

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 9th November 2021

Week 44 2021 (week ending 6th November 2021)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 9th November 2021 at 1:30pm and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 06/11/2021.

Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	20,513
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26:	3,136
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 OPEN:	1,204
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 CLOSED:	1,932
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 44 2021:	173

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 – Week 25 2021)	22/11/2020 – 26/06/2021
Wave 4 (Week 26 2021 onwards)	27/06/2021 onwards

The COVID-19 outbreak definition is available in appendix 2 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.

Summary (Week 26 2021 to Week 44 2021)

3,136 outbreaks have been reported from Week 26 2021 onwards (week beginning 27/06/2021; fourth wave of COVID-19 infection in Ireland) and key outbreak locations are as follows:

- 793 (25.3%) were reported in private houses*
- 124 (4%) were reported in hospitals
- 116 (3.7%) were reported in nursing homes
- 19 (1.6%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 151 (4.8%) were reported in residential institutions
- 1,933 (61.6%) were reported in a range of other settings, including workplaces (n=419, 13.3%), schools (n=327, 10.4%), childcare facility (n=202, 6.4%), retail outlets (n=147, 4.7%) social gathering (n=114, 3.6%). See Table 1 for further details.

1,932 outbreaks have been closed and 1,204 outbreaks are open (501 private house outbreaks and 703 outbreaks in all other locations) (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).

20,513 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 44, 2021)

In **Week 44** 2021, there were **173** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 44 increased by 45[#] compared to Week 43 2021
- There were ten acute hospital outbreaks notified
- There were three nursing home outbreaks notified
- There were two community hospital/long-stay unit outbreaks notified
- There were 20 residential institution outbreaks notified
- There were six outbreaks associated with other healthcare services
- There were seven outbreaks associated with childcare facilities notified
- There were two outbreaks associated with third-level students notified
- There were 34 outbreaks associated with schools notified but 32 of these occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) and were retrospectively notified.
- There were six outbreaks associated with social gatherings (excluding one third-level student outbreak)
- There were five outbreaks associated with retail settings
- There were 24 outbreaks associated with workplaces including ten associated with manufacturing, four in the commercial sector, four in office settings and the remaining six in other settings
- The remaining 54* outbreaks included private houses (n=39), religious/other ceremony (n=3), extended family (n=2), travel/transport related (n=1), public house (n=3), hotel (n=3), restaurant/café (n=1), personal grooming (n=1) and other locations (n=1)

[#]In week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified.

