

# Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

## Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

**Week 46 2021 (week ending 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021)**

### Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 20/11/2021.

<b>Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:</b>	<b>20,781</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:</b>	<b>3,405</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:</b>	<b>1,158</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:</b>	<b>2,247</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 46 2021:</b>	<b>124</b>

<b>Waves (weeks)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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).

*Due to the cyber-attack on the HSE IT systems on 14/05/2021, CIDR was unavailable for the reporting of COVID-19 outbreaks from 14/05/2021 to the 28/06/2021. As a result, there has been a delay in reporting for many outbreaks on CIDR. To account for this, outbreak week for all outbreaks created between May 14<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> is based on the following algorithm: earliest of 1. outbreak recognition date; 2. first reported date; 3. outbreak created date. Outbreak week is based on outbreak created date for all outbreaks created on or before May 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, and on or after October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.*

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 26 2021 to Week 46 2021)

**3,405** COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported from Week 26 2021 (week beginning 27/06/2021; fourth wave of COVID-19 infection in Ireland) to the end of week 46 2021 (week ending 20/11/2021). Outbreaks were reported in key locations as follows:

- 158 (4.6%) were reported in hospitals
- 130 (3.8%) were reported in nursing homes
- 25 (0.7%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 196 (5.8%) were reported in residential institutions
- 89 (2.6%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 367 (10.8%) were reported in schools<sup>#</sup>
- 217 (6.4%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 435 (12.8%) were reported in workplaces
- 1,788 (52.5%) were reported in a range of other settings, including private houses (n=836, 24.6%), retail outlets (n=151, 4.4%) and social gatherings (n=117, 3.4%). See Table 1 for further details

2,247 outbreaks have been closed and 1,158 outbreaks are open (375 private house outbreaks and 783 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).

20,781 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

### Summary (Week 46, 2021)

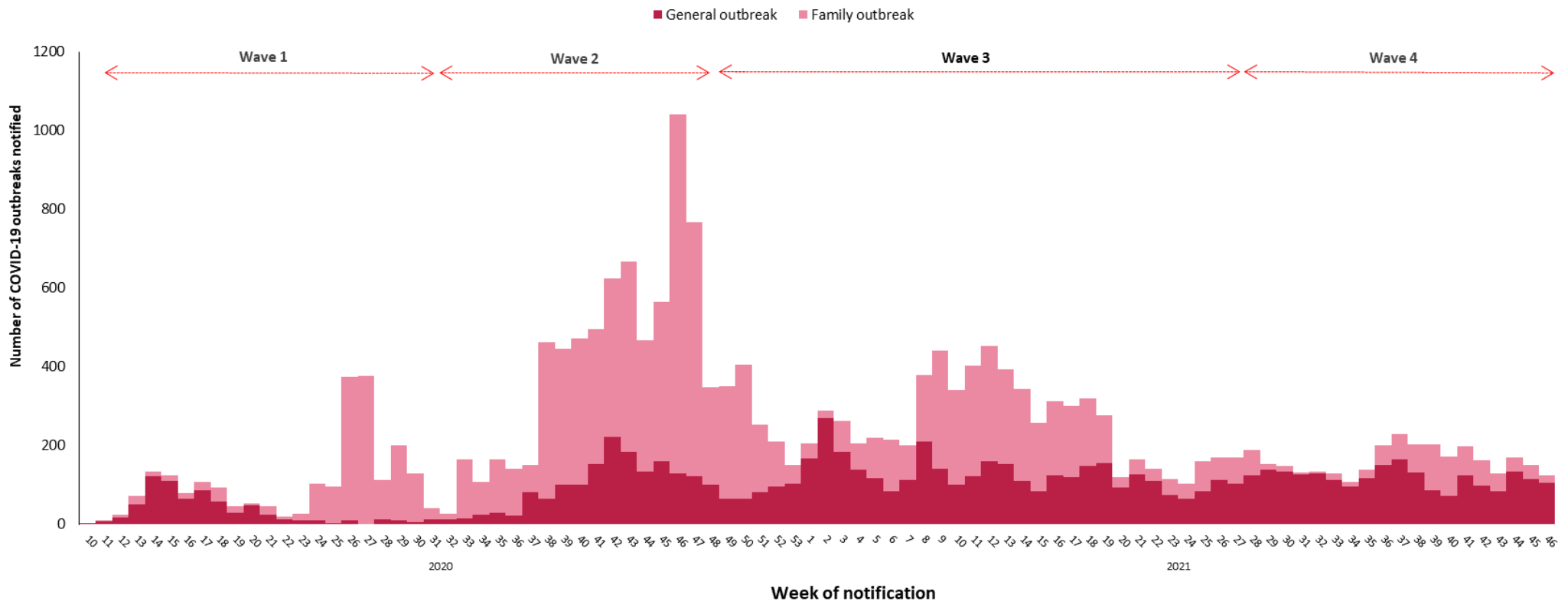
In **Week 46** 2021, there were **124** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 46 decreased by 26 compared to Week 45 2021
- There were eight acute hospital outbreaks notified
- There were five nursing home outbreaks notified
- There were three community hospital/long-stay unit outbreaks notified
- There were 24 residential institution outbreaks notified
- There were 16 outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- There were 24 outbreaks associated with schools notified
- There were six outbreaks associated with childcare facilities notified
- There were ten outbreaks associated with workplaces notified (see Table 10 for further details)
- The remaining 28 outbreaks\* included private houses (n=16), extended family (n=4), social gathering (n=2), religious/other ceremony (n=4), sporting activity/fitness (n=1) and 'other' location (n=1)

