

# **Influenza & COVID-19 Vaccination among Residents in Long-term Residential Care Facilities (RCFs)**

Point Prevalence Survey (PPS), 2024/2025 Season

A report from the Vaccine Preventable Disease Team, HPSC<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The Vaccine Preventable Disease Team is part of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, National Health Protection Office, Health Service Executive

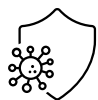
## What are the key messages in this report?

1. In all participating RCFs in the 2024/2025 Point Prevalence Survey, vaccine uptake among

- A) long-term residents was
  - 86.1% for Influenza vaccine
  - 82.2% for COVID-19 vaccine was
- B) respite residents was
  - 45.8% for Influenza vaccine
  - 40.7% COVID-19 vaccine

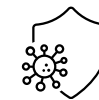
2. Downward trend in influenza vaccine uptake is observed among both long-term and respite residents since December 2021

3. Fewer RCFs are participating in this survey in recent years



## Influenza Vaccination

- + Point prevalence surveys (PPSs) for influenza vaccine uptake have been conducted annually each winter season since 2017
- + Influenza vaccine uptake reached its peak among long-term residents at 93.2% in December 2020
- + Influenza vaccine uptake reached its peak among respite residents at 82.2% in December 2021
- + In latest PPS conducted in December 2024, of the 167 participating RCFs
  - + 74 (44.3%) were HSE managed/staffed/funded and 93 (55.7%) were not
  - + 110 (65.9%) were elderly based RCFs, 23 (13.7%) were mental health based RCFs, 29 (17.4%) were disability based RCFs and 5 (3%) were a range of mixed and other care RCFs
  - + 52 (31.1%) catered for respite residents
- + PPS Participation reached its height in December 2020 with 315 RCFs
- + In latest 2024/2025 PPS, uptake among HSE only RCFs was
  - + 86.5% among long-term residents in 74 RCFs
  - + 54.7% among respite residents in 28 RCFs



## COVID-19 Vaccination

- + Monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine uptake begun in December 2024
- + Of the 167 participating RCF catering for long-term residents, six did not have COVID-19 vaccination details for its long-term residents (compared to two for influenza)
- + Of the 52 participating RCF catering for respite residents, nine did not have COVID-19 vaccination (or influenza vaccination) details
- + Uptake among HSE only RCFs was
  - + 78.5% among long-term residents in 74 RCFs
  - + 44.3% among respite residents in 28 RCFs

### Note:

The raw data used to develop the content of this report are available in a link at the end of this power-point document in Appendix 1.

## What background information is relevant when reading this report?

- What is a point prevalence survey (PPS)?
- How many active RCFs are there and what are their primary remits?
- When was the latest HPSC PPS conducted?
- How were the survey returns collated?
- What were the key questions asked in the PPS?

- + A point prevalence survey (PPS) targeting RCFs is designed to capture vaccination uptake data in a single day within each unit (e.g., all data for Unit A should be collected in the same working day). Where completion of the full survey over one day is not practical for larger RCFs, local data providers were advised, as per the [protocol](#), to divide the RCF into separate wards/units and to collect the data over two or three consecutive days. Particular emphasis is made on the importance of data on a particular ward/unit being collected on the same day.
- + As of July 2024, there were 556 older person/nursing home-based RCFs and 1,622 disability based RCFs recorded on the HSE Health Service Directory, a total of 2,178 of active facilities.
- + For the 2024/2025 season PPS, RCFs were asked to undertake the PPS on behalf of HPSC during the second week of December 2024, ideally between Monday, 9th and Friday, 14th of that month with a 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 deadline for the submission of returns.
- + All HSE managed/staffed/funded RCFs are obliged to participate in the annual PPS whereas non HSE (section 38, 39 and privately run) facilities are not, but are welcome to.
- + The survey was conducted online using the Qualtrics platform.
- + Among the key questions asked in the PPS:
  - + Number of eligible long-term and respite residents
  - + Number of influenza and COVID-19 vaccinated long-term and respite residents
  - + RCF location, primary remit, funding model
  - + Respite Resident Vaccination Policy, if any
  - + Sources of information to collate the number of eligible RCF residents
  - + Sources of information to collate the number of vaccinated RCF residents



