

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 4th January 2022

Week 52 2021 (week ending 1st January 2022)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 4th January 2022 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 01/01/2022.

Total Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	21,494
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:	4,102
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:	1,343
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:	2,759
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 52 2021:	44

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 52 2020 – Week 25 2021)	22/11/2020 – 26/06/2021
Wave 4 (Week 26 2021 onwards)	27/06/2021 onwards

Due to the extended Christmas weekend in week 52, and the surge in case numbers, there may be a delay in reporting of outbreaks to the national surveillance system (CIDR). Therefore, the number of outbreaks reported for week 52 may be an underestimate.

In addition, due to a technical issue and reduced processing over the extended weekend, alongside the surge in case numbers, the processing time of case notifications on CIDR has increased. Outbreak cases may not yet be processed and linked to their outbreak on CIDR. Due to these delays, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings (report pages 9-15).

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.

Summary (Week 26 2021 to Week 52 2021)

4,102 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:

- 221 (5.4%) were reported in hospitals
- 184 (4.5%) were reported in nursing homes
- 36 (0.9%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 349 (8.5%) were reported in residential institutions
- 139 (3.4%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 514 (12.5%) were reported in schools[#]
- 244 (6%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 458 (11.2%) were reported in workplaces, 1,957 (47.7%) were reported in a range of other settings*, including private houses (n=957, 23.3%), retail outlets (n=151, 3.7%) and social gatherings (n=120, 2.9%). See Table 1 for further details
- There have been 23 outbreaks identified with at least one confirmed Omicron VOC case

2,759 outbreaks have been closed and 1,343 outbreaks are open (See Appendix 1, Table A for breakdown of outbreaks by location and outbreak status. Note that it is common practice not to close private house outbreaks on CIDR due to the large volume of outbreaks in this category).

21,494 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 52, 2021)

In **Week 52** 2021, there were **44** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 52 decreased by 62 compared to Week 51 2021
- There were eight acute hospital outbreaks notified
- There were seven nursing home outbreaks notified
- There was one community hospital/long-stay unit outbreak notified
- There were 22 residential institution outbreaks notified
- There was one outbreak associated with other healthcare services notified
- There were two outbreaks associated with schools notified
- There was one outbreak associated with childcare facilities notified
- The remaining two outbreaks* were in private houses