*\*Regional Departments of Public Health are prioritising Public Health Risk Assessments and outbreak investigations in settings that have the greatest clinical need or would benefit most from Public Health intervention. For this reason, outbreaks in some settings may be underestimated in this report. Tables 1, 2A and 2B focus on these key settings, with the remaining settings coloured grey.*

*<sup>#</sup>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**



**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 20/11/2021, N=20,781 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 (week beginning 22/11/2021); the fourth wave commenced Week 26 2021 (week beginning 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 20/11/2021, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 46 2021 compared to the previous week, N=3,405. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 (Week 26-46)
	2021										
	Week 26-38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46		
Hospital	73	7	10	13	5	6	9	27	8	-19	158
Nursing home	67	5	13	10	12	6	3	9	5	-4	130
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	11	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	0	25
Residential institution	72	16	5	13	18	7	20	21	24	+3	196
Other healthcare services	27	4	7	9	4	6	4	12	16	+4	89
School*	250	10	2	15	11	5	34 <sup>#</sup>	16	24	+8	367
Childcare Facility	178	1	2	10	3	1	7	9	6	-3	217
University/College**	4	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	-1	11
Workplace	285	22	18	33	19	18	24	6	10	+4	435
Retail outlet	118	6	1	5	4	8	5	4	0	-4	151
Restaurant / Cafe	92	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	-1	102
Public house	55	1	3	2	1	4	3	1	0	-1	70
Hotel	71	1	0	0	4	4	3	0	0	0	83
Guest house/ B&B	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Private house: family outbreaks	382	105	81	63	56	40	34	29	15	-14	805
Private house: general outbreaks	18	2	1	0	1	3	5	0	1	+1	31
Extended family	63	9	12	9	7	3	2	4	4	0	113
Community outbreak	38	1	9	0	2	0	0	1	0	-1	51
Social gathering	94	1	3	3	2	4	7	1	2	+1	117
Travel related	41	1	0	1	5	3	1	2	0	-2	54
Transport	17	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	-1	24
Religious/Other ceremony	35	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	4	+2	56
Sporting activity/fitness	46	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	+1	49
Other recreation activity	20	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Personal grooming service	22	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	26
Other	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	+1	12
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2097</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>3405</b>

\*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. <sup>#</sup>In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified. Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present

