the previous week, N=3,627

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total (Week 48-8)
	2020	2021									
	48-53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Hospital	64	16	32	19	13	15	12	4	21	+17	196
Nursing home	55	47	44	26	23	11	5	7	6	-1	224
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	5	6	1	4	1	0	1	5^	0	-5	23
Residential institution	35	38	72	33	30	18	13	11	19	+8	269
Community outbreak	24	0	7	2	3	3	5	0	25	+25	69
Other healthcare services	13	10	25	16	8	11	3	6	7	+1	99
Hotel	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Restaurant / Cafe	13	2	6	0	0	1	0	2	3	+1	27
Public house	6	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	10
Social gathering	8	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	6	+4	20
Retail outlet	10	9	8	2	6	2	7	11	5	-6	60
Workplace	59	21	35	36	24	29	21	29	37	+8	291
Travel related	9	0	0	0	6	0	3	3	1	-2	22
Transport	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	+1	5
Private house: family outbreaks	1142	18	9	65	34	69	90	56	135	+79	1618
Private house: general outbreaks	64	2	0	2	0	4	6	7	53	+46	138
Extended family	58	22	10	14	22	26	23	31	30	-1	236
Childcare Facility	28	7	14	27	14	13	5	9	15	+6	132
School*	95	3	8	8	1	1	0	0	3	+3	119
University/College**	6	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	4	+3	14
Religious/Other ceremony	10	1	1	3	2	1	2	5	0	-5	25
Sporting activity/fitness	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Personal grooming service	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	7	2	2	3	3	0	3	2	1	-1	23
Total	1720	207	277	260	192	208	200	191^	372^^	+181	3627

*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. *Contains outbreaks for weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8). ^Includes late outbreak notifications from December 2020 (n=1), January (n=3) and February (n=1) 2021 ^^Includes 99 late notifications from November, December and January (see appendix 2 for breakdown).

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Residential Facilities and Hospital settings in Ireland

A summary of outbreaks linked to nursing homes, acute hospitals, community hospital/long-stay units, and other residential institutions is shown in Figure 2 (A-D), in the subsequent “Focus” sections and Tables 2-5.