**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.

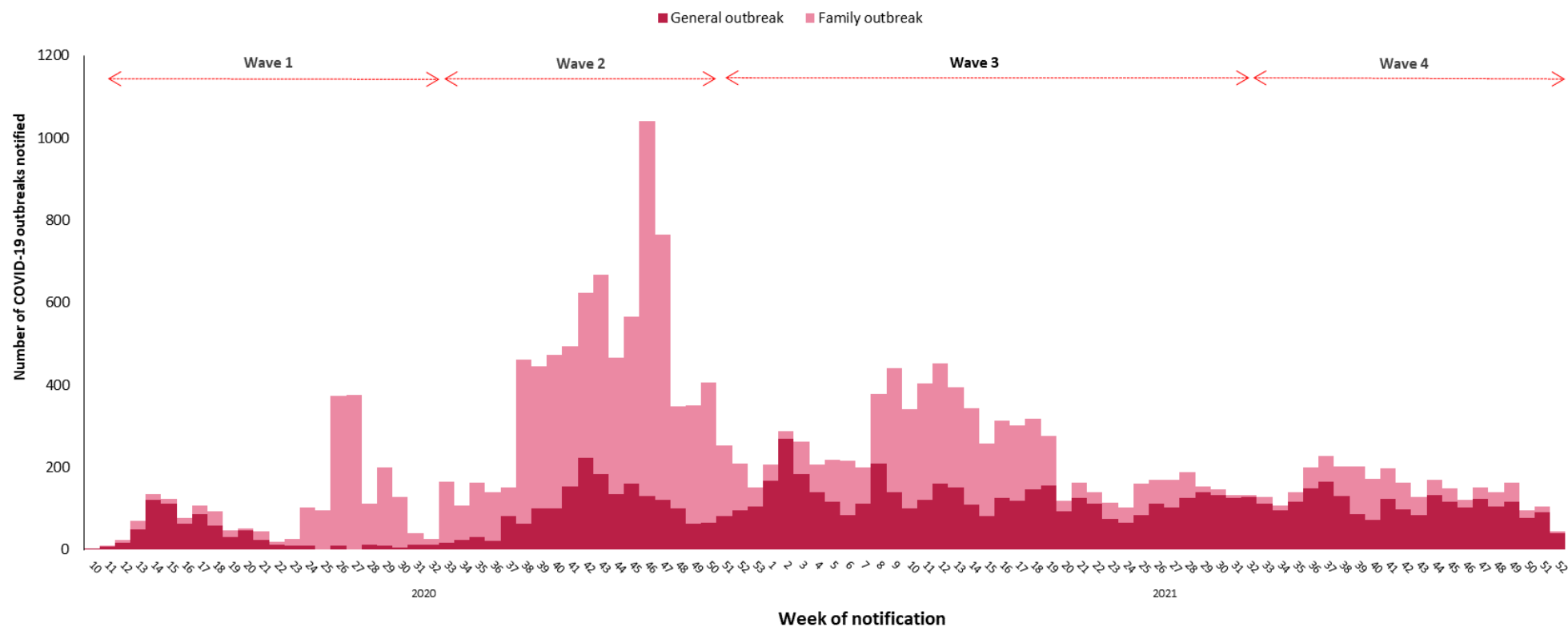


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 01/01/2022, N=21,494 Data source: CIDR

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 52 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 01/01/2022, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 52 2021 compared to the previous week, N=4,102. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 (Week 26-52)
	2021										
	week 26-42	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52		
Hospital	123	27	7	12	10	5	8	21	8	-13	221
Nursing home	116	9	4	10	10	13	7	8	7	-1	184
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	19	3	3	1	2	5	1	1	1	0	36
Residential institution	151	21	25	30	29	31	20	20	22	+2	349
Other healthcare services	61	12	16	11	10	10	6	12	1	-11	139
School*	327	16	23	45	30	37	22	12	2	-10	514
Childcare Facility	202	9	6	6	8	9	2	1	1	0	244
Workplace	417	6	10	7	7	3	4	4	0	-4	458
University/College**	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	-2	14
Retail outlet	147	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151
Restaurant / Cafe	103	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	105
Public house	69	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	71
Hotel	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	84
Guest house/ B&B	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	10
Private house: family outbreaks	761	28	15	24	25	38	13	13	2	-11	919
Private house: general outbreaks	30	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	0	-4	38
Extended family	105	5	4	3	3	8	4	0	0	0	132
Community outbreak	50	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	52
Travel related	52	2	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	-1	59
Transport	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	25
Social gathering	114	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	-1	120
Religious/Other ceremony	50	2	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	-1	59
Sporting activity/fitness	48	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	52
Other recreation activity	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Personal grooming service	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Other	11	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	-1	16
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	3131	150	121	151	139	164	96	106	44	-62	4102

*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. #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 01/01/2022 N=4,102. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC [#]	Total
Hospital	86	15	16	26	30	16	15	17	0	221
Nursing home	49	14	21	17	12	22	31	18	0	184
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	8	2	3	1	6	7	6	3	0	36
Residential institution	110	15	55	48	22	31	45	23	0	349
Other healthcare service	21	1	33	15	11	18	19	21	0	139
School*	139	57	108	59	67	17	30	37	0	514
Childcare facility	82	21	29	46	17	11	11	27	0	244
Workplace	121	24	36	80	42	51	69	35	0	458
Travel related	7	10	1	6	10	2	21	1	1	59
University/college**	5	0	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	14
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	10	20	3	14	8	0	71
Hotel	7	1	4	14	12	12	19	15	0	84
Guest house/ B&B	3	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	10
Private house	33	180	191	46	420	7	33	47	0	957
Extended family	5	15	31	0	42	8	11	20	0	132
Community outbreak	4	3	2	1	11	1	26	4	0	52
Social gathering	3	6	37	15	36	6	15	2	0	120
Religious/Other ceremony	7	1	1	12	7	8	20	3	0	59
Transport	3	3	1	0	9	3	1	5	0	25
Sporting activity/fitness	12	0	6	9	6	9	7	3	0	52
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	5	0	4	1	2	3	1	2	0	18
Total	837	374	611	448	818	271	436	306	1	4102

*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 52 2021 (week ending 01/01/2022), N=44. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Hospital	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	8
Nursing home	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	7
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Residential institution	8	0	3	9	2	0	0	0	22
Other healthcare service	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
School*	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Childcare facility	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Private house	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	10	0	6	16	10	2	0	0	44

*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

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.

