

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 14th December 2021

Week 49 2021 (week ending 11th December 2021)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 14th December 2021 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 11/12/2021.

Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	21,231
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:	3,856
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:	1,268
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:	2,588
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 49 2021:	164

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 49 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 14th and October 9th 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 13th 2021, and on or after October 10th 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.

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Summary (Week 26 2021 to Week 49 2021)

3,856 COVID-19 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:

- 184 (4.8%) were reported in hospitals
- 162 (4.2%) were reported in nursing homes
- 33 (0.9%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 285 (7.4%) were reported in residential institutions
- 122 (3.2%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 478 (12.4%) were reported in schools[#]
- 240 (6.2%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 450 (11.7%) were reported in workplaces
- 1,902 (49.3%) were reported in a range of other settings*, including private houses (n=923, 23.9%), retail outlets (n=151, 3.9%) and social gatherings (n=118, 3.1%). See Table 1 for further details
- There have been five outbreaks with at least one confirmed Omicron VOC case.

2,588 outbreaks have been closed and 1,268 outbreaks are open (440 private house outbreaks and 828 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).

21,231 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 49, 2021)

In **Week 49** 2021, there were **164** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 49 increased by 25 compared to Week 48 2021
- There were five acute hospital outbreaks notified
- There were 13 nursing home outbreaks notified
- There were five community hospital/long-stay unit outbreaks notified
- There were 29 residential institution outbreaks notified
- There were 12 outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- There were 37 outbreaks associated with schools notified
- There were nine outbreaks associated with childcare facilities notified
- There were three outbreaks associated with workplaces notified
- There was one religious/other ceremony related outbreak which included one confirmed VOC Omicron case
- The remaining 50 outbreaks* included private houses (n=38), extended family (n=8), travel (n=2), social gathering (n=1) and other (n=1)