**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 20/11/2021 N=3,405. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC <sup>#</sup>	Total
Hospital	62	12	10	13	23	11	12	15	0	158
Nursing home	29	12	16	12	9	13	25	14	0	130
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	6	1	1	0	5	5	6	1	0	25
Residential institution	62	11	33	22	12	16	25	15	0	196
Other healthcare service	14	1	16	12	8	14	11	13	0	89
School* <sup>##</sup>	81	36	91	48	43	17	26	25	0	367
Childcare facility	77	15	29	40	13	10	10	23	0	217
University/college**	4	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	11
Workplace	113	24	32	76	41	50	66	33	0	435
Retail outlet	65	0	11	21	16	16	16	6	0	151
Restaurant / Café	29	2	10	10	16	12	16	7	0	102
Public house	10	2	4	9	20	3	14	8	0	70
Hotel	7	1	4	14	11	12	19	15	0	83
Guest house/ B&B	3	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	9
Private house	27	180	166	26	372	7	17	41	0	836
Extended family	5	15	25	0	35	8	8	17	0	113
Community outbreak	4	3	2	1	10	1	26	4	0	51
Social gathering	3	6	36	15	34	6	15	2	0	117
Travel related	7	10	1	4	9	1	20	1	1	54
Transport	3	3	1	0	9	2	1	5	0	24
Religious/Other ceremony	8	0	1	11	6	8	19	3	0	56
Sporting activity/fitness	11	0	5	9	6	9	6	3	0	49
Personal grooming service	10	1	2	5	0	3	5	0	0	26
Other recreation activity	11	1	0	3	0	3	2	2	0	22
Other/Unknown/Not specified	2	0	4	1	1	3	1	2	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3405</b>

\*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. ##In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified. Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present

**Note: Data are provisional**

**Table 2B:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland during Week 46 2021 (week ending 20/11/2021), N=124. *Data source: CIDR*

<b>Outbreak Location</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>Midlands</b>	<b>MidWest</b>	<b>NorthEast</b>	<b>NorthWest</b>	<b>SouthEast</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hospital	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	<b>8</b>
Nursing home	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	<b>5</b>
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
Residential institution	4	3	2	2	2	2	6	3	<b>24</b>
Other healthcare service	3	1	0	2	3	3	1	3	<b>16</b>
School*	14	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	<b>24</b>
Childcare facility	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
Workplace	4	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	<b>10</b>
Private house	1	2	2	2	6	2	0	1	<b>16</b>
Extended family	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	<b>4</b>
Social gathering	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Religious/Other ceremony	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	<b>4</b>
Sporting activity/fitness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
Other/Unknown/Not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>124</b>

\*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.

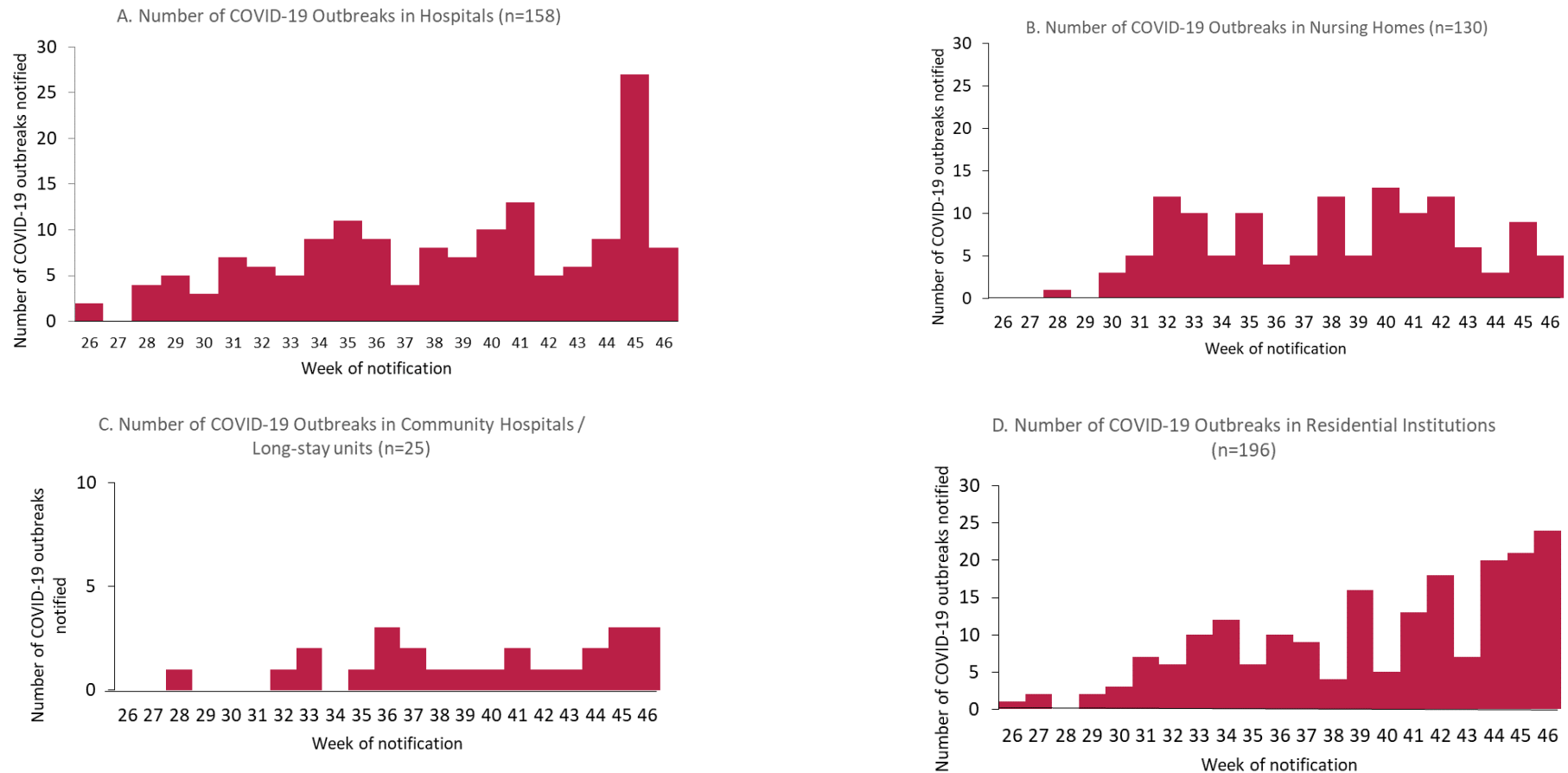
\*\*These outbreaks are associated with a university/college location and do not include outbreaks among third level students that occurred at other locations.

Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present

**Note: Data are provisional**

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

A summary of COVID-19 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.



**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 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

**Note: Data are provisional**

### Focus on Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **804** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **18,310** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 20/11/2021, **155** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **64** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **2,175 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified. Of those cases, 168 were hospitalised, one was admitted to ICU, and 145 cases died (Table 3).

**There were five new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in a nursing homes and three in community hospital/long-term care facilities during Week 46 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 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Nursing home	5	2-6	130	52	1-64	28	1937	110	<5	133
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	3	4-7	25	12	2-52	24	238	58	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2-7</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1-64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>145</b>

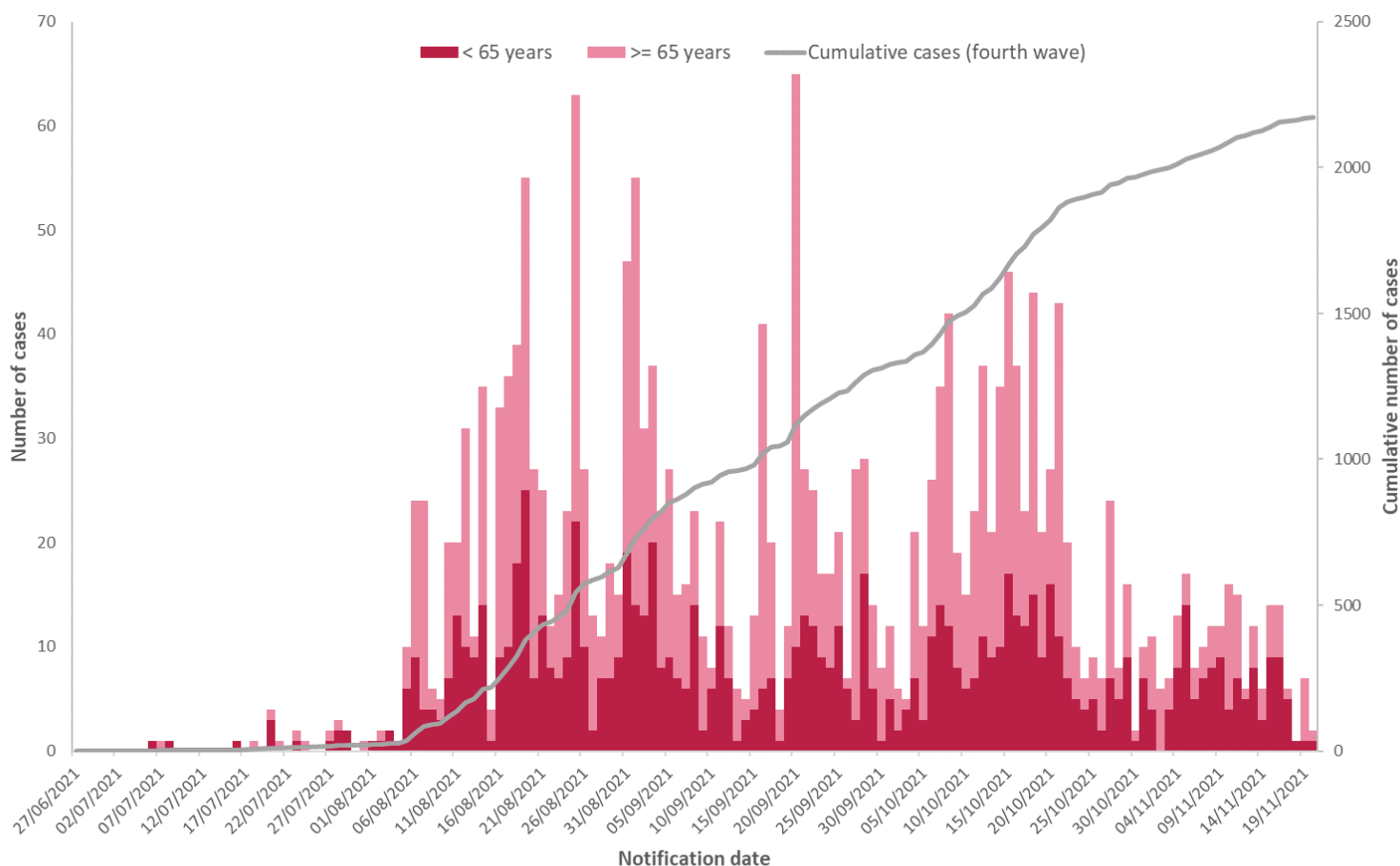
<sup>#</sup>n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2).

