

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 1st March 2022

Week 8 2022 (week ending 26th February 2022)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 1st March 2022 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 26/02/2022.

Total number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	22,498
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:	5,126
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:	1,646
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:	3,480
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 8 2022:	99

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

Regional Departments of Public Health are currently prioritising the investigation and reporting of outbreaks in settings that benefit most from public health and clinical intervention. These settings include acute hospitals, nursing homes, community hospital/long-stay units, residential institutions, other healthcare settings, vulnerable populations, special educational needs schools/classes and childcare facilities. For this reason, outbreaks in other settings may be underestimated. This report focusses on these key settings/groups.

In addition, due to the surge in case numbers in recent months, 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 8-18).

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

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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.

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.

22,498 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since Week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 26 2021 to Week 8 2022)

5,126 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:

- 368 (7.2%) were reported in hospitals
- 498 (9.7%) were reported in nursing homes
- 59 (1.2%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 650 (12.7%) were reported in residential institutions
- 197 (3.8%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 584 (11.4%) were reported in schools[#]
- 253 (4.9%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 2,517 (49.1%) were reported in a range of other settings

3,480 outbreaks have been closed and 1,646 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).

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

Wave 5 (Week 51 2021 – Week 8 2022)

1,176 of the 5,126 COVID-19 outbreaks reported from Week 26 2021 occurred since the beginning of wave 5 (week beginning 19/12/2021). Of these, 176 (15%) were reported in hospitals, 330 (28.1%) were reported in nursing homes, 25 (2.1%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units and 339 (28.8%) were reported in residential institutions.

Summary (Week 8, 2022)

In **Week 8** 2022, there were **99** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 8 2022 decreased by 38 compared to Week 7 2021
- In healthcare settings there were:
 - 12 acute hospital outbreaks notified
 - 32 nursing home outbreaks notified
 - three community hospital/long-stay unit outbreak notified
 - 30 residential institution outbreaks notified
 - seven outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- In educational settings there were:
 - two outbreaks associated with schools
 - one outbreak associated with childcare facilities
- The remaining 12 outbreaks were reported in a number of other settings: private houses (n=10; Irish Traveller Community (n=7); Roma community (n=3)); community (n=1); and workplace (n=1)

Note: Data are provisional

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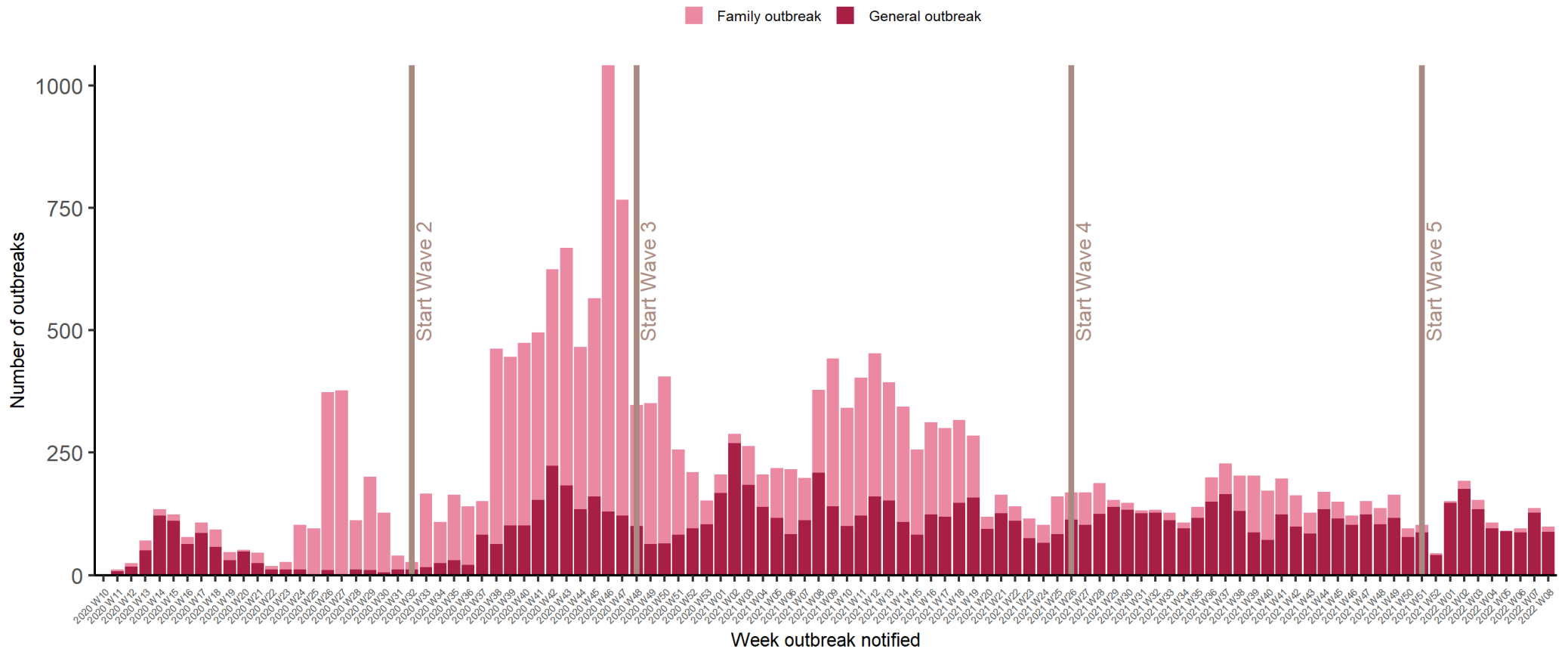