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

Note: Data are provisional

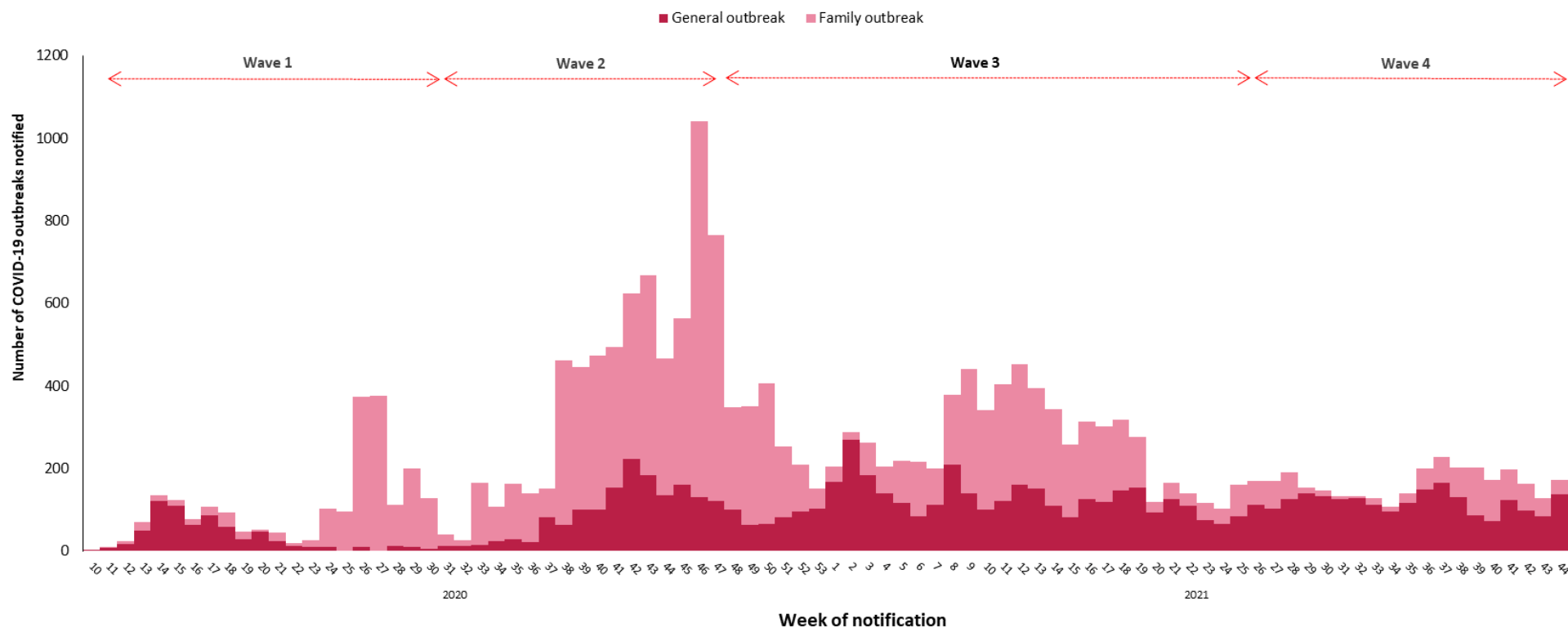


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 06/11/2021, N=20,513 Data source: CIDR

Dashed red arrows indicate the timeline of the first, second, third and fourth waves of COVID-19 infection in Ireland (second wave of infection commenced in Week 32 2020 (week beginning 02/08/2020); the third wave commenced in Week 48 2020 (22/11/2021); the fourth wave commenced Week 26 2021 (27/06/2021)).

***Note:** Family outbreaks reported in July 2020 (weeks 27-31) were composed largely of late notified outbreaks from the period March to May 2020 (weeks 10-22). In addition, the creation of private house outbreaks was not prioritised in waves 3 and 4 and therefore the number of family outbreaks in these waves is likely to be an underestimate

Note: Data are provisional

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and by week of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 44 2021 compared to the previous week, N=3,136. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	week of outbreak notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 (Week 26-44)
	2021										
	week 26-36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44		
Hospital	61	4	8	7	10	13	5	6	10	+4	124
Nursing home	50	5	12	5	13	10	12	6	3	-3	116
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	+1	19
Residential institution	59	9	4	16	5	13	18	7	20	+13	151
Community outbreak	33	2	3	1	9	0	2	0	0	0	50
Other healthcare services	22	2	3	4	7	9	4	6	6	0	63
Hotel	70	1	0	1	0	0	4	4	3	-1	83
Guest house/ B&B	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Restaurant / Cafe	89	1	2	0	1	3	3	1	1	0	101
Public house	54	0	1	1	3	2	1	4	3	-1	69
Social gathering	88	2	4	1	3	3	2	4	7	+3	114
Retail outlet	110	6	2	6	1	5	4	8	5	-3	147
Workplace	252	12	21	22	18	33	19	18	24	+6	419
Travel related	41	0	0	1	0	1	5	3	1	-2	52
Transport	17	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	-1	23
Private house: family outbreaks	263	59	62	105	81	63	56	40	34	-6	763
Private house: general outbreaks	15	1	2	2	1	0	1	3	5	+2	30
Extended family	49	4	10	9	12	9	7	3	2	-1	105
Childcare Facility	160	9	9	1	2	10	3	1	7	+6	202
School*#	100	99	51	10	2	15	11	5	34#	+29#	327
University/College**	3	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	10
Religious/Other ceremony	29	2	4	2	2	2	3	3	3	0	50
Sporting activity/fitness	40	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	-1	48
Other recreation activity	18	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	22
Personal grooming service	20	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	+1	26
Other	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	-1	11
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	1668	228	203	203	173	197	163	128	173	+45	3136

*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. #In week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified.

