

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 25th January 2022

Week 3 2022 (week ending 22nd January 2022)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 25th January 2022 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 22/01/2022.

Total number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	21,982
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:	4,610
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:	1,681
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:	2,929
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 3 2022:	156

Waves (weeks)	Dates
Wave 1 (Weeks 10 – 31 2020)	01/03/2020 – 01/08/2020
Wave 2 (Week 32 – 47 2020)	02/08/2020 – 21/11/2020
Wave 3 (Week 48 2020 – Week 25 2021)	22/11/2020 – 26/06/2021
Wave 4 (Week 26 – 50 2021)	27/06/2021 – 18/12/2021
Wave 5 (Week 51 2021 onwards)	19/12/2021 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). In addition, due to a technical issue and reduced processing over the extended holiday 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).

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. These settings include acute hospitals, nursing homes, community hospital/long-stay units, residential institutions, other healthcare settings, schools and childcare facilities. 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.

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

Note: Data are provisional

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.

Please note COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

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/>

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 3 2022)

4,610 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:

- 289 (6.3%) were reported in hospitals
- 347 (7.5%) were reported in nursing homes
- 51 (1.1%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 517 (11.2%) were reported in residential institutions
- 158 (3.4%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 536 (11.6%) were reported in schools[#]
- 250 (5.4%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 466 (10.1%) were reported in workplaces
- 1,996 (43.3%) were reported in a range of other settings*, including private houses (n=994, 21.6%), retail outlets (n=152, 3.3%); extended family (n=134, 2.9%) and social gatherings (n=120, 2.6%). See Table 1 for further details

2,929 outbreaks have been closed and 1,681 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).

Wave 5 (Week 51 2021 – Week 3 2022)

660 of the 4,610 COVID-19 outbreaks reported from Week 26 2021 occurred since the beginning of wave 5 (week beginning 19/12/2021). Of these, 97 (14.7%) were reported in hospitals, 179 were reported in nursing homes (27.1%), 17 (2.6%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units and 205 (31.1%) were reported in residential institutions.

21,982 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since Week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 3, 2022)

In **Week 3** 2022, there were **156** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 3 2022 decreased by 41 compared to Week 2 2021
- In healthcare settings there were:
 - 13 acute hospital outbreaks notified
 - 51 nursing home outbreaks notified
 - three community hospital/long-stay unit outbreaks notified
 - 45 residential institution outbreaks notified
 - two outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- In educational settings there were:
 - 18 outbreaks associated with schools notified
 - four outbreaks associated with childcare facilities
- The remaining 20 outbreaks* included: private houses (n=17; associated with Irish Traveller community (n=16) and Roma Community (n=1)); extended family (n=1; associated with Irish Traveller community); workplaces (n=2)