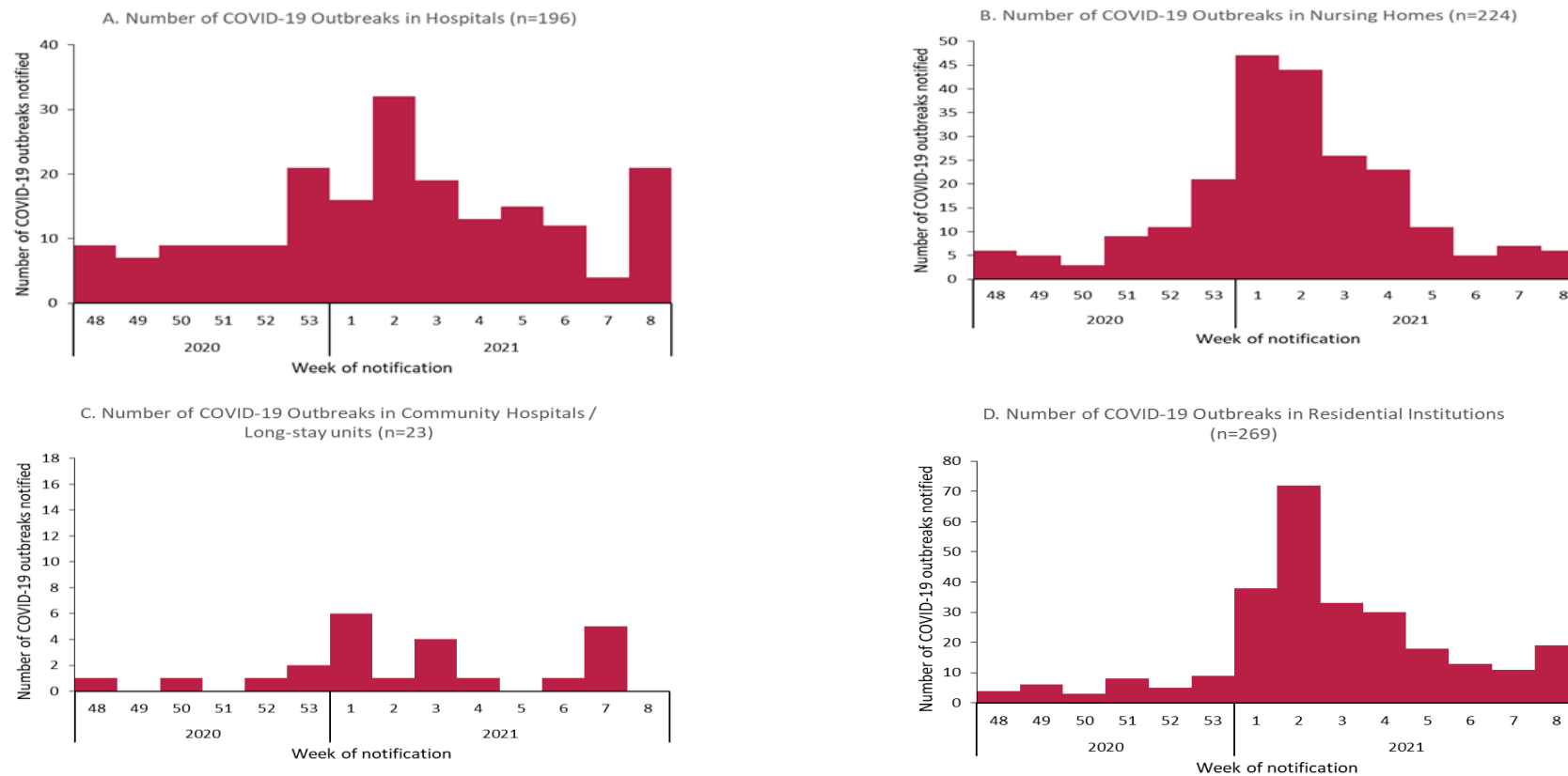


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals^{^^}, (B) Nursing Homes^{^^}, (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units[^] and (D) Residential institutions^{^^} notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021. [^]week 7 includes late outbreak notifications from December 2020, January and February 2021 ^{^^}week 8 includes late notifications from November and December 2020 and January 2021 (Hospitals=11, Nursing home=1, Residential Institutions=7) *Data source: CIDR.*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **627** outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **15,677** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 27/02/2021, **247** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **176** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **7,728 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified. Of those cases, 511 were hospitalised, eleven were admitted to ICU, and 859 laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks in these settings died (Table 2).

Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 3,181 cases, not a HCW in 3,897 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 3).

There were six new outbreaks reported in nursing homes and no new outbreaks in community hospital/long-stay units during week 8 2021.

Table 2: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases[‡] in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units in Ireland, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases [‡] linked to outbreaks (week 48-8)*				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-8*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Nursing home	6**	1-44	224	154	1-126	93	7069	410	9	816
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	0	n/a	23	22	4-92	5	659	101	<5	43
Total	6	0-44	247	176	1-126	98	7728	511	11	859

[#]Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. ^{*}Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8). ^{**} Includes one late notification from January 2021