**Regional Departments of Public Health are currently 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.*

#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

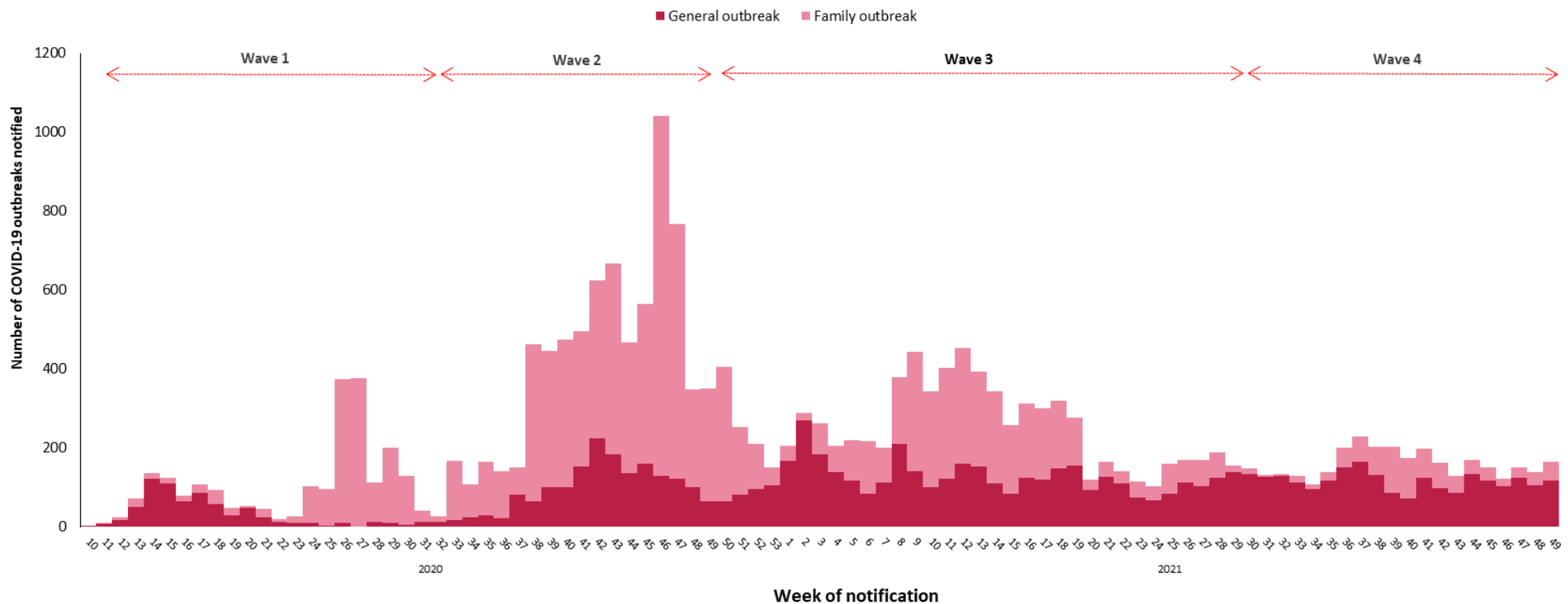


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 11/12/2021, N=21,231 *Data source: CIDR*

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 49 2020 (week beginning 22/11/2020); the fourth wave commenced Week 26 2021 (week beginning 27/06/2021)).

***Note:** Family outbreaks reported in July 2020 (weeks 27-31 2020) were composed largely of late notified outbreaks from the period March to May 2020 (weeks 10-22 2020). In addition, the creation of private house outbreaks is 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 11/12/2021, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 49 2021 compared to the previous week, N=3,856. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 (Week 26-49)
	2021										
	week 26-41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49		
Hospital	103	5	6	9	27	7	12	10	5	-5	184
Nursing home	95	12	6	3	9	4	10	10	13	+3	162
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	15	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	5	+3	33
Residential institution	106	18	7	20	21	25	30	29	29	0	285
Other healthcare services	47	4	6	4	12	16	11	10	12	+2	122
School*	277	11	5	34	16	23	45	30	37	+7	478
Childcare Facility	191	3	1	7	9	6	6	8	9	+1	240
Workplace	356	19	18	24	6	10	7	7	3	-4	450
Travel related	43	5	3	1	2	0	0	1	2	+1	57
University/College**	7	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	12
Retail outlet	130	4	8	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	151
Restaurant / Cafe	98	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	-1	105
Public house	61	1	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	70
Hotel	72	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	83
Guest house/ B&B	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Private house: family outbreaks	631	56	40	34	28	15	24	25	38	+13	891