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

**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.*

Note: Data are provisional

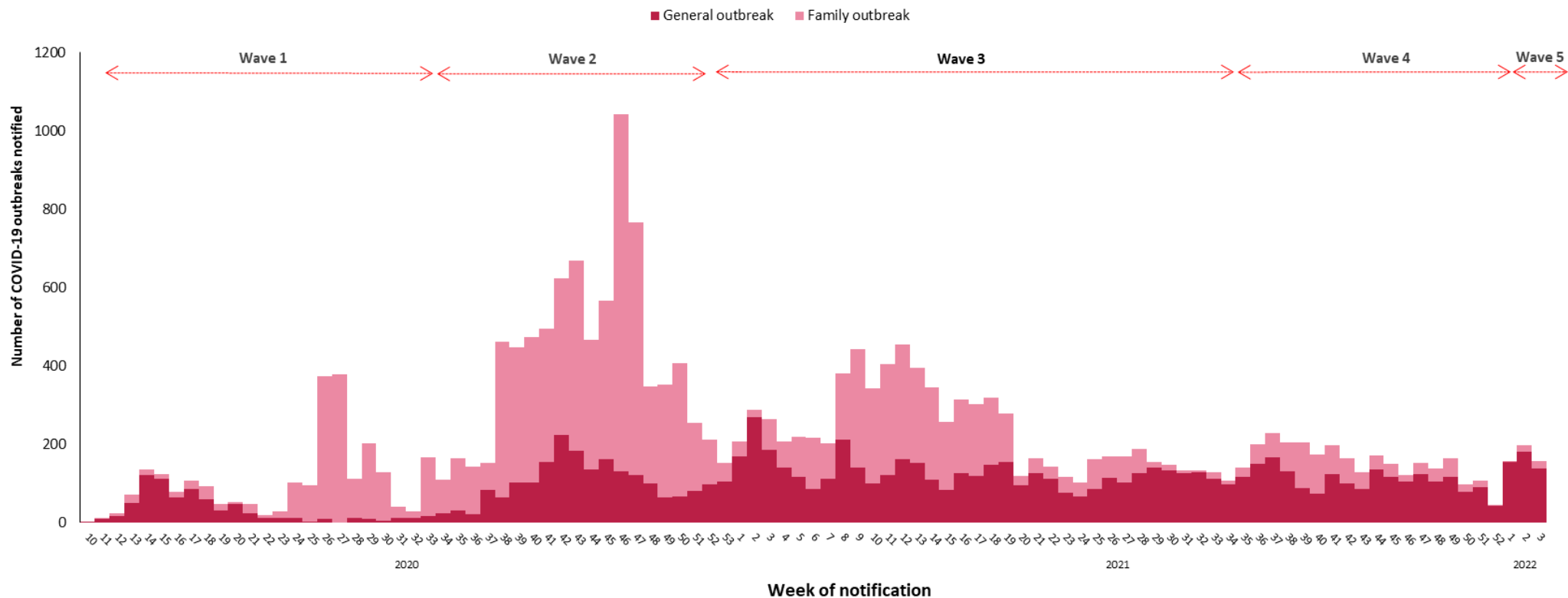


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 22/01/2022, N=21,982. *Data source: CIDR*

Dashed red arrows indicate the timeline of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth 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 22/11/2020); the fourth wave commenced Week 26 2021 (week beginning 27/06/2021); the fifth wave commenced Week 51 2021 (week beginning 19/12/2021)).

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, 4 and 5 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 22/01/2022, difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 3 2022 compared to the previous week, and total waves 4 and 5 to date N=4,610. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4/5 (Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022)
	2021						2022				
	Week 26-47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3		
Hospital	169	10	5	8	21	8	22	33	13	-20	289
Nursing home	139	10	13	6	8	7	56	57	51	-6	347
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	26	2	5	1	1	1	8	4	3	-1	51
Residential institution	231	29	31	21	21	22	48	69	45	-24	517
Other healthcare services	102	10	10	6	12	1	3	12	2	-10	158
School**	411	28	37	22	12	2	3	3	18	+15	536
Childcare Facility	223	8	9	2	1	1	2	0	4	+4	250
Workplace	440	7	3	4	4	0	5	1	2	+1	466
University/College**	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Retail outlet	151	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	152
Restaurant / Café	104	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	106
Public house	70	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	72
Hotel	83	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	84
Guest house/ B&B	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Private house: family outbreaks	826	25	38	13	16	2	3	16	17	+1	956
Private house: general outbreaks	31	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	-1	38
Extended family	117	3	8	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	134
Community outbreak	50	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Travel related	54	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	59
Transport	24	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	25
Social gathering	117	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	120
Religious/Other ceremony	55	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	61
Sporting activity/fitness	49	2	0	1	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0	13
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	3553	137	164	96	106	44[†]	157	197	156	-41	4610

*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. †Outbreak reporting to CIDR was likely impacted by the extended Christmas weekend in Week 52 and the surge in case numbers. 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 22/01/2022 N=4,610. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC#	Total
Hospital	112	15	17	33	38	22	26	26	0	289
Nursing home	106	25	31	32	17	33	57	46	0	347
Community Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit / Long-stay unit	13	2	3	2	10	9	7	5	0	51
Residential institution	169	22	70	76	33	53	60	34	0	517
Other healthcare service	25	1	39	15	11	18	23	26	0	158
School*##	148	57	108	60	70	17	38	38	0	536
Childcare facility	82	21	29	46	20	11	14	27	0	250
Workplace	124	24	36	81	42	51	73	35	0	466
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	17	6	0	152
Restaurant / Café	31	2	11	10	16	12	17	7	0	106
Public house	10	2	4	10	20	3	15	8	0	72
Hotel	7	1	4	14	12	12	19	15	0	84
Guest house/ B&B	2	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	9
Private house	33	180	196	48	419	7	41	70	0	994
Extended family	5	15	32	0	42	8	11	21	0	134
Community outbreak	4	3	2	1	10	1	26	4	0	51
Social gathering	3	6	37	15	36	6	15	2	0	120
Religious/Other ceremony	7	1	1	13	8	8	20	3	0	61
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	2	0	4	1	2	3	1	2	0	15
Total	996	392	649	504	851	312	519	386	1	4610

*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 3 2022 (week ending 22/01/2022), N=156. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Hospital	4	0	0	4	1	1	2	1	13
Nursing home	18	2	2	3	2	6	11	7	51
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Residential institution	18	1	5	9	0	5	1	6	45
Other healthcare service	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
School*	9	0	0	1	2	0	5	1	18
Childcare facility	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
Workplace	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Private house	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	9	17
Extended family	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	52	3	9	21	9	13	24	25	156

*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. 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.