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 26/02/2022, N=22,498. *Data source: CIDR*

Vertical lines indicate the timeline of epidemic 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).

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 26/02/2022, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 8 2022 compared to the previous week, N=5,126. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 and 5 (Week 26 2021 - Week 8 2022)
	2021	2022									
	Week 26-52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Hospital	220	21	31	13	17	17	15	22	12	-10	368
Nursing home	183	54	59	48	30	27	22	43	32	-11	498
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	36	8	4	3	0	2	2	1	3	2	59
Residential institution	354	45	66	47	22	20	28	38	30	-8	650
Other healthcare services	141	3	12	2	5	14	5	8	7	-1	197
School total**	512	3	3	18	17	7	9	13	2	-11	584
Special educational needs	87	3	2	17	17	6	8	10	1	-9	151
Other school type	425	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	-1	432
Childcare Facility	244	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	253
Other locations	2409	15	17	20	15	3	15	11	12	1	2517
Total	4099	151	192	154	107	91	96	137	99	-38	5126

*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. #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. §Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR.

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 26/02/2022 N=5,126. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC#	Total
Hospital	149	18	29	48	43	22	28	31	0	368
Nursing home	164	33	51	45	22	45	81	57	0	498
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	15	2	4	2	12	10	8	6	0	59
Residential institution	207	29	93	103	45	59	73	41	0	650
Other healthcare service	26	2	51	21	14	20	31	32	0	197
School total***§	161	59	125	64	71	19	45	40	0	584
Special educational needs	60	13	31	12	8	3	19	5	0	151
Other school type	101	46	94	52	63	16	26	35	0	433
Childcare facility	83	22	29	46	20	11	13	29	0	253
Other locations	342	250	359	249	654	149	304	209	1	2517
Total	1147	415	741	578	881	335	583	445	1	5126

Table 2B: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland during Week 8 2022 (week ending 26/02/2022), N=99. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Hospital	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	12
Nursing home	12	4	4	3	2	1	4	2	32
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Residential institution	11	1	0	11	5	2	0	0	30
Other healthcare service	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	7
School total*§	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Special education	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other school type	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Childcare facility	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other locations	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	12
Total	28	7	4	19	11	5	12	13	99

*These outbreaks are associated with school children +/- or school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks. #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. §Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR.

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 and in the subsequent “Focus” sections, Tables 3-5 and Figures 3-5.