Note: Data are provisional and confidential

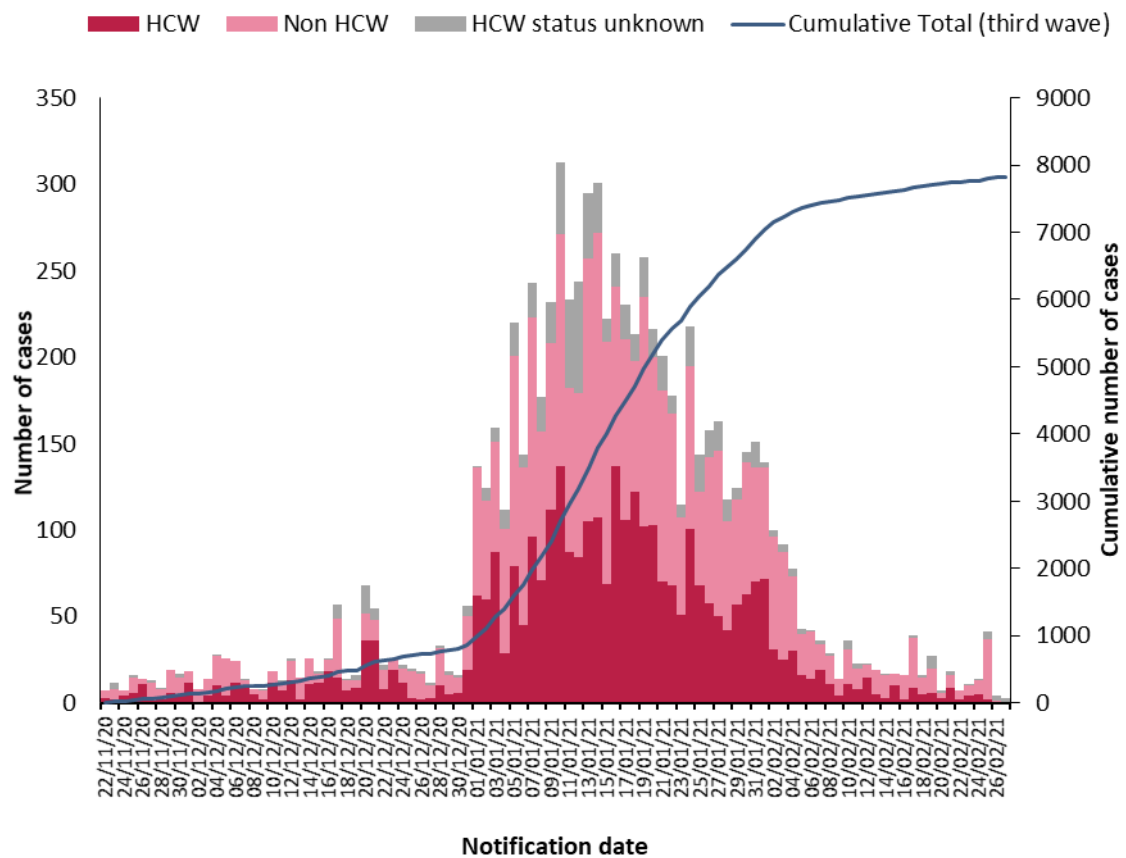


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the third wave of infection by date of notification, from 22/11/2020 to midnight 27/02/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Acute Hospitals

There were **374** outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **4,721** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 27/02/2021, **196** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and 115 of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **2,275 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified. Of those, 49 were admitted to ICU and 297 died (Table 3). Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 930 cases, not a HCW in 1,221 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 4).

There were 21 new outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during week 8 2021:

- Eight outbreaks occurred across five wards in one acute hospital, six outbreaks occurred in two acute hospitals (all in separate wards), while the remaining seven outbreaks occurred in separate acute hospitals

Table 3: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases[†] in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-8)*				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 48-8*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
	21 [^]	1-27	196	115	0-135	16**	2275	49	297

*Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8) **Not all cases are linked to outbreaks as of yet [^]Includes late notifications from December 2020 (n=1) and January 2021 (n=10)

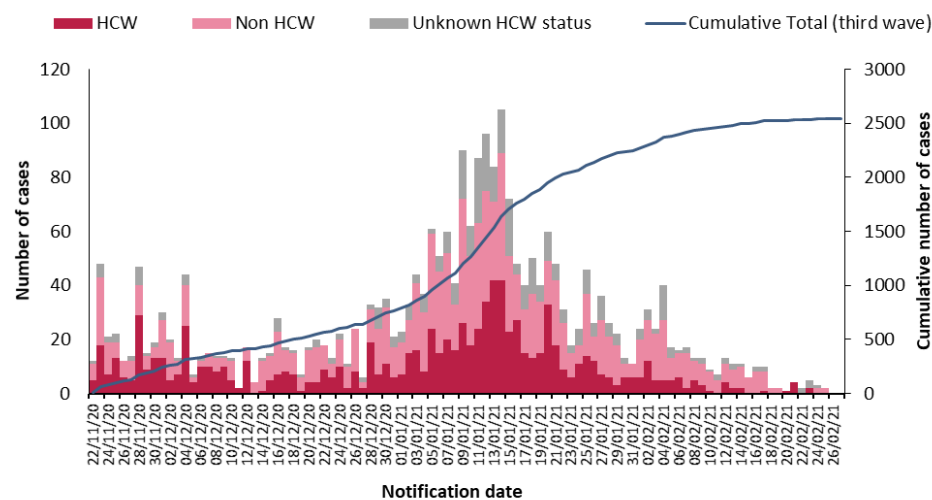


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the third wave of infection by date of notification, from 22/11/2020 to 27/02/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Residential Institutions (see footnote¹)

There were **433** outbreaks in residential institutions, with **2,860** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 27/02/2021, **210** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and 121 of these outbreaks remain open. There were **1,569 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in residential institutions. Of those, 63 cases linked to outbreaks in residential facilities were hospitalised, three were admitted to ICU and 28 cases died (Table 4). The majority of residential institution outbreaks were notified in centres for disabilities, with **158** outbreaks and 1,163 linked cases notified since week 48.

