



Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 6th April 2021

Week 13 2021 (week ending 3rd April 2021)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 6th April 2021 at 08:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 03/04/2021.

Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 10 2020:	14,642
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from week 48:	5,614
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 48 OPEN:	3,156
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since week 48 CLOSED:	2,458
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in week 13 2021:	385

Waves (weeks)	Dates
Wave 1 (weeks 10-31 2020)	01/03/2020 – 01/08/2020
Wave 2 (week 32-47 2020)	02/08/2020 – 21/11/2020
Wave 3 (week 48 2020 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 13 2021)

5,614 outbreaks have been reported from week 48 2020 onwards (week beginning 22/11/2020; third wave of COVID-19 infection in Ireland) and key outbreak locations are as follows:

- 3,023 (54%) were in private houses*
- 227 (4.1%) were reported in hospitals
- 233 (4.2%) were reported in nursing homes
- 22 (0.4%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 322 (5.7%) were reported in residential institutions
- 1,787 (32%) were reported in a range of other settings, including workplaces (n=363; 6.5%), retail outlet (n=88; 1.6%), travel/transport related settings (n=48; 0.9%) and restaurant/cafés (n=44; 0.8%). See Table 1 for further details.

2,458 outbreaks have been closed and 3,156 outbreaks are open (See Appendix 1, Table A 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.)

14,642 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (week 13, 2021)

In **week 13** 2021, there were **385** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in week 13 decreased by 65 compared to week 12 2021
- There were ten new acute hospital outbreaks notified
- There was one nursing home outbreak notified
- There were 14 residential institution outbreaks notified
- There were 44 new outbreaks associated with school children +/- school staff notified
- There were 17 new outbreaks associated with childcare facilities notified
- There were 23 workplace outbreaks notified and locations are summarised in the workplaces section of this report
- The remaining 276 outbreaks included private houses* (n=225), extended family (n=18), community outbreaks (n=13), retail (n=6), travel related (n=5), restaurant/caf  (n=4), social gathering (n=2), sporting activity/fitness (n=1) and two in an unknown/other location

Late notifications of outbreaks

In **week 13 2021**, 66 outbreaks were late notifications from December (n=12), January (n=33) and February (n=21) (See Appendix 2, Table B for breakdown of these outbreaks by month).

*Public Health are prioritising the reporting of outbreaks in key settings e.g. RCFs, hospitals. Therefore, the number of private house outbreaks is underestimated.