## Influenza vaccine uptake in RCFs-The overall picture

- Typically, uptake of the vaccine among long-term residents is very high each season at over 80%, which is excess of the national 75% target uptake for those over 65 years of age (Table 1).
- Uptake among respite residents tends to be lower and for more variable compared to long-term residents (Table 2) as they are expected to be vaccinated prior to being admitted and many are not expected to be onsite when HSE vaccination teams visit the RCF (Table 2).
- The difference in uptake between these two groups of residents may also be attributable in part to the fact that respite residents are fewer in number on day of PPS is conducted (see slide #7).
- Participation by RCFs in the annual PPS can vary season to season, reaching a peak number of 315 RCFs in December 2020 compared to 167 in December 2024 (Table 1).
- Participation and vaccine uptake can also vary between regional health areas, some of which can be attributable to different population densities and RCF concentrations geographically.
- Annual PPSs are usually conducted in December each year (although two were conducted in the first 2017/2018 season) because most residents are often targeted by that stage of the vaccination campaign.

**Table 1. Uptake of the seasonal influenza vaccine among long-term RCF residents by Season and Regional Health Area (RHA)**

	Last Week November 2017 approx.		Last Week April 2018 approx.		Last Week Jan 2019 approx.		Last Week Jan 2020 approx.		Second Week December 2020 approx.		Second Week December 2021 approx.		Second Week December 2022 approx.		Second Week December 2023 approx.		Second Week December 2024 approx.	
	Long-term residents																	
Regional Health Area (RHA)	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs
HSE Dublin and North East	89.5	25	91.6	19	91.8	43	91.8	34	92.9	13	92.7	29	90.2	9	93.3	6	85.6	6
HSE Dublin and Midlands	96.7	2	97.8	4	96.6	3	94.1	4	90.9	11	97.5	7	80.2	8	96.6	17	89.1	17
HSE Dublin and South East	90.0	6	64.1	10	92.5	23	90.0	30	95.7	16	96.2	14	92.6	50	79.3	20	88.4	20
HSE South West	90.7	9	94.7	16	84.2	21	87.5	23	93.0	21	94.8	19	94.7	16	84.7	1	76.6	1
HSE Midwest	78.3	4	95.2	6	94.2	5	91.2	7	96.8	10	98.3	7	94.4	2	89.6	11	89.4	11
HSE West and North West	89.2	31	91.5	20	85.7	57	86.7	48	94.1	22	97.5	8	89.3	21	86.9	19	82.6	19
<b>HSE only RCFs (Public only)</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>74</b>
<i>All RCFs, including non HSE</i>	<i>89.2</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>89.3</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>89.3</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>93.2</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>93.0</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>93.9</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>90.1</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>86.1</i>	<i>167</i>

**Table 2. Uptake of the seasonal influenza vaccine among respite/short-term RCF residents by Season and Regional Health Area (RHA)**