Private house: general outbreaks	21	1	3	5	0	1	0	1	0	-1	32
Extended family	93	7	3	2	5	4	3	3	8	+5	128
Community outbreak	48	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	51
Transport	21	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	24
Social gathering	101	2	4	7	1	2	0	0	1	+1	118
Religious/Other ceremony	41	3	3	3	2	3	0	0	1	+1	56
Sporting activity/fitness	47	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	-2	51
Other recreation activity	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Personal grooming service	25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Other	8	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	+1	14
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2670	163	128	170	150	121	151	139	164	+25	3856

*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. 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 11/12/2021 N=3,856. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC#	Total
Hospital	71	12	14	17	25	16	14	15	0	184
Nursing home	42	13	20	14	10	19	28	16	0	162
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	8	2	2	1	5	6	6	3	0	33
Residential institution	85	15	46	32	15	30	41	21	0	285
Other healthcare service	18	1	30	12	11	15	17	18	0	122
School*	124	56	104	55	58	17	30	34	0	478
Childcare facility	82	20	29	45	17	10	11	26	0	240
Workplace	118	24	35	78	42	51	68	34	0	450
Travel related	7	10	1	6	10	1	20	1	1	57
University/college**	5	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	12
Retail outlet	65	0	11	21	16	16	16	6	0	151
Restaurant / Café	31	2	11	10	16	12	16	7	0	105
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	28	180	186	35	416	7	28	43	0	923
Extended family	5	15	29	0	40	8	11	20	0	128
Community outbreak	4	3	2	1	10	1	26	4	0	51
Social gathering	3	6	36	15	35	6	15	2	0	118
Religious/Other ceremony	7	0	1	12	6	8	19	3	0	56
Transport	3	3	1	0	9	2	1	5	0	24
Sporting activity/fitness	11	0	6	9	6	9	7	3	0	51
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	3	0	4	1	2	3	1	2	0	16
Total	761	367	581	397	783	260	418	288	1	3856

*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.