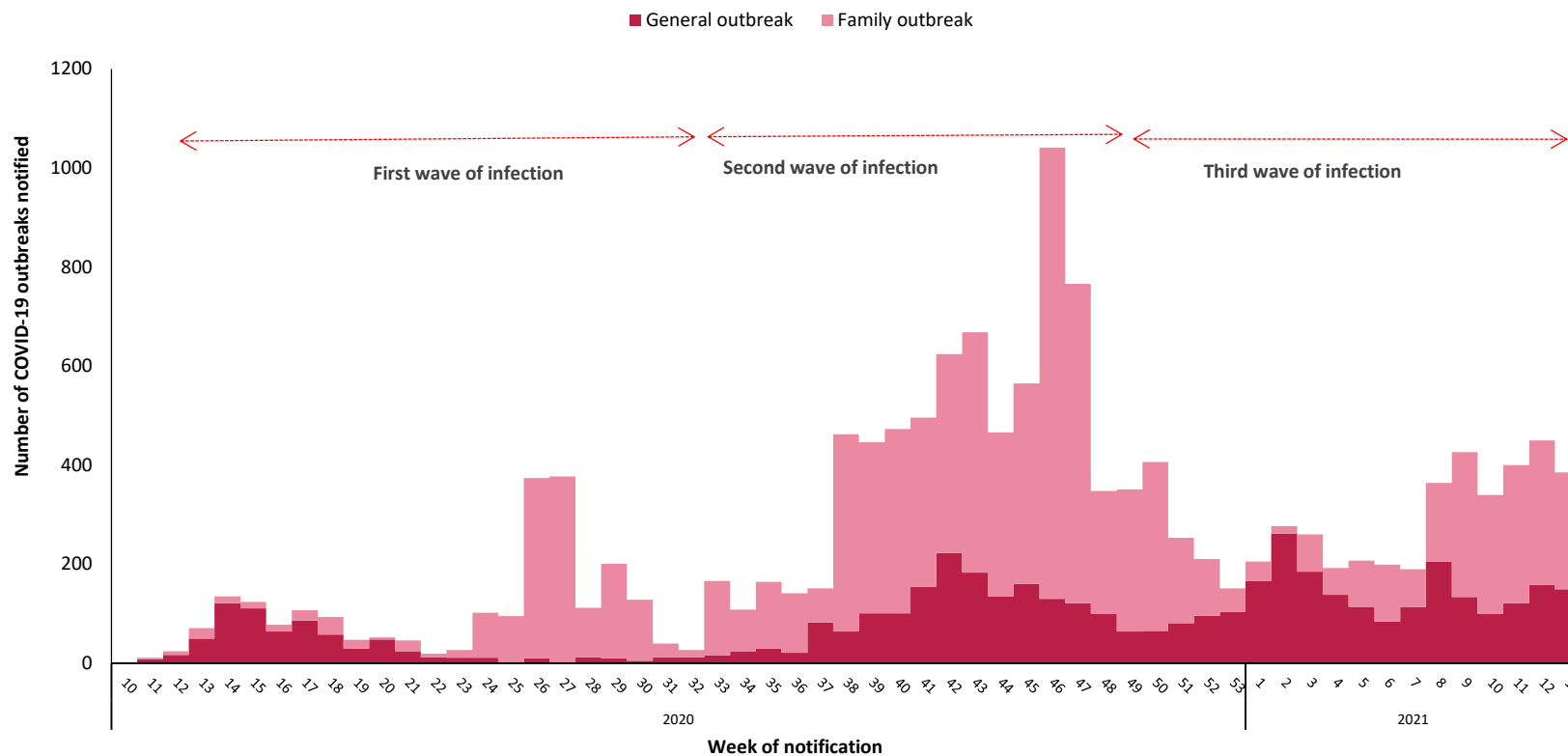


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 3) to midnight on 03/04/2021, N=14,642. *Data source: CIDR*

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.

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 03/04/2021, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in **week 13** 2021 compared to the previous week, N=5,614. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total (week 48 2020 to week 13 2021)***
	Week 48 2020 to week 5 2021	2021									
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Hospital	159	11	4	18	5	11	4	5	10	5	227
Nursing home	205	5	7	6	2	3	2	2	1	-1	233
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	16	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Residential institution	228	13	11	19	9	11	10	7	14	7	322
Community outbreak	39	4	0	26	6	8	10	15	13	-2	121
Other healthcare services	83	3	6	7	10	10	5	6	0	-6	130
Hotel	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-1	6
Guest house/ B&B	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-1	2
Restaurant / Cafe	24	0	2	3	0	7	1	3	4	1	44
Public house	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	-1	13
Social gathering	12	0	2	6	9	2	5	8	2	-6	46
Retail outlet	43	7	10	5	7	4	4	2	6	4	88
Workplace	194	21	29	36	17	14	17	12	23	11	363
Travel related	15	3	4	1	3	1	2	5	5	0	39
Transport	4	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	9
Private house: family outbreaks	1332	89	52	130	253	204	253	265	217	-48	2795
Private house: general outbreaks	72	6	7	49	47	8	13	18	8	-10	228
Extended family	156	24	33	34	38	36	23	28	18	-10	390
Childcare Facility	102	5	9	15	10	8	16	19	17	-2	201
School*	116	0	0	3	0	8	22	48	44	-4	241
University/College**	9	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	16
Religious/Other ceremony	18	3	6	0	4	2	4	0	0	0	37
Sporting activity/fitness	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Personal grooming service	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	17	3	2	1	2	2	3	4	2	-2	36
Total	2860	199	190^	364^	426^	340^	400^	450^	385^^	-65	5614

*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 1-13). ^Includes late outbreak notifications from October, November and December 2020, January and February 2021. ^^Includes 66 late notifications from December 2020, January and February 2021 (see Appendix 2, Table B for breakdown).

Note: Data are provisional and confidential

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.