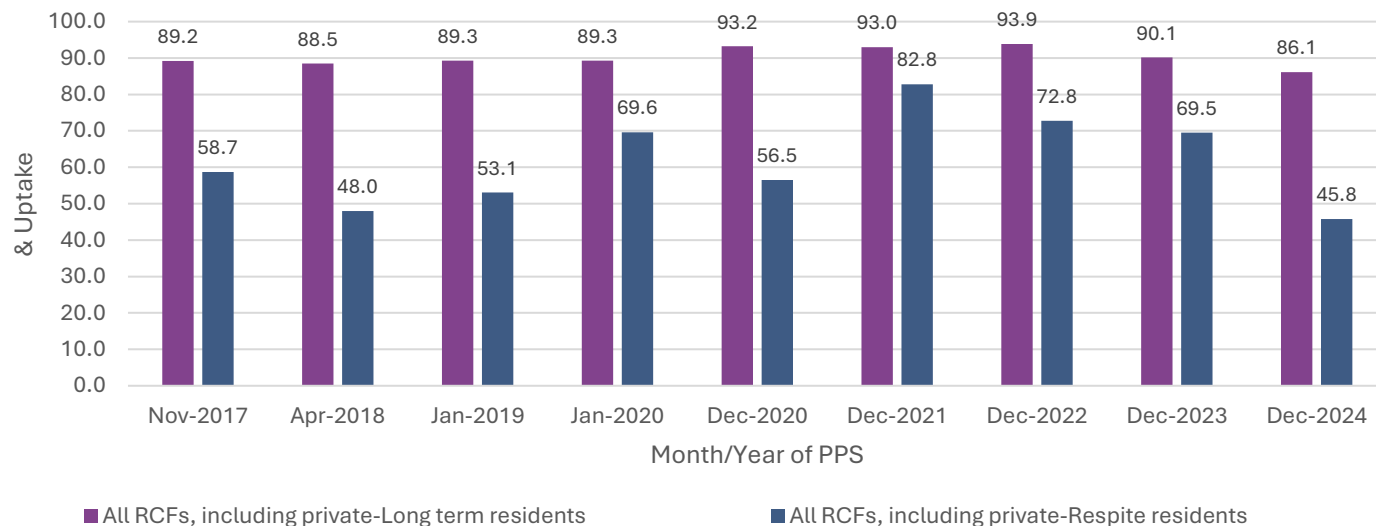
	Last Week November 2017 approx.		Last Week April 2018 approx.		Last Week Jan 2019 approx.		Last Week Jan 2020 approx.		Second Week December 2020 approx.		Second Week December 2021 approx.		Second Week December 2022 approx.		Second Week December 2023 approx.		Second Week December 2024 approx.	
	Respite residents																	
Regional Health Area (RHA)	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs	Overall % Uptake	No. of LTCFs
HSE Dublin and North East	55.1	12	56.6	9	65.5	17	55.5	14	12.5	3	72.2	5	100.0	1	100.0	4	50.0	1
HSE Dublin and Midlands	95.5	2	88.9	4	84.2	3	91.3	3	40.0	2	94.4	4	77.3	4	-	0	100.0	4
HSE Dublin and South East	61.3	4	56.2	7	45.6	10	85.3	15	47.7	6	77.8	2	78.6	12	51.1	3	49.0	5
HSE South West	40.3	6	23.9	8	51.1	11	45.1	13	59.3	6	83.3	5	75.8	8	88.9	3	0.0	1
HSE Midwest	38.9	3	94.3	5	91.3	5	54.1	5	86.1	3	77.4	4	100.0	1	65.8	7	46.2	5
HSE West and North West	66.0	17	54.8	14	56.8	42	68.9	33	69.3	10	71.4	1	65.9	8	76.2	4	54.1	12
<b>HSE only RCFs (Public only)</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>All RCFs, including non HSE</i>	<i>58.7</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>48.0</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>53.1</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>69.6</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>56.5</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>82.8</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>72.8</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>69.5</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>45.8</i>	<i>52</i>



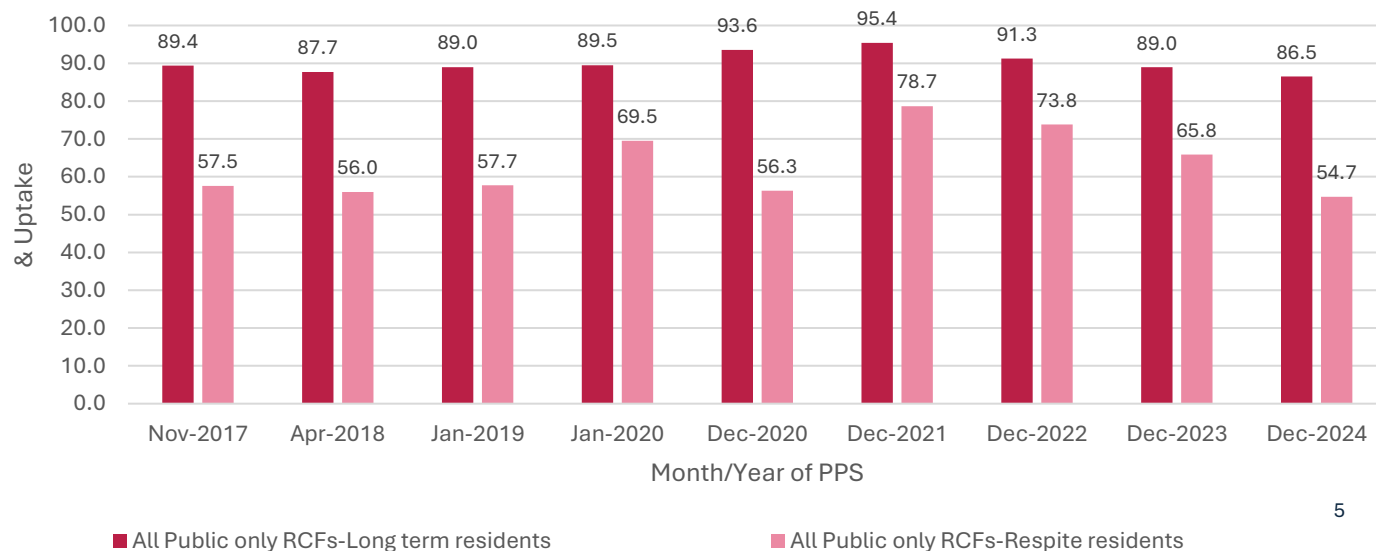
## Influenza vaccine uptake in RCFs-The overall picture