Note: Data are provisional

Table 2A: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021 N=3,136. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC#	Total
Private house	23	174	152	23	363	2	17	39	0	793
Workplace	107	24	28	72	41	49	65	33	0	419
School*	61	30	89	43	41	16	24	23	0	327
Community outbreak	4	2	2	1	10	1	26	4	0	50
Extended family	5	15	24	0	34	8	5	14	0	105
Residential institution	55	8	26	17	9	12	13	11	0	151
Hospital	44	11	10	10	17	8	10	14	0	124
Nursing home	26	11	16	10	9	11	21	12	0	116
Childcare facility	73	14	27	39	10	9	10	20	0	202
Other/Unknown/Not specified	2	0	4	1	1	3	0	2	0	13
Social gathering	3	6	35	14	33	6	15	2	0	114
Restaurant / Café	29	2	10	10	15	12	16	7	0	101
University/college**	4	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	10
Travel related	7	8	1	4	9	1	20	1	1	52
Sporting activity/fitness	11	0	5	9	6	9	6	2	0	48
Other healthcare service	10	0	13	10	4	9	10	7	0	63
Retail outlet	65	0	8	20	16	16	16	6	0	147
Religious/Other ceremony	7	0	1	11	4	8	16	3	0	50
Public house	10	2	4	9	19	3	14	8	0	69
Transport	2	3	1	0	9	2	1	5	0	23
Hotel	7	1	4	14	11	12	19	15	0	83
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	5	0	1	0	4	5	4	0	0	19
Personal grooming service	10	1	2	5	0	3	5	0	0	26
Guest house/ B&B	3	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	9
Other recreation activity	11	1	0	3	0	3	2	2	0	22
Total	584	313	465	327	668	210	338	230	1	3136

*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.

#Outbreak involves three or more public health regions.

Note: Data are provisional

Table 2B: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland during Week 44 2021 (week ending 06/11/2021), N=173. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Private house	2	10	5	1	21	0	0	0	39
School*#	0	0	32#	0	0	2	0	0	34
Extended family	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Workplace	2	1	5	5	1	4	4	2	24
Hospital	4	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	10
Community outbreak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing home	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Residential institution	7	2	4	2	0	1	2	2	20
Other healthcare service	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	6
Social gathering	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	7
Childcare facility	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	7
Travel related	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Sporting activity/fitness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Other/Unknown/Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University/college**	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Public house	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Restaurant / Café	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Retail outlet	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	5
Religious/Other ceremony	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Personal grooming service	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Guest house/ B&B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other recreation activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	15	57	11	27	15	19	11	173

*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. #In week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified.

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 3-7. Further data (including breakdown by CHO) of COVID-19 outbreaks in all acute hospitals, residential facilities and in nursing homes in Ireland by date of notification are available in the daily COVID-19 surveillance report.