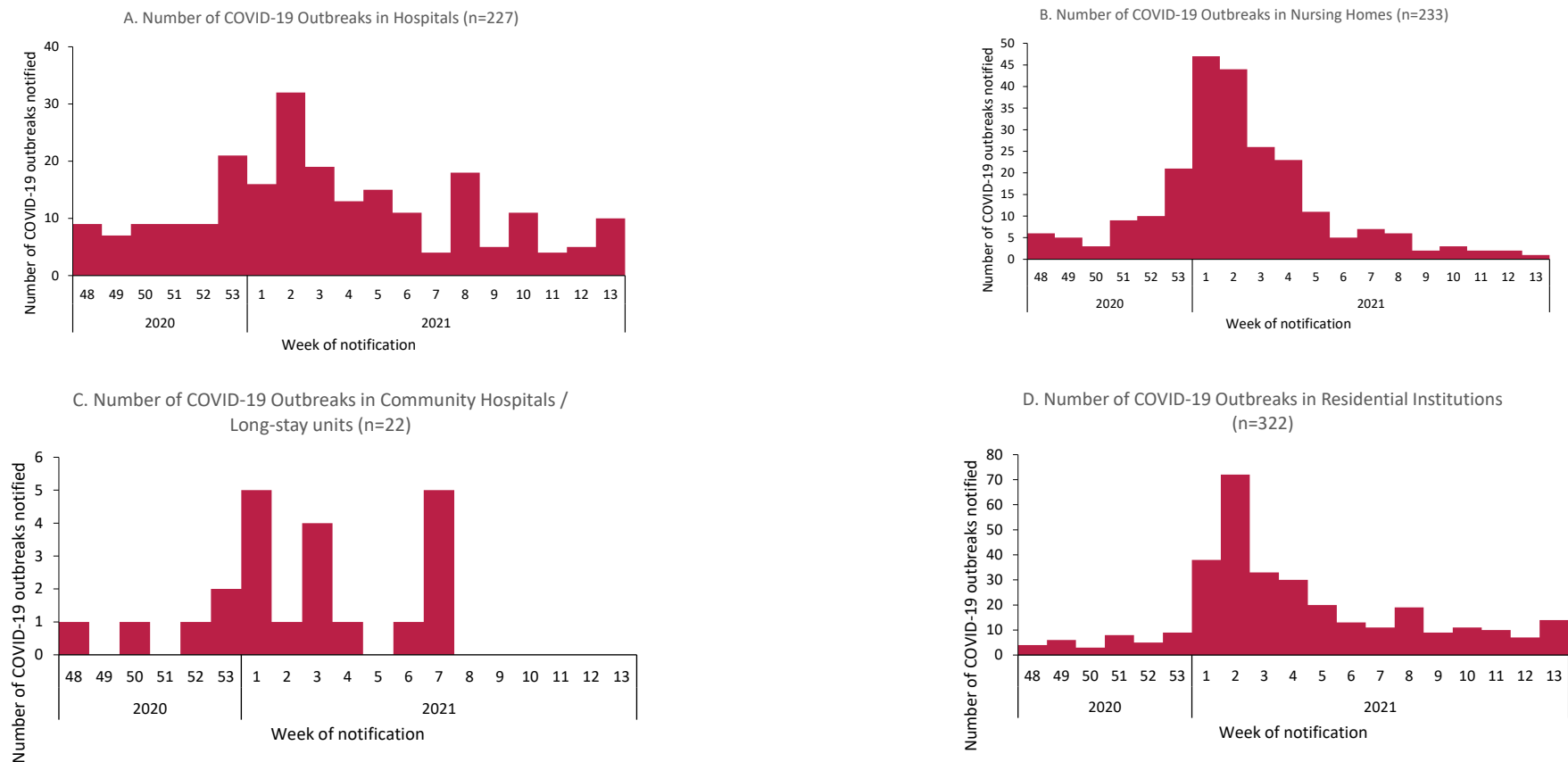


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals[^], (B) Nursing Homes[^], (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units[^] and (D) Residential institutions[^] notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 03/04/2021. [^]Includes late outbreak notifications from October, November and December 2020, January and February 2021; Hospitals (Week 8=11, Week 9=1, Week 10=5, Week 12=1, Week 13=4), Nursing Homes (Week 8=1, Week 12=1), Community Hospitals/Long-stay units (Week 7=1), and Residential institutions (Week 8=7, Week 9=2, Week 10=4, Week 11=3, Week 12=1, Week 13=9). *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional and confidential

Focus on Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **634** outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **15,880** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 03/04/2021, **255** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **53** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **7,990 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified. Of those cases, 537 were hospitalised, eleven were admitted to ICU, and 952 laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks in these settings died (Table 2).

Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 3,378 cases, not a HCW in 4,017 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 3).

There was one new outbreak reported in a nursing home and no new outbreaks reported in community hospital/long-stay units during week 13 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 03/04/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13)*				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-13*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Nursing home	1	2	233	41	0-128	<5	7375	442	9	913
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	0	n/a	22	12	5-91	<5	615	95	<5	39
Total	1	2	255	53	0-128	<5	7990	537	11	952

[†]Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here.

[#]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, Appendix 3).

*Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13).

Note: Data are provisional and confidential

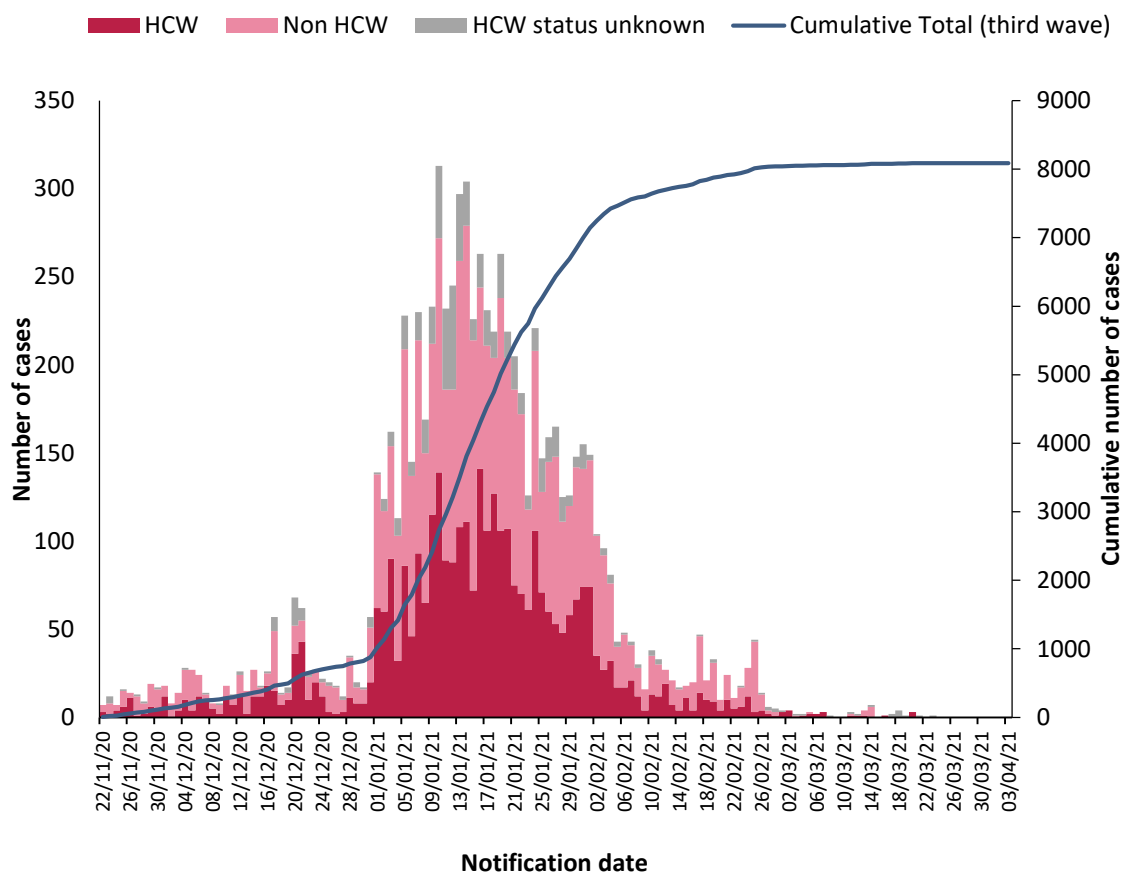


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the third wave of infection by date of notification, from 22/11/2020 to midnight 03/04/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Acute Hospitals

There were **405** outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **5,350** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 03/04/2021, **227** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **38** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **2,903 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified. Of those, 73 were admitted to ICU and 434 died (Table 3). Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 1,056 cases, not a HCW in 1,638 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 4).