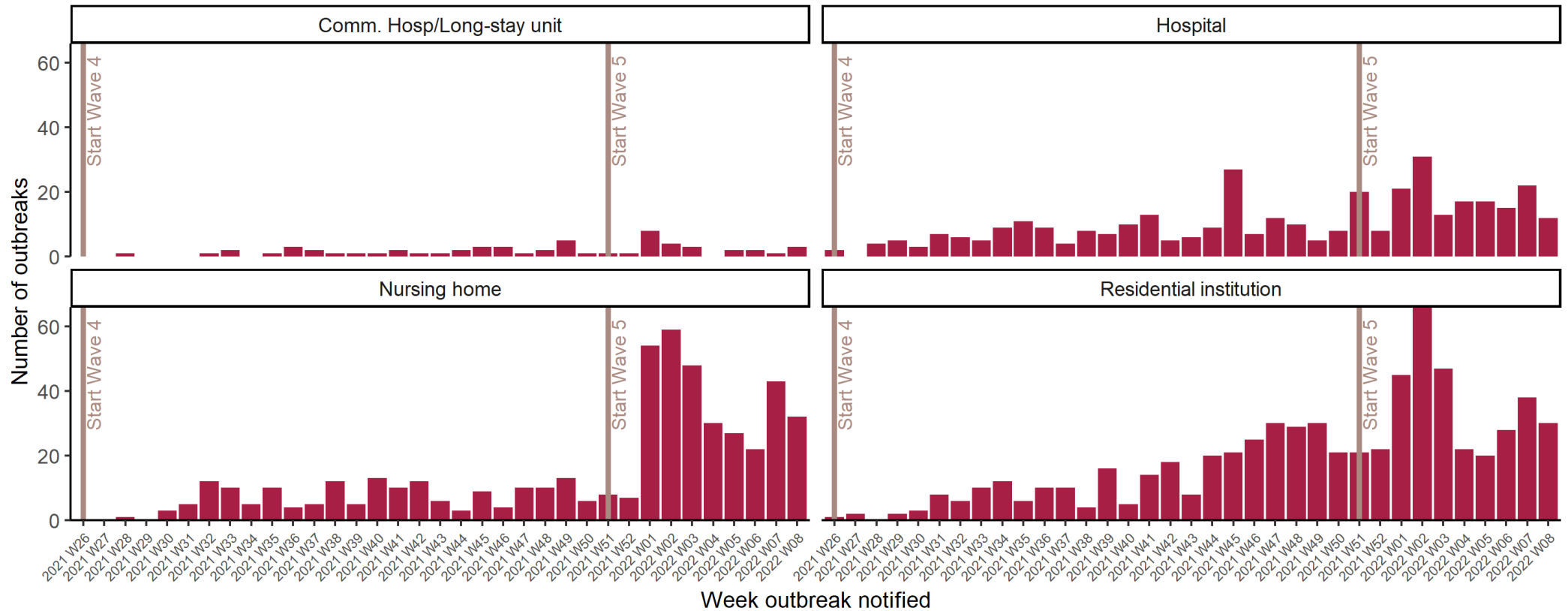


Figure 2: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in: Acute Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

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

There have been **1,205** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **25,638** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 26/02/2022, **557** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **320** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 3).

There were 32 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in nursing homes and three reported in community hospitals during Week 8 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 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Nursing home	32	2-62	498	298	0-92
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	3	3-6	59	22	2-46
Total	35	2-62	557	320	0-92