**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 20/11/2021, N=155 outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

HSE-Area	Number of outbreaks	Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-46)			
		All cases	Hospitalised cases	Hospitalised cases that died	Total cases that died
East	35	298	21	6	21
Midlands	13	191	<5	<5	9
Midwest	17	256	13	<5	15
Northeast	12	185	19	6	17
Northwest	14	170	21	6	17
Southeast	18	222	11	<5	10
South	31	520	72	9	38
West	15	333	7	<5	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>145</b>



**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 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

**Note: Data are provisional**

### Focus on Acute Hospitals

There were **582** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **6,710** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

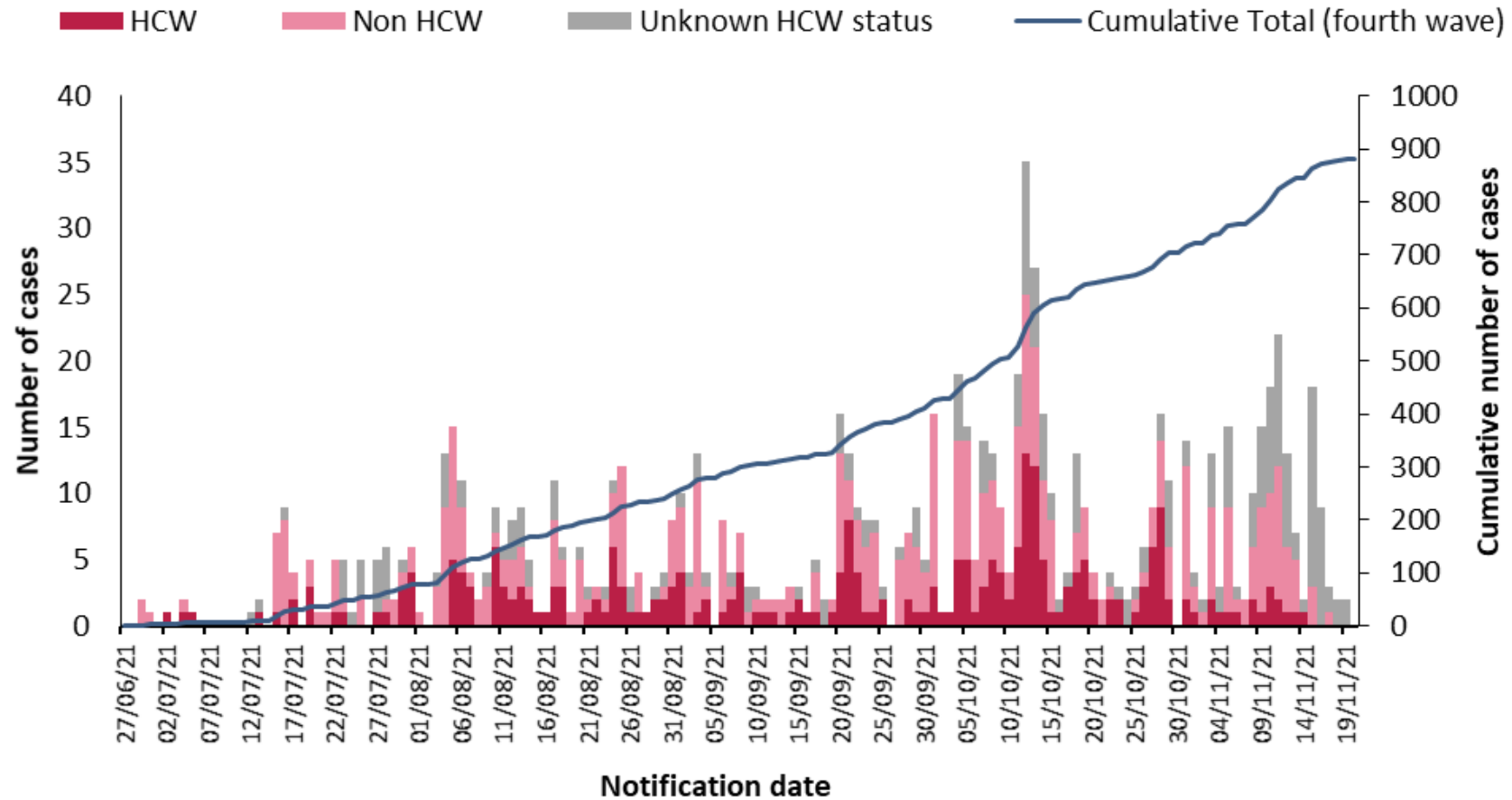
From 27/06/2021 to 20/11/2021, **158** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **70** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **881 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified. Of those, 13 were admitted to ICU and 67 died (Table 5). Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 253 cases, not a HCW in 403 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 4).

### There were eight new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 46 2021

**Table 5:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases#	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
	8	2-18	158	70	1-31	36	881	13	67

**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 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

**Note: Data are provisional**

### Focus on Residential Institutions (please see footnote<sup>1</sup>)

There were **613** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **3,833** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 20/11/2021, **164** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and 99 of these outbreaks remain open. There were **702 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in residential institutions. Of those, **25** cases were hospitalised, <5 were admitted to ICU and six cases died (Table 6). The majority of residential institution outbreaks were notified in centres for disabilities, with **119** outbreaks and **527** confirmed linked cases notified since Week 26 2021.