#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 49 2021 (week ending 11/12/2021), N=164. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Hospital	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	5
Nursing home	5	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	13
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
Residential institution	9	0	1	4	2	3	10	0	29
Other healthcare service	2	0	5	0	1	0	2	2	12
School*	15	9	5	3	3	0	0	2	37
Childcare facility	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	9
Workplace	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Travel related	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Religious/Other ceremony	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Private house	0	0	5	4	19	0	8	2	38
Extended family	0	0	1	0	4	0	2	1	8
Social gathering	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other/Unknown/Not specified	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	38	12	20	18	33	5	26	12	164

*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. 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.

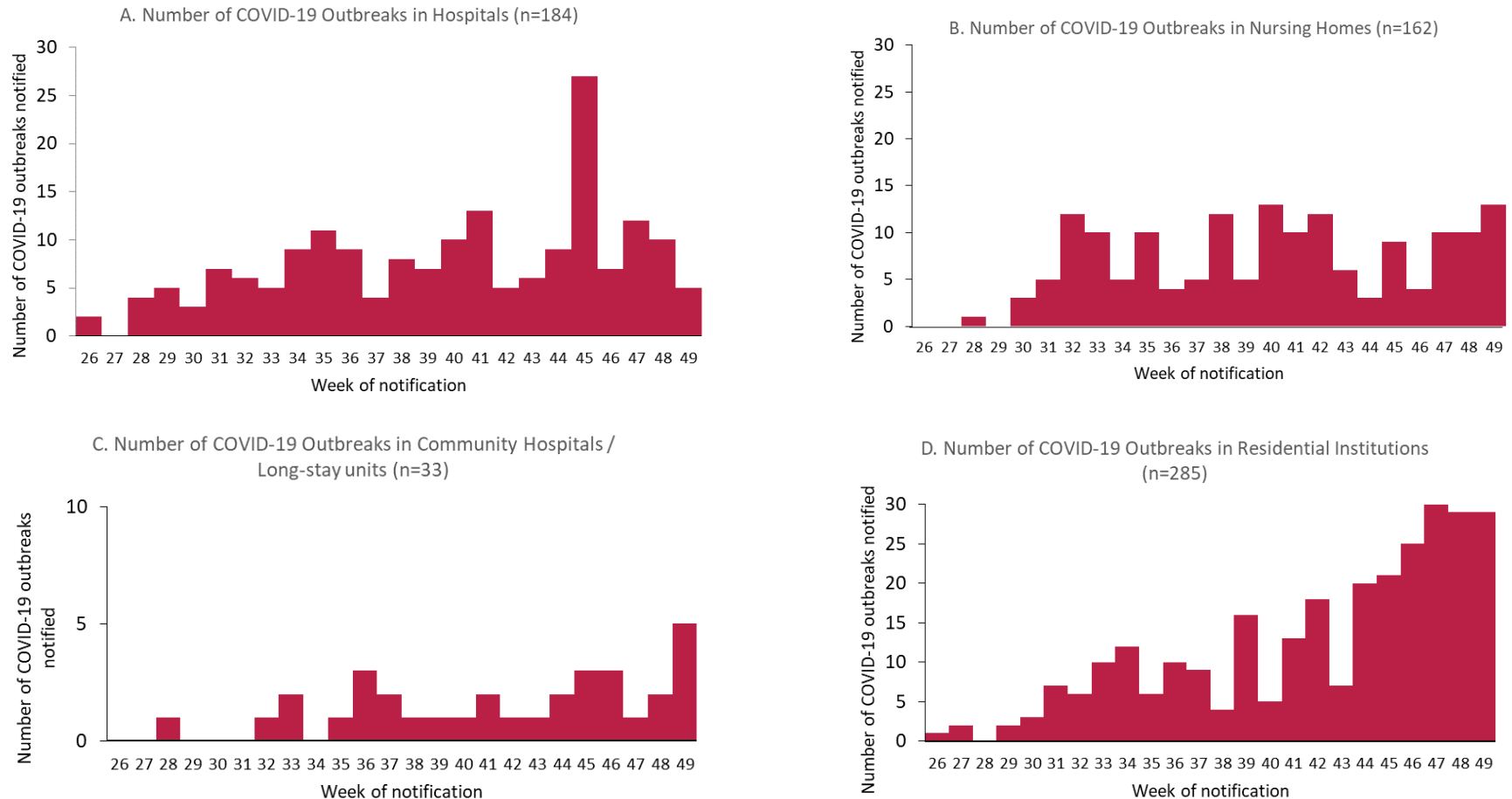


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals, (B) Nursing Homes, (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and (D) Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **844** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **18,635** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 11/12/2021, **195** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **70** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **2,500 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified. Of those cases, 188 were hospitalised, <5 were admitted to ICU, and 166 cases died (Table 3).

There were 13 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in nursing homes and five in community hospital/long-term care facilities during Week 49 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 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Nursing home	13	1-6	162	56	1-49	33	2210	123	<5	153
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	5	2-5	33	14	1-56	10	290	65	<5	13
Total	18	1-6	195	70	1-56	43	2500	188	<5	166

#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 11/12/2021, N=195 outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

HSE-Area	Number of outbreaks	Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-49)			
		All cases	Hospitalised cases	Hospitalised cases that died	Total cases that died
East	50	452	24	7	26
Midlands	15	196	5	<5	9
Midwest	22	272	17	<5	17
Northeast	15	193	19	6	17
Northwest	15	178	21	8	19
Southeast	25	316	15	<5	16
South	34	541	79	10	43
West	19	352	8	<5	19
Total	195	2500	188	42	166