There were ten new outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during week 13 2021

Table 3: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases[‡] in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 03/04/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13)*				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 48-13*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
	10	1-29	227	38	0-155	8	2903	73	434

‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. *Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13)

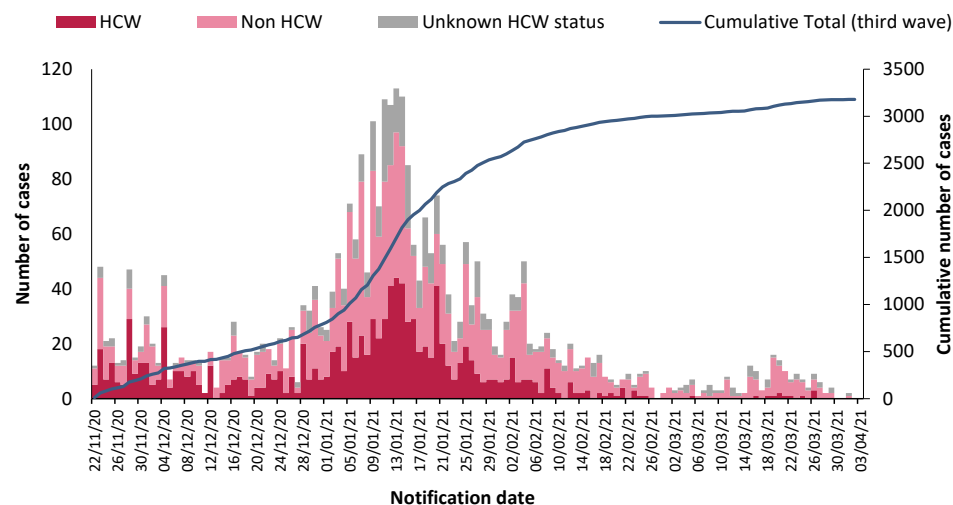


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the third wave of infection by date of notification, from 22/11/2020 to 03/04/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Residential Institutions (see footnote¹)

There were **449** outbreaks in residential institutions, with **3,082** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 22/11/2020 to 03/04/2021, **228** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **52** of these outbreaks remain open. There were **1,790 laboratory confirmed cases** linked with outbreaks in residential institutions. Of those, 70 cases linked to outbreaks in residential facilities were hospitalised, four were admitted to ICU and 42 cases died (Table 4). The majority of residential institution outbreaks were notified in centres for disabilities, with **166** outbreaks and 1,269 linked cases notified since week 48.

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

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases[‡] in residential institutions in Ireland, from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 03/04/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13)*				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-13*	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Centre for disabilities	0	n/a	166	36	0-42	<5	1269	48	<5	19
Centre for older people	1	n/a	16	3	0-5	<5	187	<5	<5	7
Children's / TUSLA residential centre	0	n/a	17	4	4-13	<5	84	<5	<5	<5
Mental health facility	0	n/a	19	4	2-3	<5	128	13	<5	<5
Other	1	2	8	4	2-49	<5	114	<5	<5	13
Not Specified	0	n/a	2	1	0-5	<5	8	<5	<5	<5
Total	2	0-2	228	52	0-49	<5	1790	70	<5	42

#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, Appendix 3). ‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. *Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13).

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 03/04/2021 (Table 5).

There were 25 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during week 13 2021:

- Twelve outbreaks were in the homeless population. Nine of these outbreaks were late notifications, eight were from January 2021 and one was from February 2021
- Seven outbreaks among Irish Travellers
- Six outbreaks were in the Roma community

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 03/04/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[‡] linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13)**				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-13**	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Roma community	6	0-8	18	12	0-19	33	121	18	7	<5
Irish Travellers	7	2-13	272	165	0-130	67	3177	132	17	8
Direct provision centres	0	n/a	41	11	2-27	5	403	5	<5	<5
Homeless¥	12	0-5	37	13	0-33	<5	201	<5	<5	<5
People with addictions	0	n/a	10	1	2	<5	60	<5	<5	<5
Prisons	0	n/a	6	2	9-29	<5	107	<5	<5	<5
Total	25	0-13	384	204	0-130	108	4069	162	26	11

‡Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. ¥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, Appendix 3). *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. **Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13).