**There were 20 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported residential institutions in week 46 2021: 16 in centres for disabilities; one in a Children’s/TUSLA residential centre; one in a in mental health facility; and two in other/unspecified locations**

**Table 6:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Centre for disabilities	16	1-10	119	75	1-32	33	527	13	<5	<5
Centre for older people	0	n/a	3	2	4-5	<5	15	<5	0	<5
Children’s / TUSLA residential centre	1	2	20	12	1-8	<5	64	0	0	0
Mental health facility	1	10	11	5	2-10	9	38	<5	<5	<5
Other	1	3	8	4	2-10	<5	48	6	0	<5
Not Specified	1	2	3	1	2	<5	10	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1-10</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1-32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>#</sup>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).

<sup>1</sup> 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 **281** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,050** 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 20/11/2021 (Table 7). Since week 26 2021 there have been **89** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and 60 of these remain open. There were **233 linked laboratory confirmed cases** associated with other healthcare service outbreaks.

**In Week 46 there were ten new COVID-19 outbreaks associated with day services, one with home care services and five in other healthcare services**

**Table 7:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases associated with other healthcare settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 20/11/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Clients of home care services	1	2	27	17	1-4	<5	69	6	0	0
Clients of day services	10	1-4	22	20	1-11	0	65	<5	0	0
All other healthcare service	5	1-3	40	23	1-10	18	99	<5	<5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1-11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>#</sup>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 **820** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **7,838** 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 Irish Travellers, the Roma community, outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified up to midnight on 20/11/2021 (Table 8). From 27/06/2021 to 20/11/2021, there have been **220** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which 113 remain open. There were **1,271 linked laboratory confirmed cases** associated with outbreaks in vulnerable groups in this time period.