[#]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

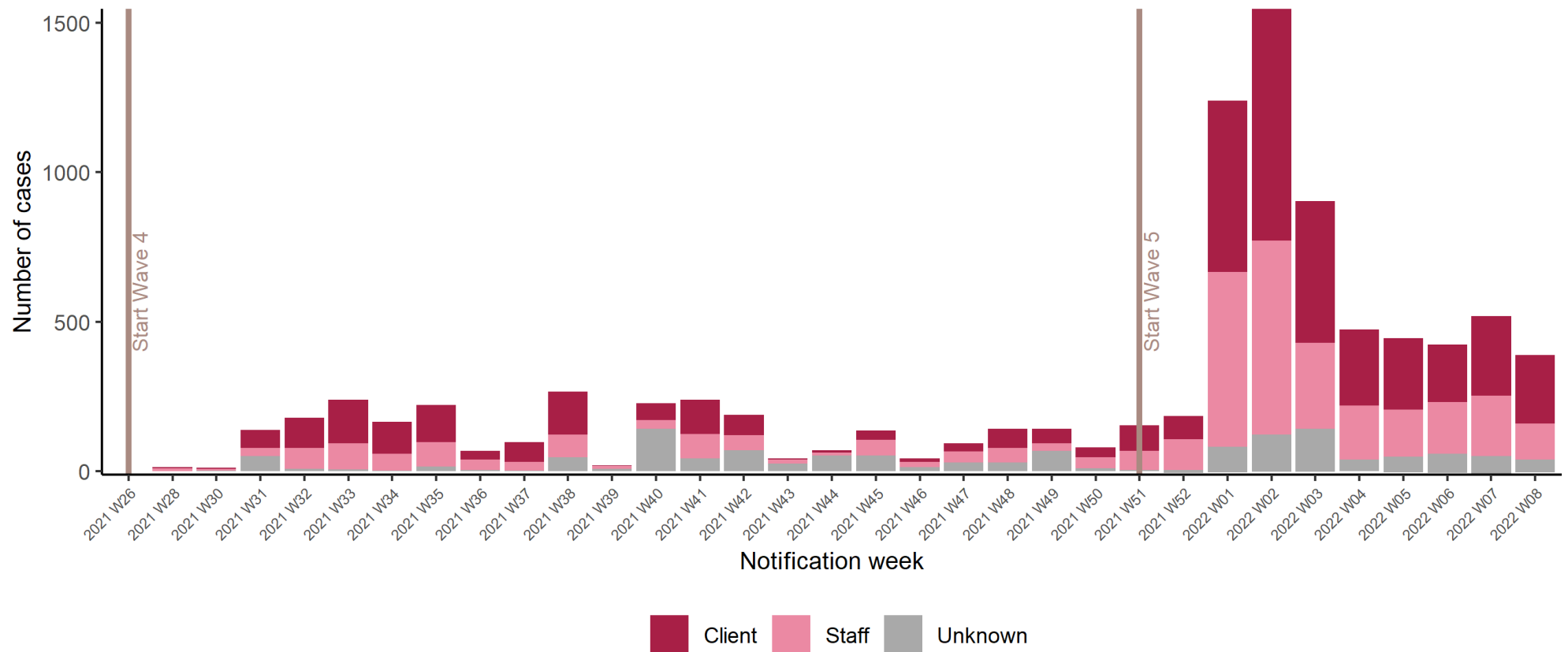


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by staff/client status and date of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Acute Hospitals

There were **792** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **8,966** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 26/02/2022, **368** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **125** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 4).

There were 12 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 8 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 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases
	12	2-7	368	125	1-47

[§]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

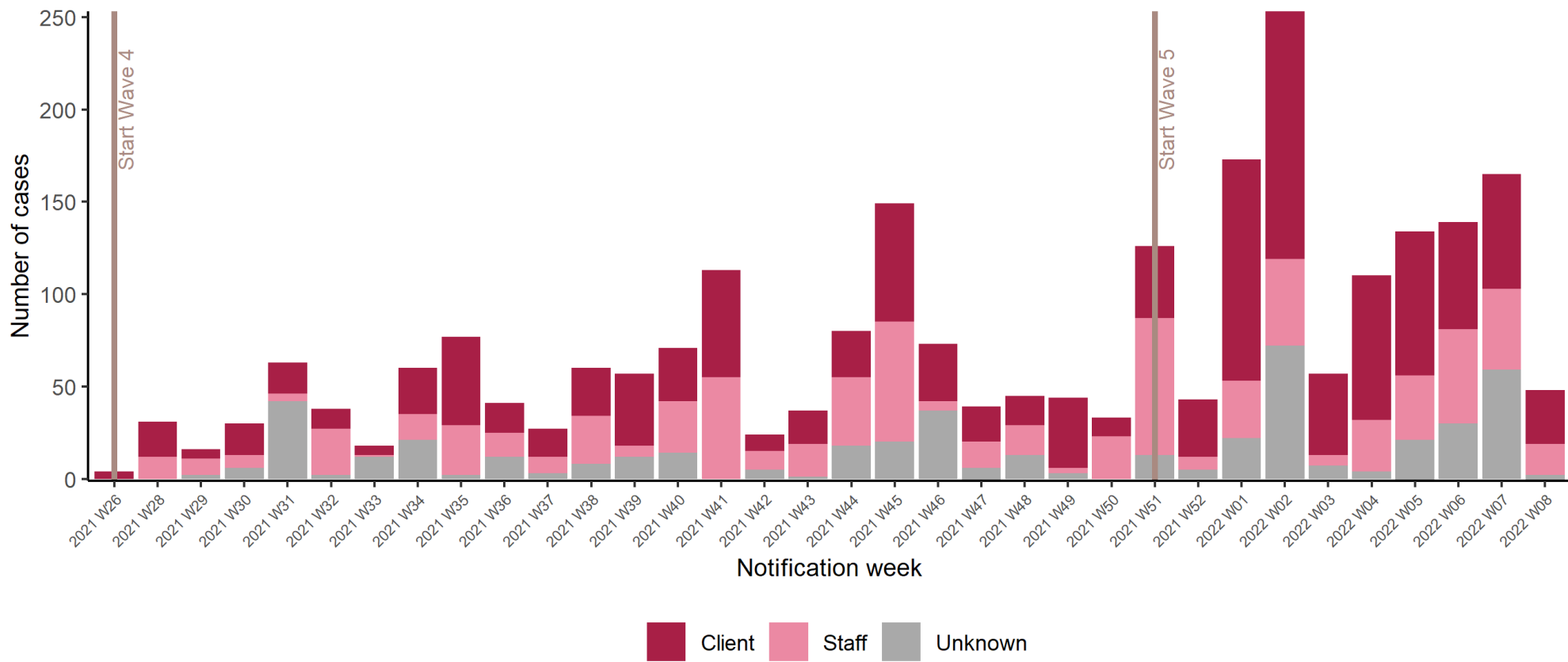


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in hospitals by staff/client status and date of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **993** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **6,001** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 26/02/2022, **549** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **261** of these outbreaks remain open.

There were 29 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in residential institutions in Week 8 2022: 21 in centres for disabilities; three in centres for older people; two in children's/TUSLA residential centres; two in mental health facilities and; one in another location.