- A downward trend in uptake since December 2021 is evident among both long-term and respite residents is evident (Figure 1). This pattern is also seen in public/HSE only RCFs (Figure 2).
- The uptake observed among respite residents is more likely to reflect uptake in the same age group in the community where individuals have to actively arrange for themselves to get vaccinated by their GP, Pharmacy or HSE clinic.

**Figure 1. Percentage Uptake of Influenza Vaccine Among Long-term and Respite Residents in PPSs Since November 2017 in All Participating RCFs**



**Figure 2. Percentage Uptake of Influenza Vaccine Among Long-term and Respite Residents in PPSs Since November 2017 in all Public/HSE only RCFs**

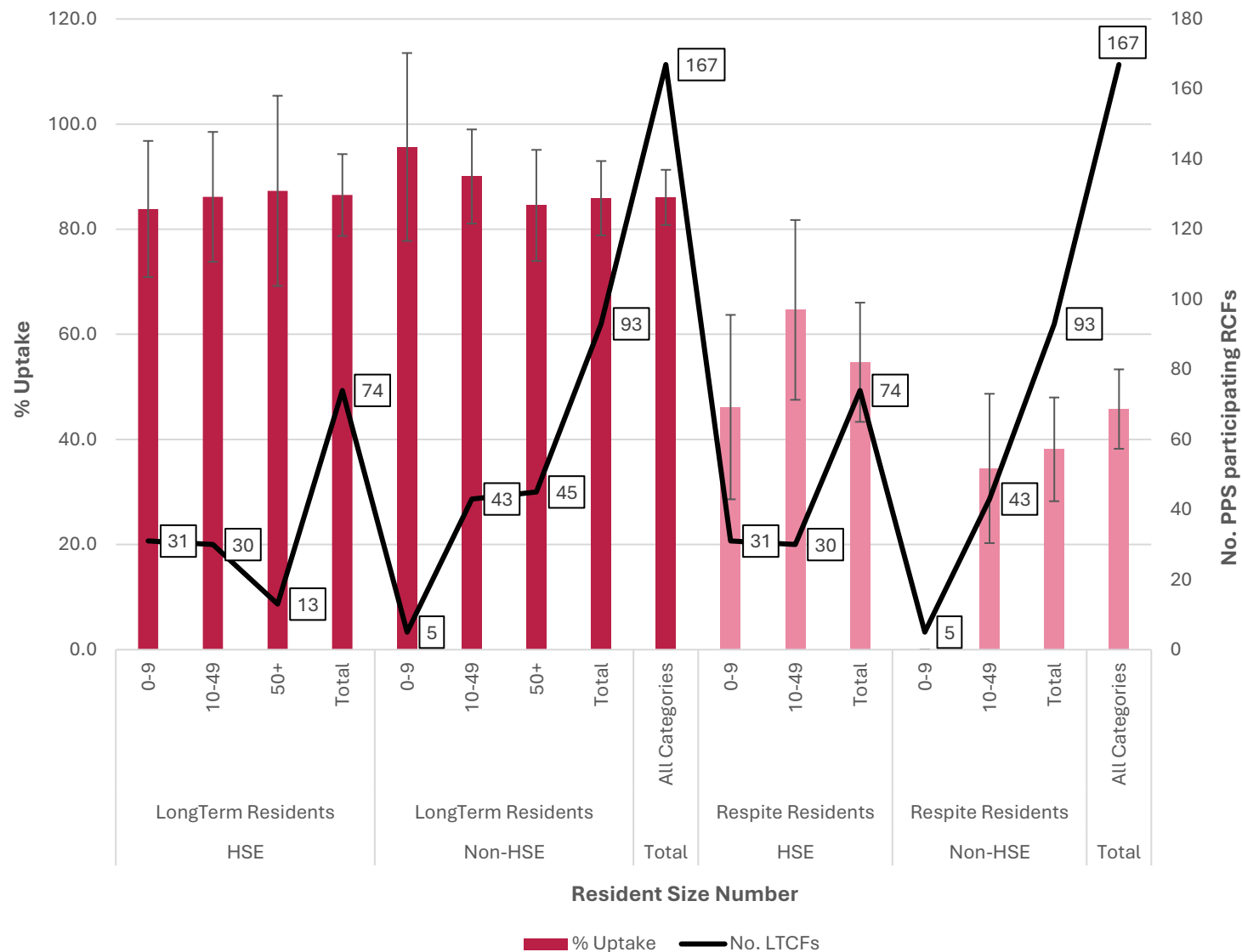




## Influenza vaccine uptake in RCFs-The overall picture

- When the number of eligible residents were categorised by size, 0-9, 10-49, and 50+, (Figure 3), uptake was
  - generally higher among long-term residents in non HSE RCFs compared to HSE RCFs
  - generally higher among respite residents in HSE RCFs compared to non HSE RCFs
- The number of respite residents on site is generally lower than that of long-term residents