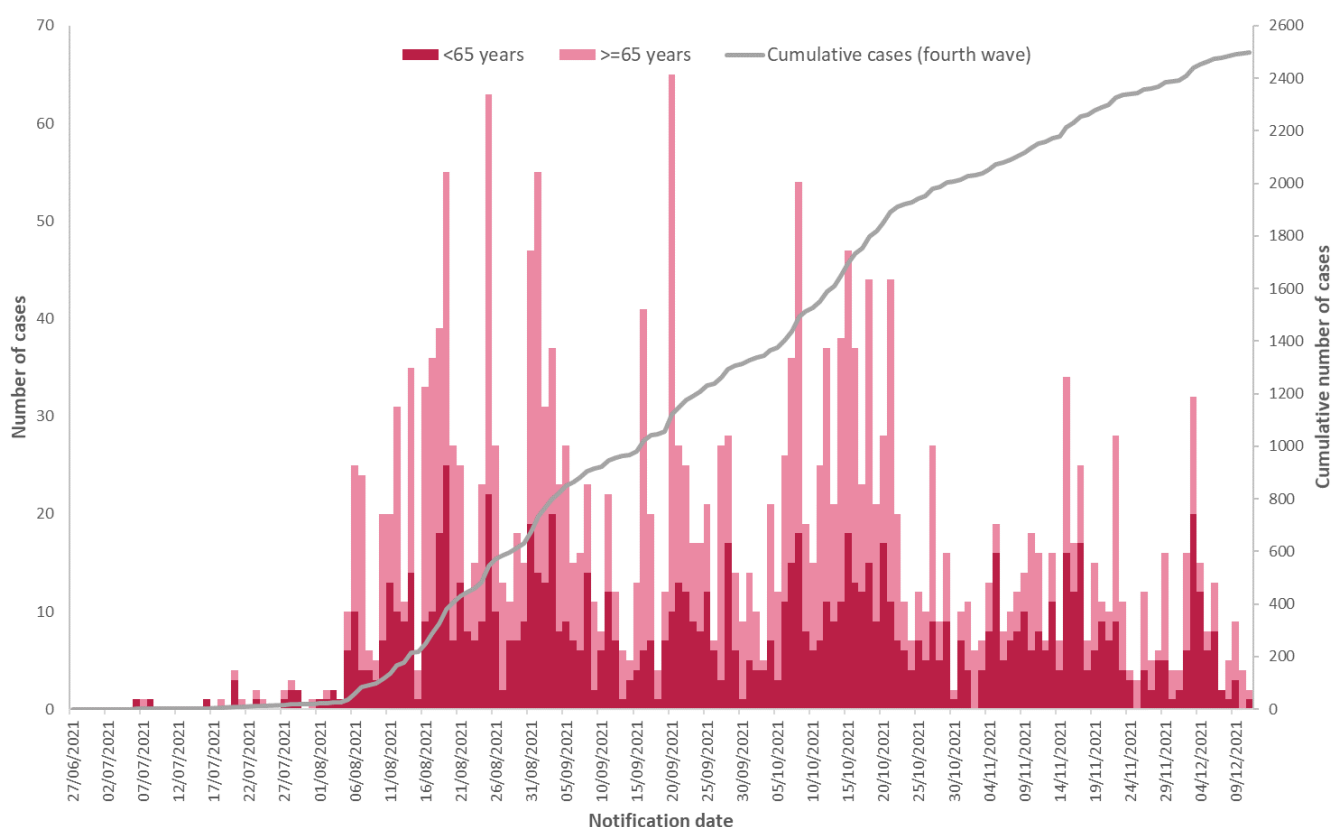


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by age group (<65 years and ≥65 years), date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the fourth wave of infection from 27/06/2021 to midnight 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Focus on Acute Hospitals

There were **608** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **6,834** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 11/12/2021, **184** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **70** of these outbreaks remain open. A total of **1,005 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified. Of those, 18 were admitted to ICU and 88 died (Table 5). Cases were reported to be a healthcare worker (HCW) in 279 cases, not a HCW in 456 cases and HCW status was unknown for the remaining cases (Figure 4).

There were five new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 49 2021

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-49)			
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
	5	2-8	184	70	1-27	10	1005	18	88