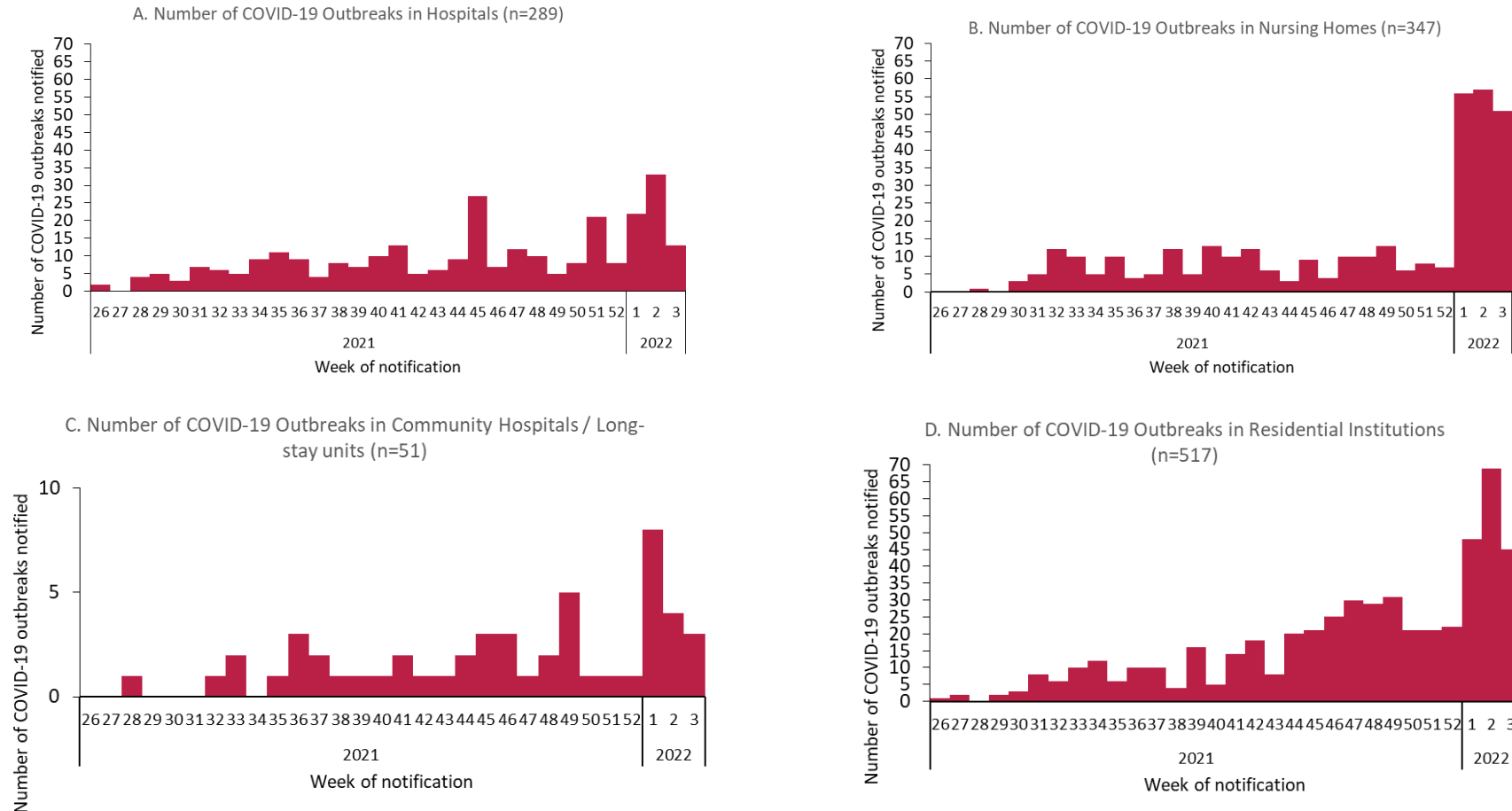


Figure 2 A-D: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in (A) Acute Hospitals, (B) Nursing Homes, (C) Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and (D) Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

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

There have been **1,047** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **22,041** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 22/01/2022, **398** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **246** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 3).

There were 51 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in nursing homes and three in community hospital/long-term care facilities during Week 3 2022.

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 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Nursing home	51	0-50	347	218	0-63
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	3	4-8	51	28	2-41
Total	54	0-50	398	246	0-63

[#]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.

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Acute Hospitals

There were **713** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **8,202** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 22/01/2022, **289** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **135** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 4).

There were 13 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 3 2022.

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases
	13	2-9	289	135	0-28

[§]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.