**Figure 3. Percentage Uptake of Influenza Vaccine with 95% Confidence Levels Among Long-term and Respite Residents in the 2024/2025 PPS by Eligible Resident Count**





## COVID-19 vaccine uptake in RCFs-The overall picture

- The 2024/2025 season marks the first time that uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine was included in the annual PPS
- Overall COVID-19 vaccine uptake among long-term residents at 82.2% was slightly less than that of influenza vaccine uptake at 86.1% (slide #4)
- Similarly, overall COVID-19 vaccine uptake among respite residents at 40.7% was slightly less than that of influenza vaccine uptake at 45.8% (slide #4)

**Table 3. Percentage Uptake of the COVID-19-vaccine among long-term and respite RCF residents in the 2024/2025 PPS by RHA**

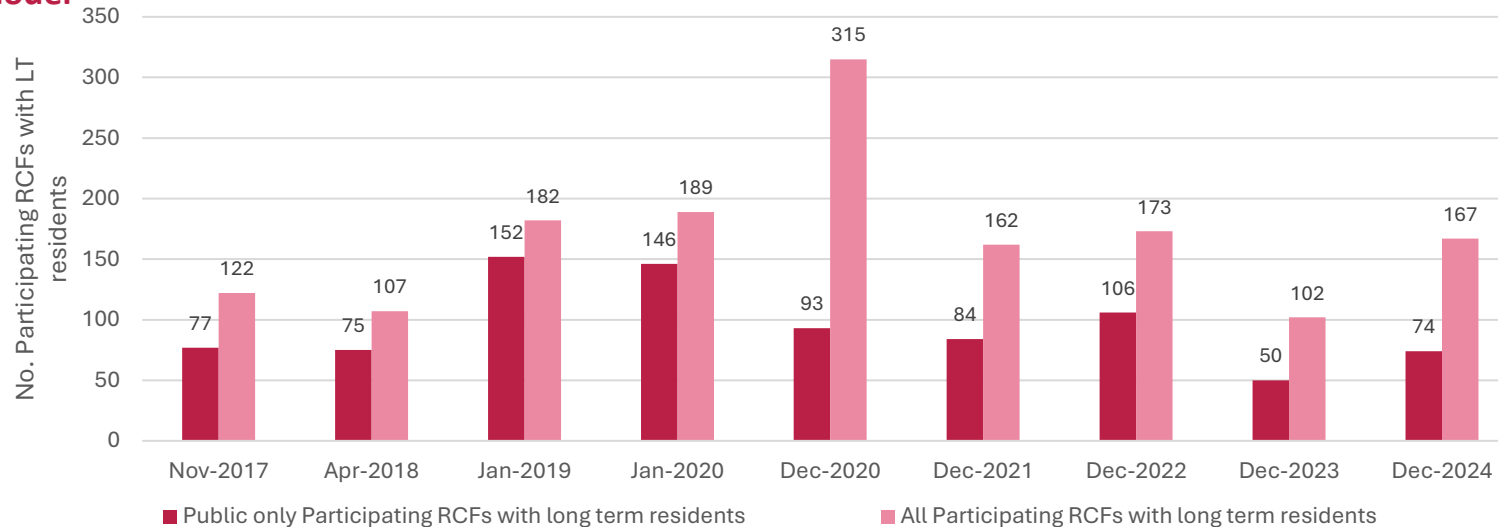
Regional Health Area (RHA)	RCFs with long-term residents		RCFs with Respite residents	
	No. of RCFs	Overall % COVID-19 Uptake	No. of RCFs	Overall % COVID-19 Uptake
HSE Dublin and North East	6	68.6	1	50.0
HSE Dublin and Midlands	17	82.1	4	78.6
HSE Dublin and South East	20	81.5	5	49.0
HSE South West	1	73.4	1	-
HSE Midwest	11	88.0	5	53.8
HSE West and North West	19	72.4	12	34.7
<b>HSE only RCFs (Public only)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44.3</b>
<i>All RCFs, including non HSE</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>82.2</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>40.7</i>