#### There were 12 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 46 2021:

- Seven outbreaks among Irish Travellers
- One outbreak in the Roma community
- One outbreak related to a Direct Provision Centre
- One outbreak in the homeless population
- Two outbreaks related to prisons

**Table 8:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in settings involving vulnerable populations, including the Irish Traveller community, Roma community, in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 20/11/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Irish Travellers	7	2-9	167	88	1-33	28	924	26	<5	<5
Roma community	1	9	20	12	1-17	<5	111	7	<5	<5
Direct provision centres	1	n/a	12	2	23	<5	103	7	0	0
Homeless <sup>¥</sup>	1	2	12	6	2-3	<5	52	<5	0	0
Persons with addictions	0	n/a	4	2	1-10	0	15	0	0	0
Prisons	2	2	5	3	2-54	6	66	<5	<5	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2-9</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1-54</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1271</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>

<sup>¥</sup>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. <sup>#</sup>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 **1,146** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **5,732** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **218** outbreaks in universities colleges/third-level students, with **2,408** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **614** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,278** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **598** 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 20/11/2021 (Table 9) and 151 of these outbreaks remain open.

**During Week 46 2021, there were 24 COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff and there were six COVID-19 outbreaks associated with childcare facilities**

**Table 9:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 20/11/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup> <sup>§</sup>	week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup> <sup>§</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases <sup>§</sup>	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Primary	14	2-16	290	68	0-36	24	1792	7	0	0
Post-primary	0	n/a	37	11	0-4	0	153	0	0	0
Special education	10	2-7	36	25	2-15	19	140	<5	<5	0
Not specified/other	0	n/a	5	3	0-7	0	13	0	0	0
<b>Total School*<sup>###</sup></b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2-16</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0-36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2101</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>
Childcare facility	6	2-12	217	36	0-12	19	1039	<5	0	0
University/college/third level students**	0	n/a	14	8	2-12	<5	89	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2-16</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0-36</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3229</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>0</b>

\*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). <sup>§</sup>Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases, and interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in the above settings. <sup>###</sup>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 associated with Workplaces

There were **1,224** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces, with **8,818** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **137** outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing facilities, with **3,641** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and **145** outbreaks in other food/beverage production and processing facilities, with **1,275** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **435** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 20/11/2021 (Table 10) and 110 of these outbreaks remain open.

During **Week 46** 2021, there were **10** COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with workplaces; **three** associated with other food/beverage production and processing facilities (excluding meat/poultry processing); **one** in a meat/poultry production and processing facility and; **six** in a variety of other workplace settings including manufacturing (n=4) and offices (n=2).

**Table 10:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces notified to midnight on 20/11/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks.  
Data source: CIDR

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-46)				
	Week 46	Week 46 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	week 26-46	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases <sup>#</sup>	Cases notified in Week 46	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Meat/poultry production and processing	1	3	30	12	1-240	8	628	5	0	0
Other food/beverage production and processing	3	2-8	59	18	1-27	8	314	8	<5	0
Other workplaces	6	0-10	346	80	0-21	54	1028	14	<5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0-10</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0-240</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>#</sup>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**



Appendices  
Appendix 1

**Table A:** Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and closure status, to midnight 20/11/2021, N=20,781. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	512	70	582
Nursing home	671	52	723
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	69	12	81
Residential institution	697	115	812
Other healthcare service	220	61	281
School**	1039	107	1146
Childcare facility	578	36	614
University/college***	54	6	60
Workplace	1114	110	1224
Retail outlet	357	27	384
Hotel	97	13	110
Guest house/ B&B	13	0	13
Public house	100	13	113
Restaurant / Cafe	207	11	218
Travel related	241	29	270
Transport	57	7	64
Private house*	6368	5622	11990
Extended family	718	180	898
Community outbreak	515	9	524
Social gathering	243	38	281
Religious/Other ceremony	108	26	134
Sporting activities/fitness	85	5	90
Other recreation activity	25	1	26
Personal grooming service	46	2	48
Other	76	9	85
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14220</b>	<b>6561</b>	<b>20781</b>

\*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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 and 5-10 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.