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **873** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **5,276** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 22/01/2022, **428** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **264** of these outbreaks remain open.

There were 35 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in residential institutions in Week 3 2022: 32 in centres for disabilities; one in a children's/TUSLA residential centre and; two in other/not 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 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Centre for disabilities	32	1-11	310	195	0-32
Centre for older people	0	n/a	9	5	2-23
Children's / TUSLA residential centre	1	5	47	29	1-16
Mental health facility	0	n/a	37	19	1-13
Women/children's refuge	0	n/a	4	3	2-8
Other	1	8	18	12	2-10
Not Specified	1	<5	3	1	<5
Total	35	1-11	428	264	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.

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 **358** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,456** 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 22/01/2022 (Table 6). Since Week 26 2021 there have been **158** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and **75** of these remain open.

There were two new COVID-19 outbreak reported in other healthcare settings in Week 3 2022; one in services for people with disabilities and one in home care services.

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] associated with other healthcare settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Clients of home care services	1	6	45	18	1-6
People with disabilities	1	5	62	39	1-15
Clients of mental health facilities	0	n/a	14	8	2-11
All other healthcare service	0	n/a	37	10	1-5
Total	2	5-6	158	75	1-15

[#]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.

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **963** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **9,203** 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 22/01/2022 (Table 7). From 27/06/2021 to 22/01/2022, there have been **362** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which **188** remain open.

There were 28 new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 3 2022:

- 17 outbreaks associated with the Irish Traveller community
- three outbreaks related to direct provision centres
- three outbreaks associated with the homeless
- three outbreaks associated with persons with addictions
- one outbreak associated with the Roma community
- one outbreak associated with prisons

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in settings involving vulnerable populations, including the Irish Traveller community, Roma community, direct provision centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Irish Travellers	17	0-10	238	112	0-83
Roma community	1	<5	31	16	0-22
Direct provision centres	3	0-22	41	23	0-49
Homeless [¥]	3	6-13	28	20	2-33
Persons with addictions	3	2-15	11	8	1-15
Prisons	1	13	13	9	1-75
Total	28	0-22	362	188	0-83

[¥]Homeless facilities include some facilities that provide long term supported accommodation. Also includes staff of homeless facilities. [#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 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.

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **1,315** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **6,857** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§]; **221** outbreaks in universities colleges/third-level students, with **2,498** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§]; **647** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,458** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **803** 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 22/01/2022 (Table 8) and **220** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 3 2022, there were 18 COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff and four COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with childcare facilities.

Table 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] associated with school children (+/- staff), universities/colleges/third level students and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Primary	1	14	374	87	0-31
Post-primary	0	n/a	44	17	0-43
Special education	17	0-9	109	62	0-11
Not specified/other	0	n/a	9	5	0-16
Total School***	18	0-14	536	171	0-43
Childcare facility	4	1-8	250	42	0-15
University/college/third level students**	0	n/a	17	7	2-82
Total	22	0-14	803	220	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. [§]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.

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Workplaces

There were **1,260** COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces, with **10,126** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases⁵. This included **144** outbreaks in meat/poultry production and processing facilities, with **4,006** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases⁵ and **163** outbreaks in other food/beverage production and processing facilities, with **1,558** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases⁵, notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **466** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with workplaces have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 22/01/2022 (Table 9) and **55** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 3 2022, there were two COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with commercial sector workplace settings.

Table 9: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases⁵ associated with workplaces notified to midnight on 22/01/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Workplace outbreaks	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 3	Week 3 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 3 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Meat/poultry production and processing	0	n/a	35	13	2-240
Other food/beverage production and processing	0	n/a	66	12	1-44
Other workplaces	2	<5	365	30	0-41
Total	2	0-2	466	55	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). ^{*}no outbreak cases linked as yet. 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.

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 22/01/2022, N=21,982. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	578	135	713
Nursing home	722	218	940
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	79	28	107
Residential institution	811	322	1133
Other healthcare service	283	75	358
School**	1144	171	1315
Childcare facility	605	42	647
University/college***	58	5	63
Workplace	1205	55	1260
Retail outlet	375	10	385
Hotel	107	4	111
Guest house/ B&B	12	1	13
Public house	107	8	115
Restaurant / Cafe	217	5	222
Travel related	249	26	275
Transport	61	4	65
Private house*	6424	5722	12146
Extended family	737	182	919
Community outbreak	516	8	524
Social gathering	259	25	284
Religious/Other ceremony	121	18	139
Sporting activities/fitness	90	3	93
Other recreation activity	26	0	26
Personal grooming service	48	0	48
Other	65	7	72
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	4	0	4
Total	14908	7074	21982

*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).