There were 13 new outbreaks reported in residential institutions during week 8 2021

- Eleven outbreaks were in centres for disabilities and two outbreaks were in mental health facilities

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases[‡] in residential institutions in Ireland, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-8)*				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-8*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Centre for disabilities	11 [^]	2-17	158	92	0-46	12	1163	46	<5	18
Centre for older people	0	n/a	14	8	1-44	<5	176	3	<5	7
Children's / TUSLA residential centre	0	n/a	14	6	0-7	<5	53	<5	<5	<5
Mental health facility	2	0-16	19	13	0-18	<5	129	13	<5	<5
Other	0	n/a	4	1	19-19	<5	41	<5	<5	<5
Not Specified	0	n/a	1	1	0-7	<5	7	<5	<5	<5
Total	13	0-17	210	121	0-46	14**	1569	63	<5	28

#n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6)

‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here *Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8) **Not all cases are linked to outbreaks as of yet [^]Includes late notifications from December 2020 (n=1) and January 2021 (n=6)

¹ This section focuses on the following residential settings: Centres for disabilities, Centres for older people, Children's/TUSLA residential centres and mental health facilities. Homeless services, addiction services, direct provision centres and prisons are reported in the Focus on Vulnerable Populations section.

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Other 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 27/02/2021 (Table 5).

There were 30 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 8 2021:

- Twenty-three outbreaks among Irish Travellers
- Four outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres
- Two outbreaks in Roma population
- One outbreak in the homeless population

Table 5: 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 from week 48 (week commencing 22/11/2020) to midnight on 27/02/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[†] linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-8)**				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-8**	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Roma community	2	8-11	6	2	8-11	<5	47	7	<5	<5
Irish Travellers	23^^	0-31	156	142	0-98	74	1916	84	11	<5
Direct provision centres	4	1-5	33	25	1-29	<5	294	<5	<5	<5
Homeless [^]	1	2	13	9	2-7	<5	61	<5	<5	<5
People with addictions	0	n/a	10	7	2-19	<5	65	<5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	n/a	4	4	3-47	<5	92	<5	<5	<5
Total	30	0-31	222	189	0-98	86	2475	99	13	5

[^] Homeless facilities include some facilities that provide long term supported accommodation. Also includes staff of homeless facilities. #n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6). †Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. **Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8). ^^Includes late notifications from November 2020 (n=2), December 2020 (n=1) and January 2021 (n=5)

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **291** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces² have been notified from 22/11/2020 up to midnight on 27/02/2021. Since week 48, **66** COVID-19 outbreaks have been notified in businesses associated with the production or processing of food and beverages, of which **36** were in meat/poultry/fish plants in all HSE areas (Table 6).

There were **37 COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified during week 8 2021:**

- Ten outbreaks were associated with the commercial sector including one late notification
- Seven outbreaks occurred in food production workplaces, four in a meat-plants and three in other food/beverage production facilities
- Five outbreaks related to manufacturing, two were late notifications
- Two outbreaks related to the construction sector
- There were eight outbreaks related to Defence/Justice/Emergency services, four of which were late notifications from December 2020 and January 2021
- Five additional workplace outbreaks were notified in week 8; three office-based outbreaks and two in other locations

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 27/02/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[‡] linked to workplace outbreaks.

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-8) ^{***}				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Weeks 48-8 ^{***}	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths [*]
Meat/poultry Production and Processing	4	2-0	36	34	0-131	40	910	<5	<5	<5
Other food/beverage Production and Processing	3	0-4	30	26	0-96	12	279	7	<5	<5
Construction industry ^{**}	2	1-3	26	21	0-22	<5	115	<5	<5	<5
Commercial	10 ^{^^}	0-6	69	56	0-54	14	389	7	<5	<5
Manufacturing	5 ^{^^}	2-8	46	31	1-49	11	309	8	<5	<5
Office-based	3	3-6	29	20	2-19	9	150	6	<5	<5
Defence/Justice/Emergency services	8 ^{^^}	0-13	40	27	0-16	6	203	<5	<5	<5
Other Workplace [^]	2 ^{^^}	0-3	15	8	2-18	<5	66	<5	<5	<5
Total	37	0-13	291	223	0-131	97[^]	2421	34	10	<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.

² 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.

Note: Data are provisional

^"Other workplace" includes businesses that do not fit in the above workplace categories. #n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6) ‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. ***Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8) ^^Includes late notifications from December 2020 (n=4) and January 2021 (n=4); Defence=4, Manufacturing=2, Commercial=1, Health and Dental=1.

COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges and childcare facilities

In total, **334** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities have been notified from 21/11/2020 up to midnight on 27/02/2021 (Table 7).

During **week 8** 2021, there were **three** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children +/- staff, **61** associated with University/college or third level students and **15** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with childcare facilities.