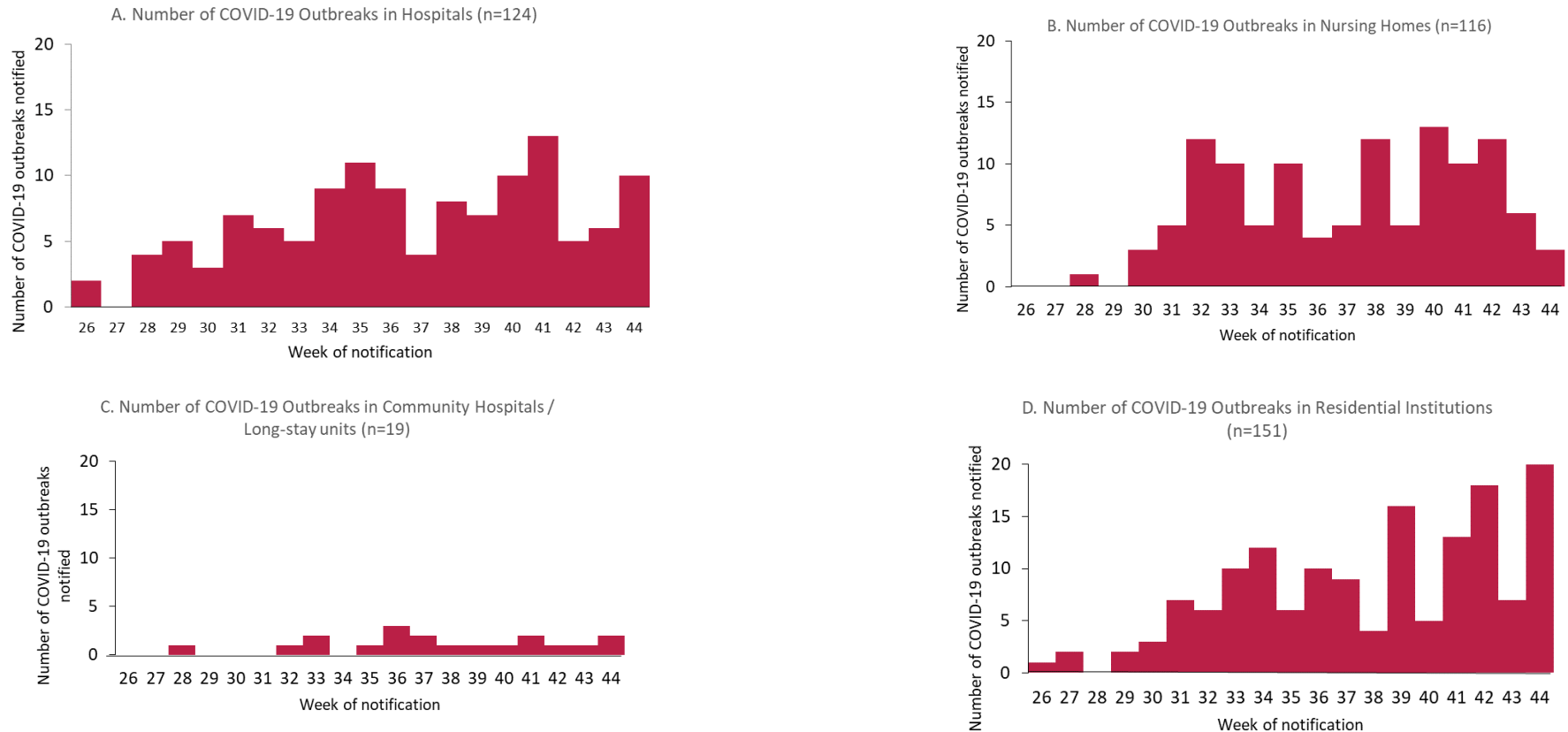


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals, (B) Nursing Homes, (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and (D) Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **784** outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **18,130** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 06/11/2021, **135** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **66** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **1,995 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified. Of those cases, 139 were hospitalised, none were admitted to ICU, and 135 cases died (Table 3).

There were three new outbreaks reported in a nursing homes and two in community hospital/long-term care facilities during Week 44 2021

Table 3: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-44)				
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 44	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Nursing home	3	2-5	116	57	1-64	18	1842	98	0	127
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	2	3-29	19	9	2-29	33	153	41	0	8
Total	5	2-29	135	66	1-64	51	1995	139	0	135

[#]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 2).

Note: Data are provisional

Table 4: Summary of notified COVID-19 outbreaks and COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases that were linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospital/Long-stay units by HSE-Area from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021, N=135 outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

HSE-Area	Number of outbreaks	Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-44)			
		All cases	Hospitalised cases	Hospitalised cases that died	Total cases that died
East	31	285	19	5	20
Midlands	11	176	<5	<5	8
Midwest	17	243	12	<5	12
Northeast	10	176	15	6	17
Northwest	13	163	21	6	18
Southeast	16	213	10	<5	10
South	25	425	51	7	32
West	12	314	7	<5	18
Total	135	1995	139	33	135