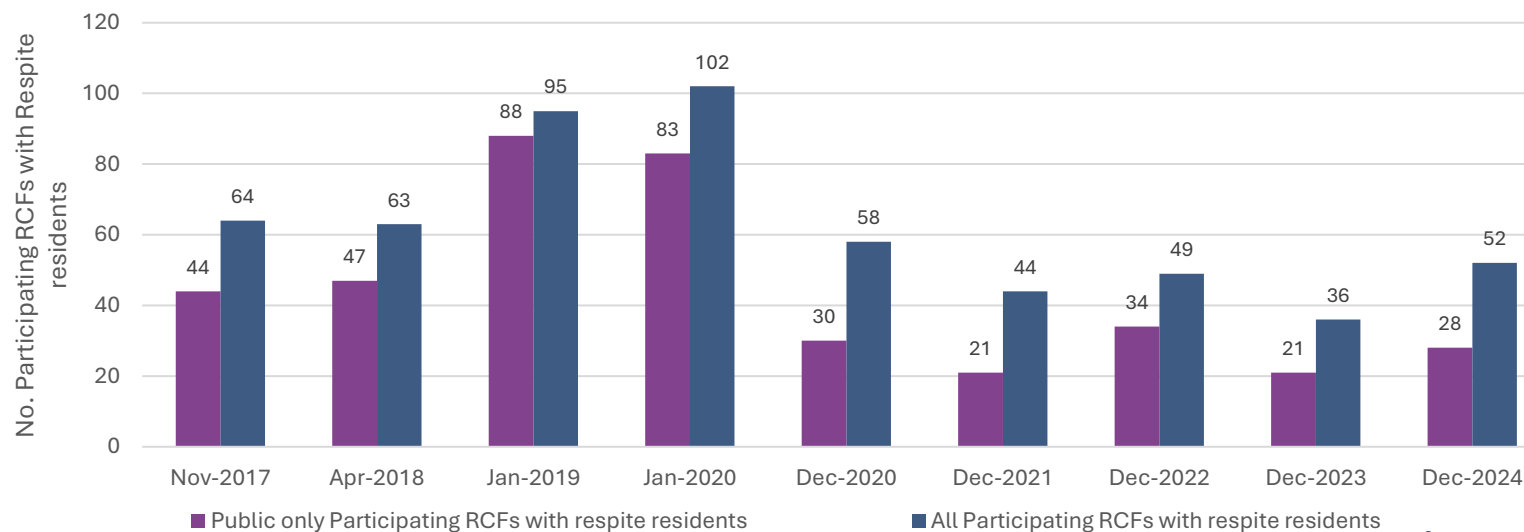
## PPS participation by RCFs

- The number of participating RCFs in the annual PPS reached its highest level in December 2020 (Figure 4).
- Participating RCFs that also cater for respite residents has declined markedly since January 2020 (Figure 5).