Note: Data are provisional

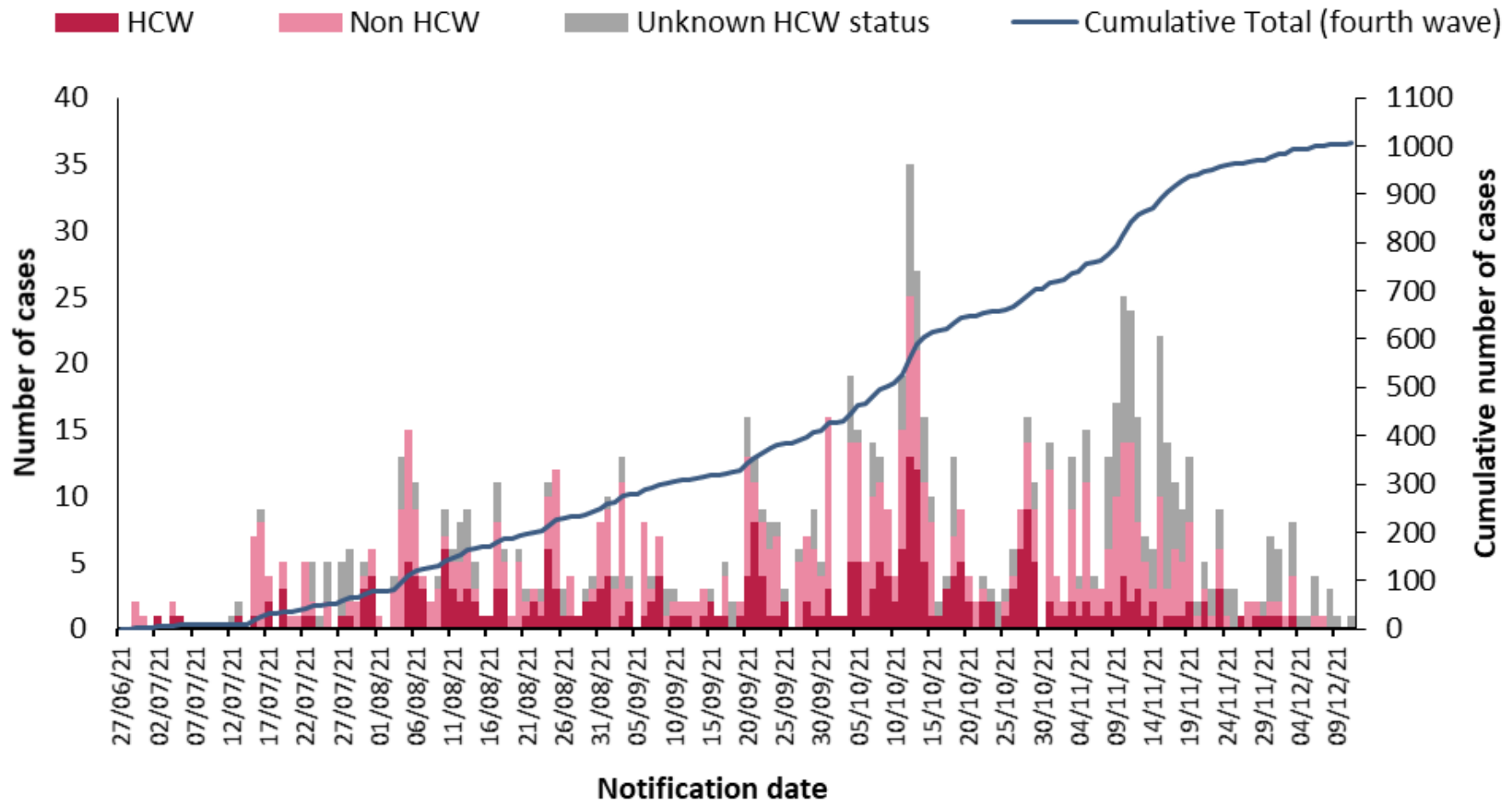


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in acute hospitals by healthcare worker (HCW) status and by date of notification, and cumulative number of confirmed cases during the fourth wave of infection by date of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Focus on Residential Institutions (please see footnote¹)

There were **685** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **4,143** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 11/12/2021, **236** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **128** of these outbreaks remain open. There were **1,012 laboratory confirmed cases** linked to outbreaks in residential institutions. Of those, **44** cases were hospitalised, <5 were admitted to ICU and seven cases died (Table 6). The majority of residential institution outbreaks were notified in centres for disabilities, with **169** outbreaks and **754** confirmed linked cases notified since Week 26 2021.

There were 19 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in residential institutions in Week 49 2021: nine in centres for disabilities; six in mental health facilities and; four in Children's/TUSLA residential centres

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Centre for disabilities	9	2-11	169	92	1-32	37	754	17	<5	<5
Centre for older people	0	n/a	4	1	12	0	28	<5	0	<5
Children's / TUSLA residential centre	4	2-5	28	15	1-7	5	88	0	0	0
Mental health facility	6	3-11	23	15	1-11	17	72	20	<5	<5
Other	0	n/a	10	5	3-10	0	62	5	0	<5
Not Specified	0	n/a	2	0	n/a	<5	8	0	0	0
Total	19	2-11	236	128	1-32	61	1012	44	<5	7

[#]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 **314** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,133** 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 11/12/2021 (Table 7). Since week 26 2021 there have been **122** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and **73** of these remain open. There were **316 linked laboratory confirmed cases** associated with other healthcare service outbreaks.

There were 12 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in other healthcare settings in Week 49 2021: ten associated with services for people with disabilities; one associated with home care services and; one associated with clients of mental health services.

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and cases associated with other healthcare settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Clients of home care services	1	5	36	16	1-5	<5	85	8	0	<5
People with disabilities	10	1-6	40	35	1-11	<5	106	<5	<5	0
Clients of mental health facilities	1	4	13	9	1-4	<5	32	<5	0	0
All other healthcare service	0	n/a	33	13	1-4	<5	93	<5	<5	0
Total	12	1-6	122	73	1-11	15	316	17	<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).