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	
Centre for disabilities	21	1-10	400	197	1-19
Centre for older people	3	3-18	12	4	3-18
Children's / TUSLA residential centre	2	<5	58	25	2-8
Mental health facility	2	11-12	47	22	1-27
Women/children's refuge	0	n/a	6	3	2-4
Other	1	<5	21	8	0-14
Not Specified	0	n/a	5	2	<5
Total	29	2-12	549	261	0-27

[#]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.

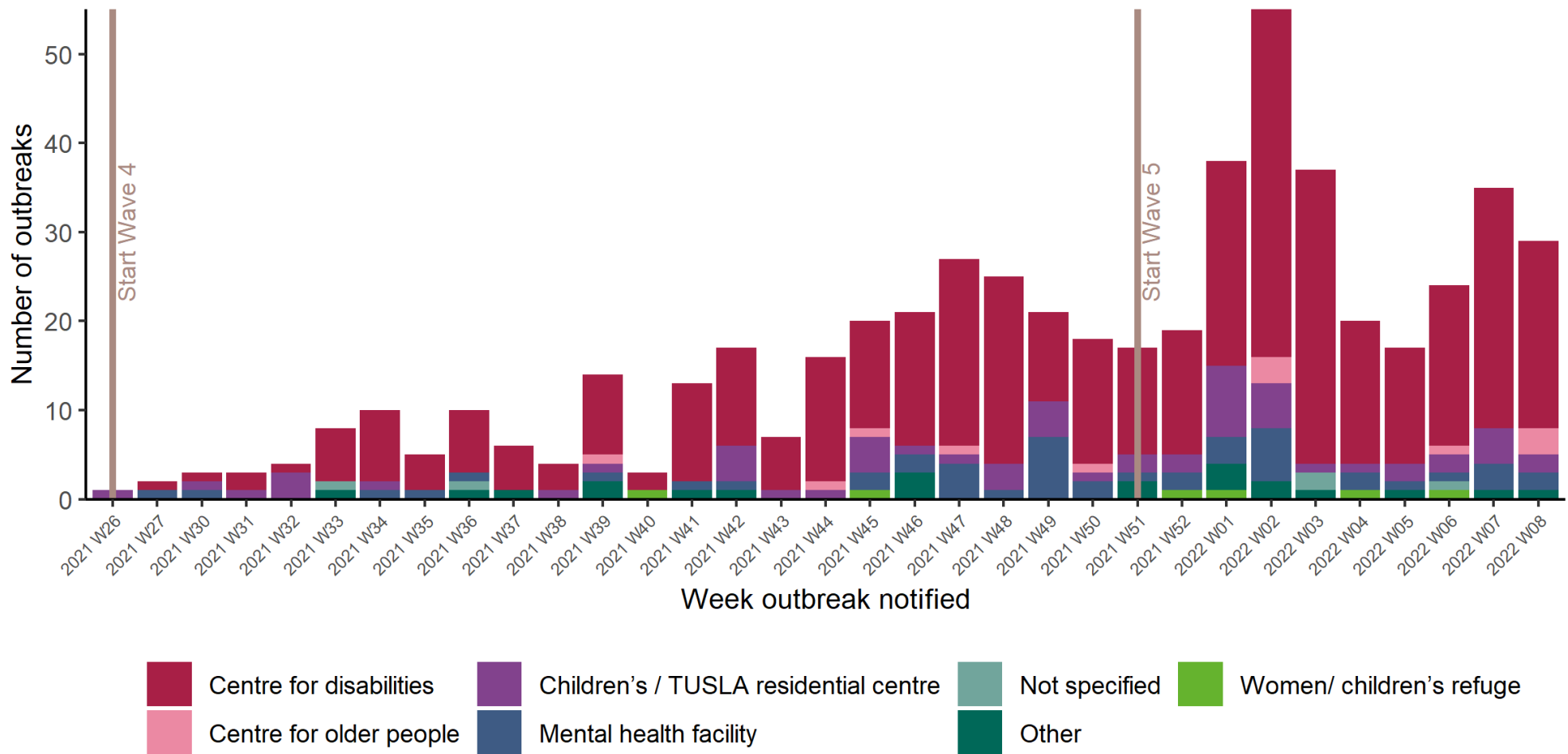


Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions by type of residential institution in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Other Healthcare Settings

There were **397** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,589** 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 26/02/2022 (Table 6). Since Week 26 2021 there have been **197** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and **90** of these remain open.