**Figure 4. No. of PPS Participating RCFs with long-term residents since November 2017 by funding model**



**Figure 5. No. of PPS Participating RCFs with respite residents since November 2017 by funding model**



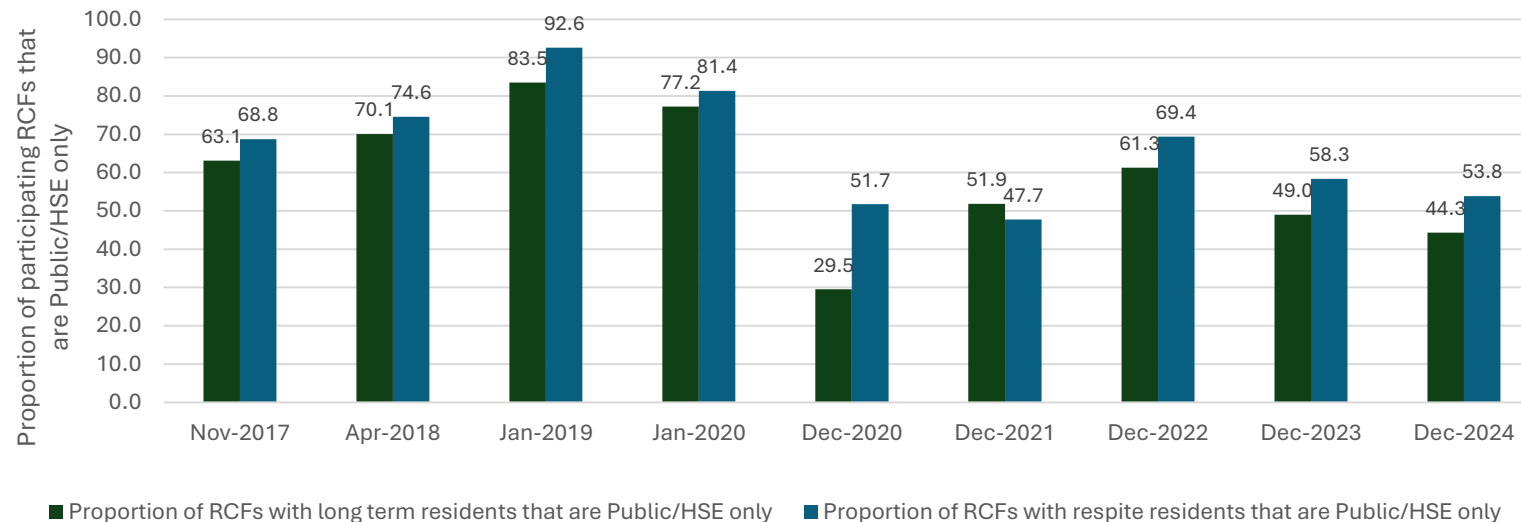




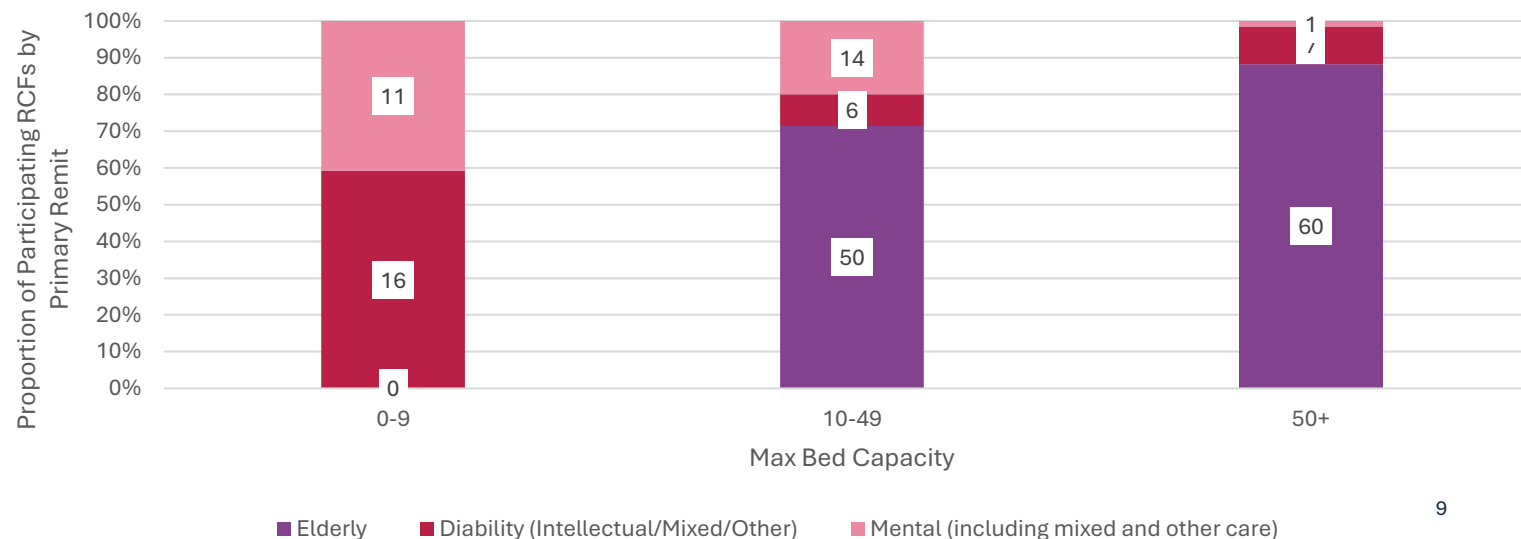
## PPS participation by RCFs

- After January 2020 the proportion of participating RCFs that are Public/HSE only declined representing a greater level of participation by non HSE RCFs since then (Figure 6).
- The proportion of participating RCFs whose primary remit is elderly care is highest where the max bed capacity is >50 and where the primary remit is disability or mental health the proportion participating is highest where the maximum bed capacity is <10 (Figure 7).
- Of the 167 participating RCFs in the 2024/2025 PPS, only 10 (6.0%) reported to have in place a respite resident policy of vaccination prior to admission.

**Figure 6. Proportion of PPS Participating RCFs since November 2017 that are Public/HSE only by resident type**



**Figure 7. Proportion and Number of Participating RCFs in 2024/2025 PPS by Maximum Bed Capacity and Primary RCF Remit**



## What can we interpret from the data in this report?

There is evidence of a decline in influenza vaccine uptake among long-term and respite residents in recent PPSs

Its not clear if this downward trend since January 2020 is related to the fact that

- participating RCFs that cater for respite residents declined markedly
- or
- proportion of participating RCFs that are Public/HSE only decreased
- or
- fewer RCFs have access to their own resident vaccination details

Given that long-term residents are a fixed target for HSE vaccination teams, the slightly lower uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine compared to the influenza vaccine observed in the latest PPS would suggest that some declined to avail of the vaccine

### Lower vaccine uptake among respite residents and RCF pre-admission vaccination policy

- + The target influenza vaccine uptake among those aged 65 + years is 75%, and the uptake among respite residents is well short of that.
- + Two factors that may contribute to a lower vaccine uptake in this cohort:
  - + Fewer RCFs reported to have in place a respite resident policy of vaccination prior to admission.
  - + A higher turnover in the number of respite residents in RCFs (compared to long-term residents)

### RCFs with low bed capacity

- + RCFs with low bed capacity are less likely to participate in annual PPSs because they may not have
  - + staff resources to maintain resident vaccination records
  - + in place a pre admission vaccination policy for respite residents