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Workplaces

In total, **363** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces² have been notified from 22/11/2020 up to midnight on 03/04/2021. Since week 48, **75** COVID-19 outbreaks have been notified in businesses associated with the production or processing of food and beverages, of which **44** were in meat/poultry/fish plants in all HSE areas.

There were **23 new COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified during week 13 2021**

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 workplace outbreaks notified from 22/11/2020 to midnight on 03/04/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[†] linked to workplace outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13) ^{***}				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Weeks 48-13 ^{***}	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths [*]
Meat/poultry Production and Processing	2	3-5	44	25	2-132	15	1092	6	<5	<5
Other food/beverage Production and Processing	2	3-4	35	17	0-26	5	334	6	<5	<5
Construction industry ^{**}	4	1-2	35	18	1-22	6	166	<5	<5	<5
Commercial [^]	10	1-6	97	50	0-76	19	582	9	<5	<5
Manufacturing	3	2-10	55	24	1-49	5	374	8	<5	<5
Office-based	1	1	32	5	1-12	<5	163	5	<5	<5
Defence/Justice/Emergency services	0	n/a	44	10	1-16	<5	243	<5	<5	<5
Other Workplace [¥]	1	29	21	9	0-287	8	102	<5	<5	<5
Total	23	0-29	363	158	0-287	60	3056	36	11	<5

[†]Case numbers fewer than 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. ^{***}Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13). [¥]"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, Appendix 3). [^]Two outbreaks were late notifications from January and February 2021.

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

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

In total, **552** 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 03/04/2021.

During **week 13** 2021, there were **44** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children +/- staff and **17** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with childcare facilities.

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 03/04/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases[†] linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 48-13) ^{###}				
	Week 13	Week 13 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 48-13 ^{###}	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in week 13	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
School*	44	0-7	241	121	0-14	74	1011	10	<5	<5
University/college/third level students**	0	n/a	110	56	1-287	30	952	7	<5	<5
Childcare facility	17	0-20	201	86	0-49	67	1250	9	<5	<5
Total	61	0-20	552	263	0-287	171	3213	26	<5	<5

[†]Case numbers fewer than 5 are not presented here. *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. #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, Appendix 3). ###Contains data from weeks in 2020 (48-53) and 2021 (weeks 1-13).

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 03/04/2021, N=14,642. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	367	38	405
Nursing home	539	41	580
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	42	12	54
Residential institution	519	81	600
Other healthcare service	112	54	166
Private house*	3776	6087	9863
Workplace	461	159	620
Travel related	69	32	101
Transport	13	6	19
Extended family	340	242	582
Childcare facility	191	87	278
Community outbreak	225	93	318
Hotel	16	1	17
Guest house/ B&B	2	1	3
Public house	35	1	36
Restaurant / Cafe	72	19	91
Social gathering	63	33	96
Retail outlet	100	32	132
School**	319	121	440
University/college***	37	6	43
Religious/Other ceremony	31	26	57
Sporting activities/fitness	29	2	31
Other recreation activity	1	0	1
Personal grooming service	7	1	8
Other	73	22	95
Unknown	1	0	1
Not specified	2	3	5
Total	7442	7200	14642

*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 +/- 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.

Note: Data are provisional

Appendix 2

Table B: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in Ireland notified in Week 13 2021, by outbreak location and month of occurrence of first case, data up to midnight 03/04/2021, N=385. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	2020	2021			Unknown	Total
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Childcare facility				16	1	17
Community outbreak				12	1	13
Extended family	1	3	1	13		18
Hospital		3	1	6		10
Not Specified				1		1
Nursing home				1		1
Other		1				1
Private house	11	17	17	179	1	225
Residential institution		8	1	2	3	14
Restaurant / Cafe				4		4
Retail outlet				6		6
School				42	2	44
Social gathering				2		2
Sporting activity/fitness				1		1
Travel related				5		5
Workplace		1	1	21		23
Total	12	33	21	311	8	385

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