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **870** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **8,123** 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 11/12/2021 (Table 8). From 27/06/2021 to 11/12/2021, there have been **270** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which 151 remain open. There were **1,556 linked laboratory confirmed cases** associated with outbreaks in vulnerable groups in this time period.

There were 26 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 49 2021:

- 13 outbreaks among Irish Travellers
- Seven outbreaks related to Direct Provision Centres
- Three outbreaks amongst the Roma community
- Two outbreaks associated with prisons
- One outbreak associated with the homeless

Table 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in settings involving vulnerable populations, including the Irish Traveller community, Roma community, outbreaks in Direct Provision Centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 11/12/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (Week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths*
Irish Travellers	13	2-8	196	109	1-35	21	1095	27	<5	<5
Roma community	3	2-3	23	12	2-22	<5	126	8	<5	<5
Direct provision centres	7	2-4	25	15	2-23	7	144	7	0	0
Homeless [¥]	1	2	14	7	2-5	<5	56	<5	0	0
Persons with addictions	0	n/a	5	3	1-10	0	20	0	0	0
Prisons	2	3-3	7	5	2-75	<5	115	<5	<5	<5
Total	26	2-8	270	151	1-75	33	1556	48	8	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 **1,257** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **6,501** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **219** outbreaks in universities colleges/third-level students, with **2,414** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **637** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,408** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **733** 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 11/12/2021 (Table 9) and 243 of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 49 2021, there were 37 COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff, and there were nine 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 11/12/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#] [§]	week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#] [§]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases [§]	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Primary	22	2-30	352	115	0-32	10	2389	7	0	0
Post-primary	2	2-2	41	14	0-5	0	165	0	0	0
Special education	13	2-5	77	58	1-17	15	279	<5	<5	0
Not specified/other	0	n/a	8	5	0-16	0	37	0	0	0
Total School*^{##}	37	2-30	478	192	0-32	25	2870	9	<5	0
Childcare facility	9	2-13	240	45	0-15	13	1169	<5	0	0
University/college/third level students**	0	n/a	15	6	2-12	0	93	<5	0	0
Total	46	2-30	733	243	0-32	38	4132	13	<5	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). §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. ##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

COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Workplaces

There were **1,239** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces, with **8,913** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **136** outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing facilities, with **3,627** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and **150** outbreaks in other food/beverage production and processing facilities, with **1,322** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **450** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 11/12/2021 (Table 10) and 58 of these outbreaks remain open.

During **Week 49** 2021, there were **three** COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with workplaces; **one** in a meat/poultry production and processing facility; **one** in other food/beverage production and processing and; **one** in a commercial facility.

Table 10: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces notified to midnight on 11/12/2021 and laboratory confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks.
Data source: CIDR

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified					Laboratory confirmed cases linked to outbreaks (week 26-49)				
	Week 49	Week 49 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-49	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Cases notified in Week 49	Total cases	Total hospitalised cases	Total ICU cases	Total number of deaths
Meat/poultry production and processing	1	10	29	9	1-240	8	614	5	0	0
Other food/beverage production and processing	1	2	63	12	1-32	8	361	7	<5	0
Other workplaces	1	3	358	37	0-23	54	1090	15	<5	0
Total	3	2-10	450	58	0-240	70	2065	27	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). Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present

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 11/12/2021, N=21,231. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	538	70	608
Nursing home	699	56	755
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	75	14	89
Residential institution	741	160	901
Other healthcare service	240	74	314
School**	1065	192	1257
Childcare facility	592	45	637
University/college***	57	4	61
Workplace	1181	58	1239
Retail outlet	374	10	384
Hotel	107	3	110
Guest house/ B&B	13	0	13
Public house	106	7	113
Restaurant / Cafe	215	6	221
Travel related	247	26	273
Transport	59	5	64
Private house*	6390	5687	12077
Extended family	720	193	913
Community outbreak	516	8	524
Social gathering	258	24	282
Religious/Other ceremony	118	16	134
Sporting activities/fitness	88	4	92
Other recreation activity	26	0	26
Personal grooming service	48	0	48
Other	78	9	87
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	4	0	4
Total	14560	6671	21231

*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 6-10 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.