There were seven new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in other healthcare settings in Week 8 2022: four in services for people with disabilities; one associated with home care services and; two in other healthcare 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 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
People with disabilities	4	2-6	87	47	1-15
Clients of home care services	1	<5	49	18	1-5
Clients of mental health facilities	0	n/a	16	9	0-11
All other healthcare service	2	2-3	45	16	1-5
Total	7	2-6	197	90	0-15

[#]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

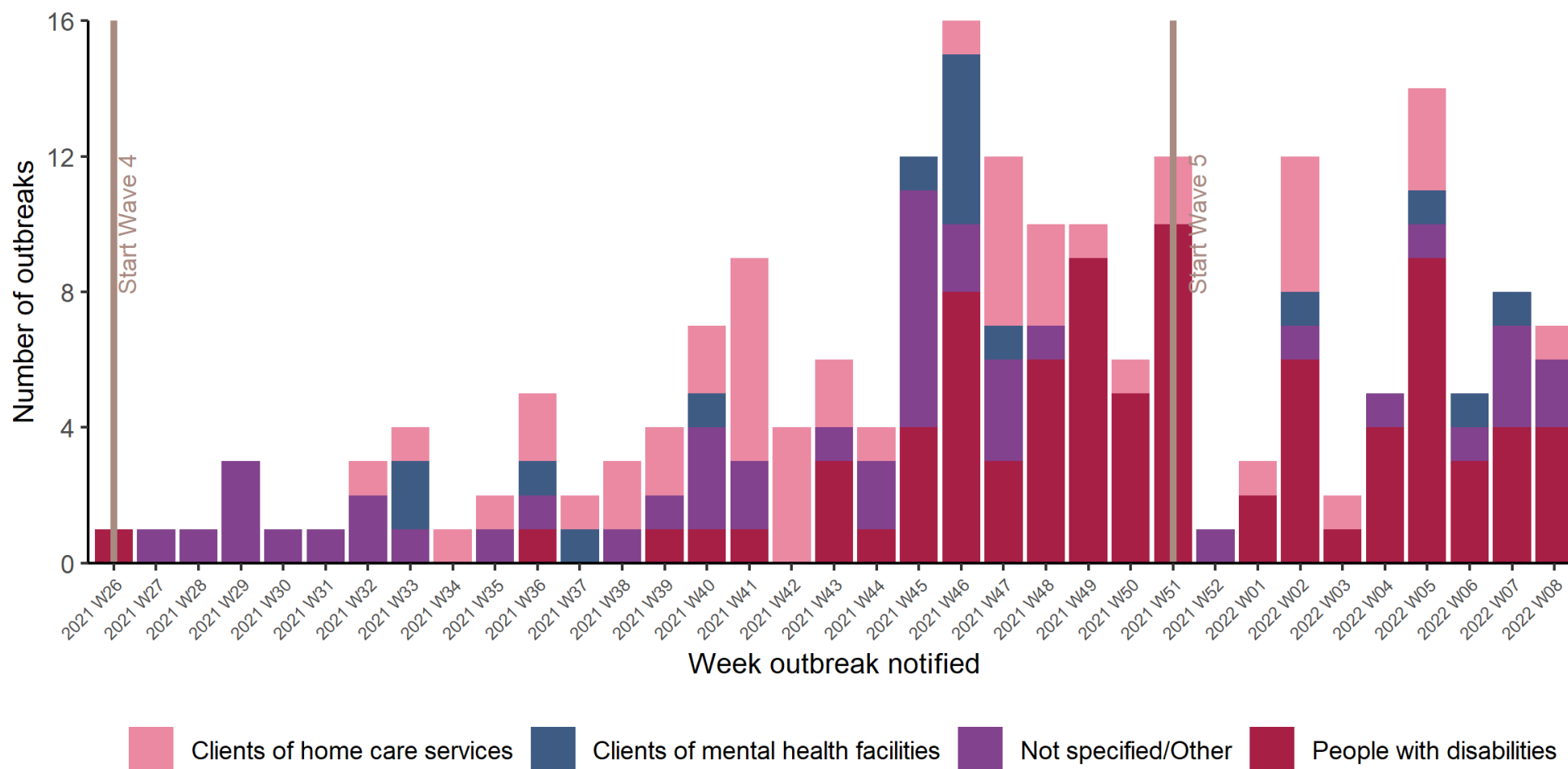


Figure 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in 'Other healthcare' settings by type of setting in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **1,020** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **9,890** 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 26/02/2022 (Table 7). From 27/06/2021 to 26/02/2022, there have been **419** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which **170** remain open.

There were twelve new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 8 2022:

- seven outbreaks associated with Irish Travellers
- four outbreaks associated with the Roma community
- one outbreak associated with prisoners and prison staff

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 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Irish Travellers	7	1-6	273	118	0-83
Roma community	4	2-5	40	9	0-9
Direct provision centres	0	n/a	42	10	2-61
Homeless [¥]	0	n/a	33	18	2-33
Persons with addictions	0	n/a	13	7	1-9
Prisoners/Prison staff	1	31	18	8	7-156
Total	12	1-31	419	170	0-156

[¥]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.