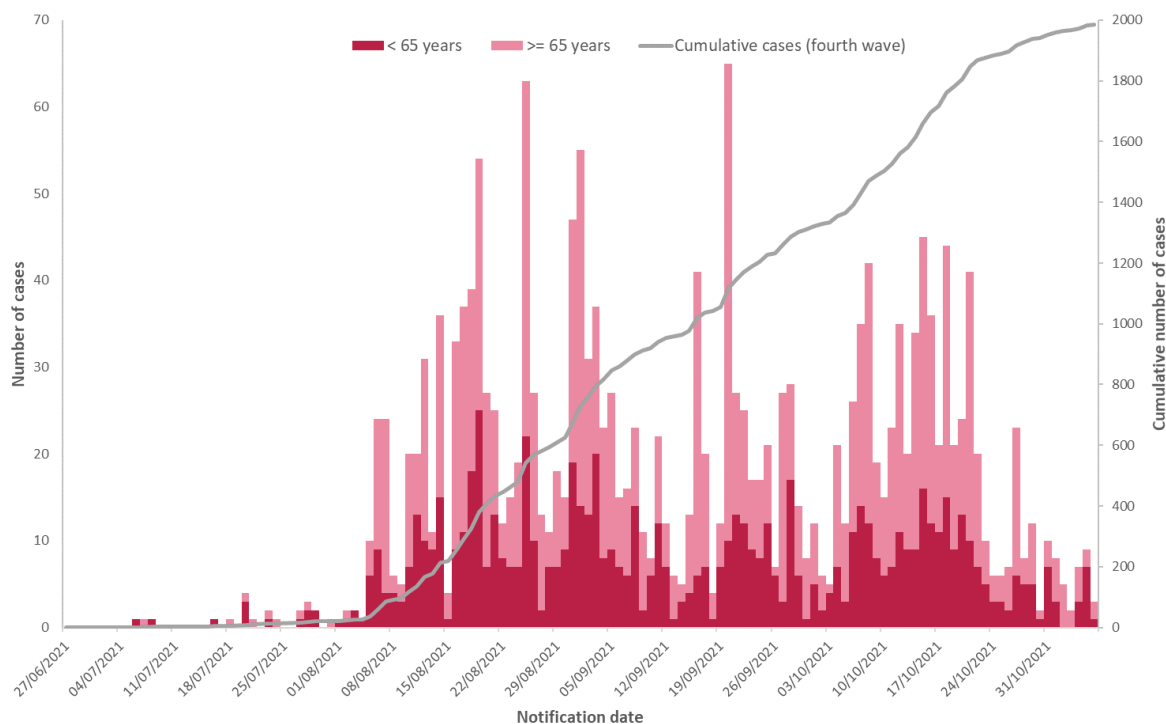


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by age group (<65 years and ≥65 years), date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the fourth wave of infection from 27/06/2021 to midnight 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Focus on Acute Hospitals

There were **548** outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **6,558** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 06/11/2021, **124** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **50** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **729 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified. Of those, 12 were admitted to ICU and 63 died (Table 5). Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 225 cases, not a HCW in 338 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 4).

There were ten new outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 44 2021

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-44)			
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Cases notified in Week 44	Total cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
	10	1-16	124	50	1-31	43	729	12	63