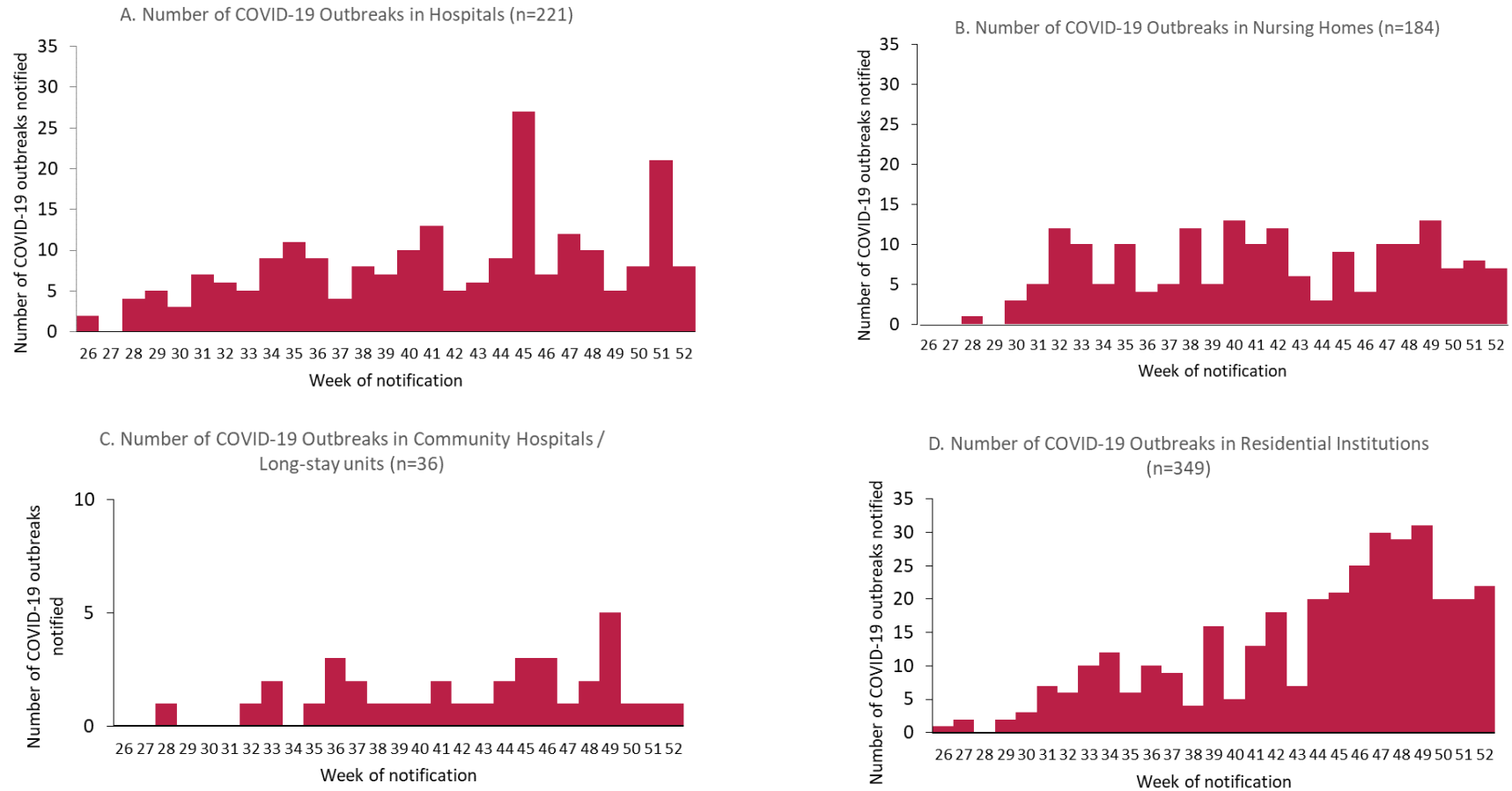


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals, (B) Nursing Homes, (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and (D) Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 01/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **875** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **18,777** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 01/01/2022, **220** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **82** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 3).

There were seven new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in nursing homes and one in community hospital/long-term care facilities during Week 52 2021.

Table 3: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 01/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Nursing home	7	1-17	184	69	0-46
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	1	n/a*	36	13	0-22
Total	8	1-17	220	82	0-46

#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). *no cases linked to outbreak as yet. [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Acute Hospitals

There were **650** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **6,921** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 01/01/2022, **221** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **78** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 4).

There were eight new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 52 2021.

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases⁵ in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 01/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases
	8	2-5	221	78	0-20

⁵Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Institutions (please see footnote¹)

There were **743** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **4,245** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 01/01/2022, **291** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **162** of these outbreaks remain open.

There were 19 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in residential institutions in Week 52 2021: 12 in centres for disabilities; two in mental health facilities; two in Children’s/TUSLA residential centres and; three in non-specified locations.