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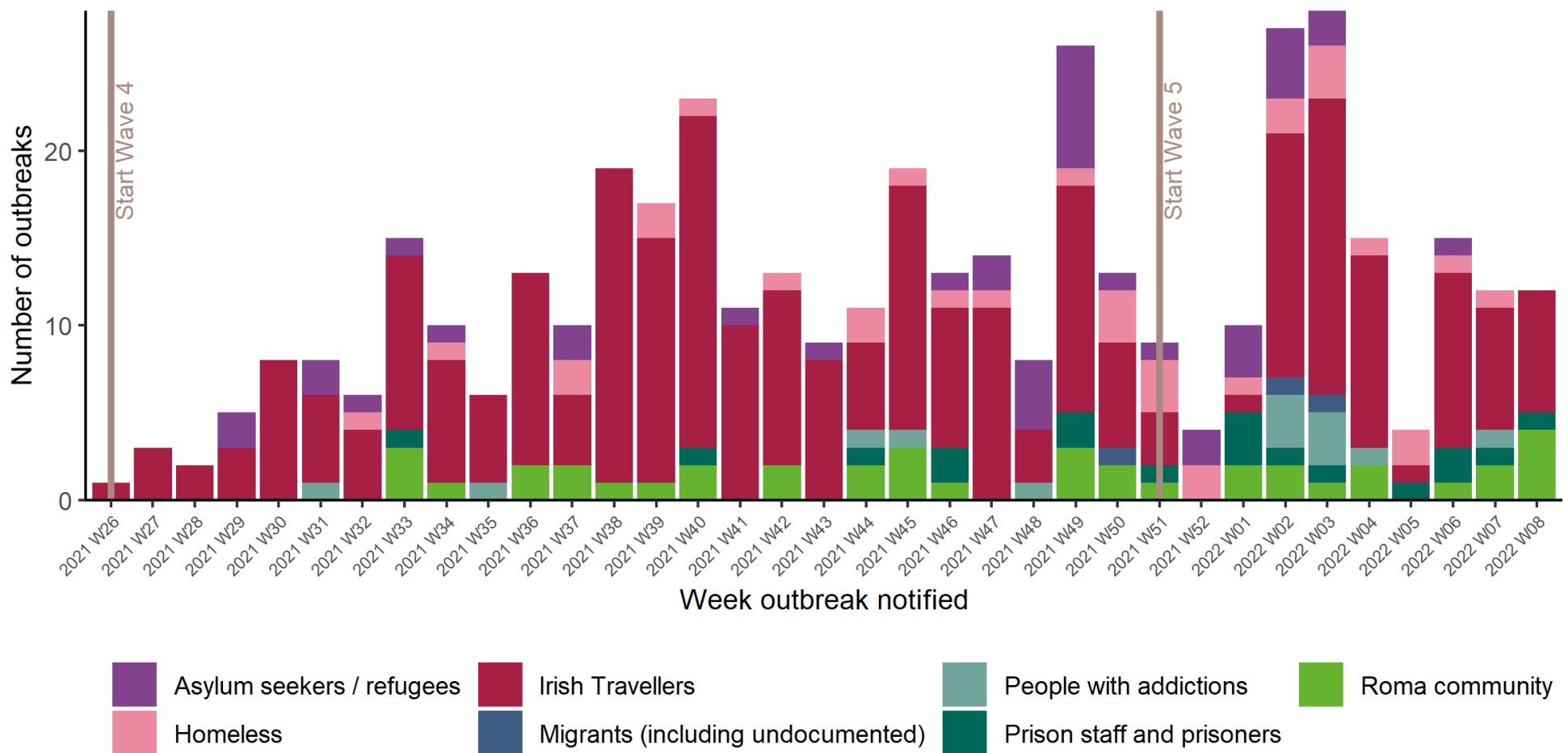


Figure 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with vulnerable populations in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

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

There were **1,363** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **7,124** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§]; and **650** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,469** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **837** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), and childcare facilities have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 26/02/2022 (Table 8) and **176** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 8 2022, there were two COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff and one associated with a childcare facility.

Table 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] associated with school children (+/- staff) and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 8	Week 8 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 8 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Special education	1	<5	151	73	0-20
Other school type	1	5	433	76	0-18
Total School*	2	2-5	584	149	0-20
Childcare facility	1	<5	253	27	0-13
Total	3	2-5	837	176	0-20

*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.

[#]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. Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR. Therefore, school settings (primary, post-primary) other than special educational needs classes/schools are grouped under 'Other school type'.