Note: Data are provisional

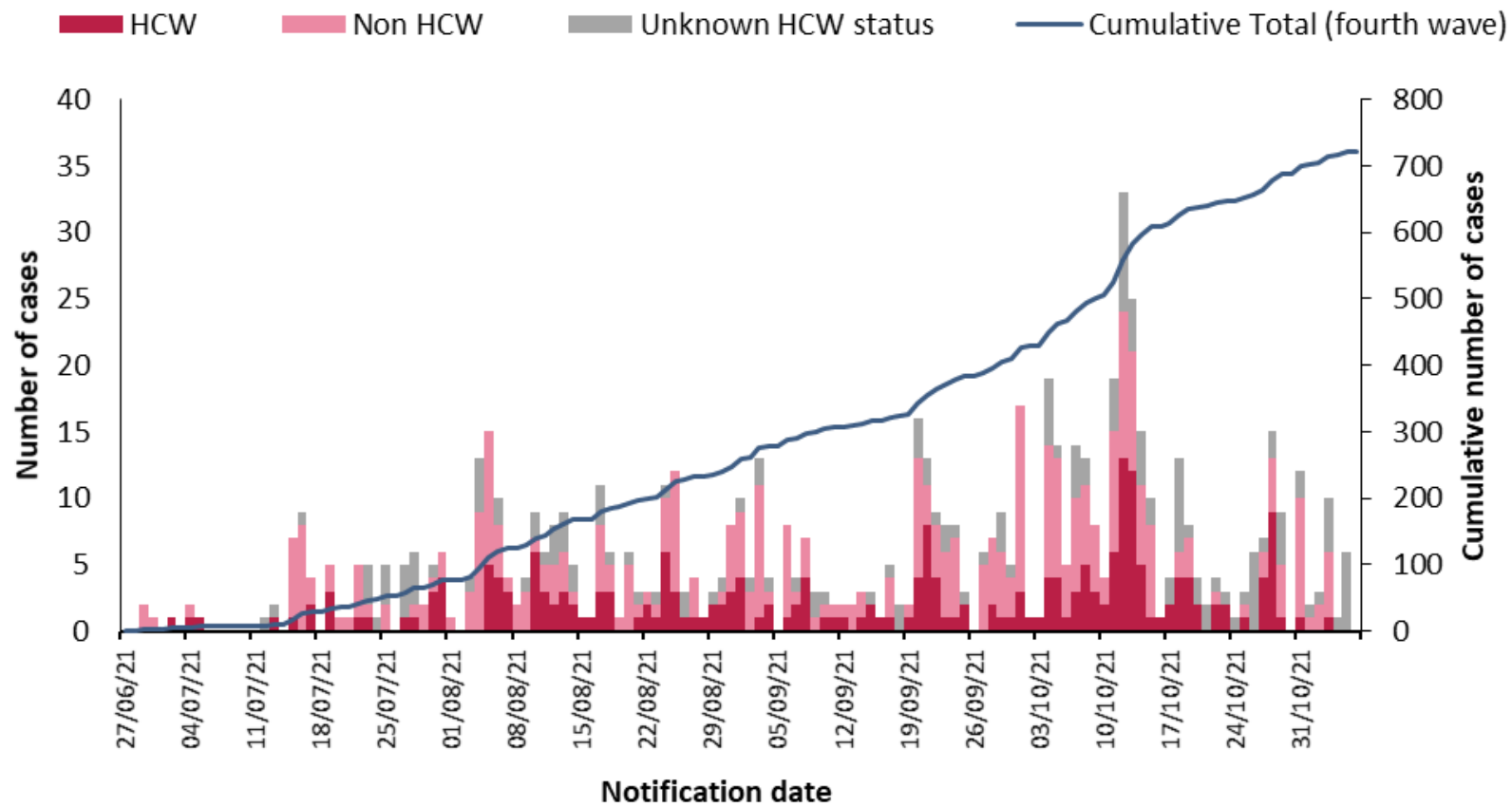


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the fourth wave of infection by date of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Residential Institutions (please see footnote¹)

There were **574** outbreaks in residential institutions, with **3,657** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 06/11/2021, **125** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **65** of these outbreaks remain open. There were **526 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in residential institutions. Of those, **22** cases were hospitalised, two were admitted to ICU and 5 cases died (Table 6). The majority of residential institution outbreaks were notified in centres for disabilities, with **77** outbreaks and **387** confirmed linked cases notified since Week 26 2021.

There were 13 new outbreaks reported in centres for disabilities, two in Children’s / TUSLA residential centres and one in a centre for older people residential institutions during Week 44 2021.

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-44)				
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 44	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Centre for disabilities	13	1-4	90	51	1-32	45	387	10	<5	<5
Centre for older people	1	5	2	1	5	5	11	<5	0	<5
Children’s / TUSLA residential centre	2	3-5	16	8	1-8	6	52	0	0	0
Mental health facility	0	n/a	8	2	2-4	<5	23	<5	<5	<5
Other	0	n/a	7	3	2-10	0	45	6	0	<5
Not Specified	0	n/a	2	0	n/a	<5	8	0	0	0
Total	16	0-5	125	65	0-32	60	526	22	<5	5

[#]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 2).