Of the **61** outbreaks associated with University/college or third level students:

- 54 outbreaks occurred with 258 confirmed cases (36 as private houses and 18 as community outbreaks)*
- Four outbreaks with 13 confirmed cases were in University/College setting
- Two were community outbreaks with 16 confirmed cases
- One was a social gathering with 34 confirmed cases

*Outbreaks where there is spread beyond private house and extended family to include a wider social circle, but where is no link to a specific event or location

**Not all cases are linked to outbreaks as of yet

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 27/02/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[‡] linked to these outbreaks.

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-8) ^{###}				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-8 ^{###}	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 8	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases ^{***}	Total number of deaths
School*	3	1-2	119	33	1-54	<5	579	7	<5	<5
University/college/third level students**	61 [^]	1-40	83	73	1-53	16 ^{^^}	480	6	<5	<5
Childcare facility	15 [^]	1-12	132	77	1-22	49	723	<5	<5	<5
Total	79	1-40	334	183	1-54	67	1782	17	<5	<5

*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 also include outbreaks among third level students that may have occurred in other locations, such as private houses or social gatherings, and may not be directly linked to a University/college location. *Case admitted to ICU is an adult. #n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6). ‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. ###Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-8). ^Includes late notifications from December 2020 (n=1) and January (n=2); Childcare facility=1, University/college=1. ^^Not all cases are linked to outbreaks as of yet.

Note: Data are provisional

Appendices
Appendix 1

Table A: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and closure status, to midnight 27/02/2021, N=12,662

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	251	123	374
Nursing home	417	155	572
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	32	23	55
Residential institution	377	171	548
Other healthcare service	56	67	123
Private house*	3250	5348	8598
Workplace	339	227	566
Travel related	62	20	82
Transport	10	5	15
Extended family	178	251	429
Childcare facility	130	80	210
Community outbreak	124	142	266
Hotel	14	1	15
Guest house/ B&B	1	0	1
Public house	30	2	32
Restaurant / Cafe	58	16	74
Social gathering	55	17	72
Retail outlet	55	42	97
School**	278	41	319
University/college***	33	8	41
Religious/Other ceremony	16	26	42
Sporting activities/fitness	28	0	28
Other recreation activity	1	0	1
Personal grooming service	5	2	7
Other	70	23	93
Unknown	1	0	1
Not specified	1	0	1
Total	5872	6790	12662

*It is common practice not to close private house outbreaks on CIDR due to the large volume of these types of outbreaks on CIDR

**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

Appendix 2

Table B: Number of outbreaks and confirmed cases of late notification by month of first case to midnight 27/02/2021, N=99

	Number of outbreaks	Number of confirmed cases
November	2	48
December	34	115
January	63	337
Total	99	500

Note: Data are provisional

Appendix 3 Technical Notes

1. Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from the National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

2. For surveillance purposes, the following COVID-19 outbreak definition is used for notifying COVID-19 outbreaks/clusters:

Confirmed*

- **There is a cluster/outbreak, with two or more cases of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection regardless of symptom status. This includes cases with symptoms and cases who are asymptomatic.**

OR

- **There is a cluster/outbreak, with two or more cases of illness with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection (as per the COVID-19 case definition), and at least one person is a confirmed case of COVID-19.**

* From September 21st 2020, suspected COVID outbreaks should be reported with the disease category 'Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)'. If one or more cases linked to the outbreak are subsequently confirmed as COVID-19, the ARI outbreak should be reclassified to being a COVID-19 outbreak. Outbreaks of suspected COVID-19 which were notified before September 21st 2020, and met the previous COVID-19 outbreak definition should remain as COVID-19 outbreaks on CIDR.

The COVID-19 case definition is detailed on the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) website: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/>

3. This report includes confirmed and suspected COVID-19 outbreaks.

4. An "Open" or "Closed" outbreak is defined as an outbreak where the outbreak status is "Open" or "Closed" on CIDR. In order to declare an outbreak "Closed" the outbreak location should not have experienced any new cases of infection which meet the case definition for a period of 28 days (two incubation periods).

5. Outbreak type (family/general) indicates whether an outbreak is confined to a family (family outbreak) or affects members of more than one household (general outbreak).

6. The "range in number of cases" presented in Tables 2 to 7 is based on laboratory confirmed cases linked to an outbreak in CIDR. The priority is to notify outbreaks to CIDR in a timely fashion and, while every effort is made to link cases to outbreaks as quickly as possible, there can sometimes be a delay in linking cases to the outbreak. Ranges in number of cases that include "0" include outbreaks that currently have no linked cases. Data in CIDR are continuously reviewed and updated and this includes the identification and linking of outbreak-associated cases.

Note: Data are provisional