[§]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

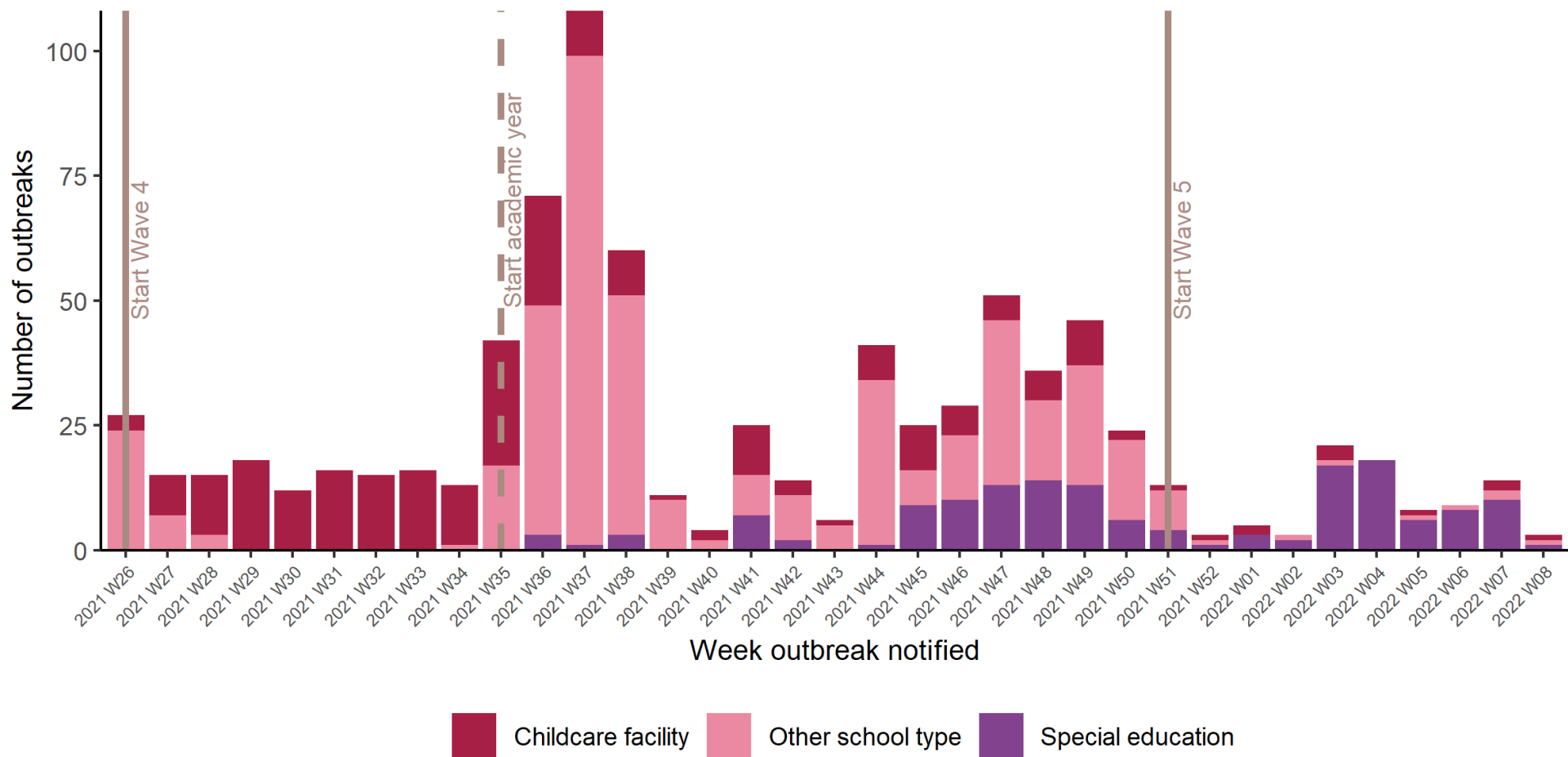


Figure 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in school and childcare facility settings, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 26/02/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

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 26/02/2022, N=22,498. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	667	125	792
Nursing home	792	298	1090
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	93	22	115
Residential institution	964	303	1267
Other healthcare service	307	90	397
School**	1214	149	1363
Childcare facility	623	27	650
University/college***	62	4	66
Workplace	1225	38	1263
Retail outlet	381	7	388
Hotel	107	4	111
Guest house/ B&B	13	1	14
Public house	111	6	117
Restaurant / Cafe	218	4	222
Travel related	255	20	275
Transport	62	4	66
Private house*	6517	5664	12181
Extended family	751	179	930
Community outbreak	519	7	526
Social gathering	262	24	286
Religious/Other ceremony	129	13	142
Sporting activities/fitness	93	2	95
Other recreation activity	26	0	26
Personal grooming service	48	0	48
Other	54	5	59
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	4	0	4
Total	15502	6996	22498

*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 8 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.