¹ This section focuses on the following residential settings: Centres for disabilities, Centre 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 Healthcare Settings

There were **255** outbreaks associated with Other Healthcare settings, with **977** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

This brief overview of COVID-19 outbreaks in other healthcare settings notified up to midnight on 06/11/2021 (Table 7). Since week 26 2021 there have been **63** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services with **160** confirmed linked cases.

In week 44 there were two new outbreaks associated with home care services and four associated with other healthcare services.

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases associated with home care services and day care services in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-44)				
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 44	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Clients of home care services	2	1-1	28	18	1-9	0	67	5	0	0
Other healthcare services	4	1-10	35	19	1-10	9	93	5	<5	0
Total	6	1-10	63	37	1-10	9	160	10	<5	0

[#]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 2).

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **790** outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **7640** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

This brief overview of COVID-19 outbreaks in vulnerable populations/settings only includes outbreaks involving the Roma community, Irish Travellers, outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified up to midnight on 06/11/2021 (Table 8).

There were ten new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 44 2021:

- Four outbreaks among Irish Travellers
- Two outbreaks in the Roma community
- Two in the homeless population
- One outbreak in a prison
- One in persons with addictions

Table 8: 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 27/06/2021 to midnight on 06/11/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-44)				
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 44 [^]	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths [*]
Roma community	2	1-4	16	11	1-13	5	79	5	<5	0
Irish Travellers	4	4-8	146	82	1-50	18	835	22	5	<5
Direct provision centres	0	n/a	12	3	2-23	0	96	8	0	0
Homeless [¥]	2	3-3	10	5	2-6	<5	47	<5	0	0
Persons with addictions	1	4	3	1	<5	<5	8	0	0	0
Prisons	1	2	3	1	<5	<5	8	0	0	0
Total	10	0-8	190	103	1-50	32	1073	37	6	<5

[¥]Homeless facilities include 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. [#]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 2).

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **1106** outbreaks in schools, with **4516** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **217** outbreaks in universities colleges/third-level students, with **2242** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **599** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **2892** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **542** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 06/11/2021 (Table 9).

During **Week 44** 2021, there were **34** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children +/- staff, however 32 of these outbreaks occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) and were retrospectively notified. There were **seven** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with childcare facilities and **two** outbreaks associated with third level students (one in a University/College setting and one in a social gathering setting).

Table 9: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 06/11/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-44)				
	Week 44	Week 44 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-44	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 44	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases ^{***}	Total number of deaths
School*	34 [§]	1-2	327	83	1-36	0	1493	8	0	0
Primary	21	2-2	272	63	1-36	0	1348	8	0	0
Post-primary	10	n/a	35	9	1-2	0	84	0	0	0
Special education	1	n/a	17	9	2-15	0	64	0	0	0
Not specified/other	2	1-1	4	2	2-2	0	<5	0	0	0
University/college/third level students**	2	n/a	13	8	2-12	0	53	0	0	0
Childcare facility	7	3-4	202	25	1-7	11	762	<5	0	0
Total	43	0-4	542	116	1-36	11	2308	10	0	0

*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 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 2). [§]In week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified.

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 06/11/2021, N=20,513. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	498	50	548
Nursing home	652	57	709
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	66	9	75
Residential institution	689	78	767
Other healthcare service	217	38	255
Private house*	6200	5748	11948
Workplace	1073	135	1208
Travel related	239	29	268
Transport	56	7	63
Extended family	712	177	889
Childcare facility	574	25	599
Community outbreak	516	8	524
Hotel	95	15	110
Guest house/ B&B	13	0	13
Public house	95	17	112
Restaurant / Cafe	205	12	217
Social gathering	240	38	278
Retail outlet	349	31	380
School**	1023	83	1106
University/college***	54	5	59
Religious/Other ceremony	101	27	128
Sporting activities/fitness	83	6	89
Other recreation activity	23	3	26
Personal grooming service	46	2	48
Other	76	8	84
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	5	0	5
Total	13905	6608	20513

*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 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 3, 5, and 6-9 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.