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 01/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Centre for disabilities	12	0-8	208	113	0-32
Centre for older people	0	n/a	4	1	12
Children’s / TUSLA residential centre	2	2-3	33	20	2-8
Mental health facility	2	0-3	29	19	0-11
Other	0	n/a	12	6	3-10
Not Specified	3	3-3	5	3	3-3
Total	19	0-8	291	162	0-32

[#]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 as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings.

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

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Other Healthcare Settings

There were **332** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,175** 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 01/01/2022 (Table 6). Since week 26 2021 there have been **139** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and **76** of these remain open.

There was one new COVID-19 outbreak reported in other healthcare settings in Week 52 2021

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases⁵ associated with other healthcare settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 01/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-52	Number open	
Clients of home care services	0	n/a	39	16	1-5
People with disabilities	0	n/a	54	42	1-11
Clients of mental health facilities	0	n/a	12	7	2-4
All other healthcare service	1	<5	34	11	1-5
Total	1	<5	139	76	1-11

[#]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). ⁵Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings.

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **896** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **8,255** 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 01/01/2022 (Table 7). From 27/06/2021 to 01/01/2022, there have been **295** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which **144** remain open.

There were four new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 52 2021:

- two outbreaks associated with the homeless
- two outbreaks related to Direct Provision Centres

Table 7: 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 01/01/2022 and laboratory confirmed cases[§] linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Irish Travellers	0	n/a	205	92	0-83
Roma community	0	n/a	26	13	2-22
Direct provision centres	2	2-2	30	19	1-24
Homeless [¥]	2	3-3	22	14	2-6
Persons with addictions	0	n/a	5	2	1-5
Prisons	0	n/a	7	4	2-75
Total	4	2-3	295	144	0-83

[¥]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). [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings.

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **1,293** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **6,744** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases⁵; **221** outbreaks in universities colleges/third-level students, with **2,309** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases; **641** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,083** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **775** 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 01/01/2022 (Table 8) and **247** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 52 2021, there were two COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff and one COVID-19 outbreak associated with childcare facilities.

Table 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 01/01/2022 and laboratory confirmed cases⁵ linked to these outbreaks. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Primary	1	n/a [†]	374	120	0-32
Post-primary	0	n/a	43	16	0-5
Special education	1	<5	88	54	0-11
Not specified/other	0	n/a	9	6	0-16
Total School*^{###}	2	0-4	514	196	0-32
Childcare facility	1	<5	244	43	0-15
University/college/third level students**	0	n/a	17	8	2-82
Total	3	0-4	775	247	0-82

*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. Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present. ⁵Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings. [†]no outbreak cases linked as yet.

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Workplaces

There were **1,247** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces, with **9,016** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases. This included **140** outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing facilities, with **3,714** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and **150** outbreaks in other food/beverage production and processing facilities, with **1,326** linked laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **458** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 01/01/2022 (Table 9) and **53** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 52 2021, there were no COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with workplaces.

Table 9: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces notified to midnight on 01/01/2022 and laboratory confirmed cases⁵ linked to these outbreaks.
Data source: CIDR

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 52	Week 52 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	week 26-52	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Meat/poultry production and processing	0	n/a	33	13	2-240
Other food/beverage production and processing	0	n/a	63	10	1-37
Other workplaces	0	n/a	362	30	0-41
Total	0	n/a	458	53	0-240

[#]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. ⁵Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the recent surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings

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 01/01/2022, N=21,494. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	567	83	650
Nursing home	708	73	781
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	79	15	94
Residential institution	766	202	968
Other healthcare service	255	77	332
School**	1097	196	1293
Childcare facility	598	43	641
University/college***	57	6	63
Workplace	1193	54	1247
Retail outlet	375	9	384
Hotel	107	4	111
Guest house/ B&B	13	1	14
Public house	107	7	114
Restaurant / Cafe	216	5	221
Travel related	248	27	275
Transport	61	4	65
Private house*	6412	5698	12110
Extended family	734	183	917
Community outbreak	516	9	525
Social gathering	259	25	284
Religious/Other ceremony	120	18	138
Sporting activities/fitness	88	5	93
Other recreation activity	26	0	26
Personal grooming service	48	0	48
Other	79	12	91
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	4	0	4
Total	14738	6756	21494

*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 to 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.

Note: Due to a technical issue and reduced processing over the holiday period, alongside an increasing number of positive cases, the processing time of case notifications on CIDR has increased. Outbreak cases may not yet be processed and linked to their outbreak on CIDR. Due to these delays, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings (report pages 9-15).