  - + IT resources to access the HPSC online PPS
  - + access to the HSE Integrated Information Services (IIS) and COVAX Implementation system's dashboard and portal

## What do I need to know about how the data for this report was collected?

- + Results from HPSC vaccination surveys are subject to both reporting and representation/participation bias
- + Factors:
  - + Administrative: out of date contact details held by HPSC , high turnover in local reporting staff
  - + Technical: Lack of IT hardware, software, knowhow by local staff, online access
  - + Access to date: RCFs not having access to either their own flu or COVID-19 vaccination data or both

### Process overview:

- + Zero Uptake reported by RCFs in latest PPS who do maintain their own vaccination records or who do not have access to IIS/COVAX system, and therefore should not automatically be viewed as a reflection of under performance or poor performance

## There are limitations in these data...

### 1. Reporting bias

- RCFs that have access to IIS/COVAX dashboard/portal for vaccination details of their residents or that maintain their own resident vaccination records are more likely to submit a completed survey return.
- The vaccine uptake reported by the participating PPS RCFs more likely as a result to be higher than that which would have been the case had many more participated.

### 3. Sources of Information-Limited access to IIS/COVAX dashboard or portal

- Of the 167 participating RCF in the 2024/2025 PPS, 141 (84.3%) cited that the person in charge was among the main sources of information on resident vaccination status.
- In contrast, 21 (12.6%) availed of the IIS/COVAX dashboard/portal to compile their vaccination numbers.
- For RCFs who do not or are not in a position to maintain their own resident vaccination records and who do not have access to the IIS/COVAX dashboard/portal, means that their PPS participation is not possible leading to both under reporting and under representativeness.

### 2 . Representation Bias

- Older person –based RCFs make up 556 of the active 2,178 RCFs nationally (as of July 2024).
- 110 of the 167 (65.9%) participating RCFs in the latest 2024/2025 PPS had an elderly care primary remit which means that disability and mental health facility based RCFs are under represented, proportionally.
- Many RCFs are non-HSE (section 38/39 agency or privately run) and as such are not obliged to participate in the PPS and are consequently under represented.

**Note: IIS/COVAX= HSE Integrated Information Services (IIS) and COVAX Implementation system**

### **List of participating RCFs in the 2024/2025 PPS with details of the eligible and vaccinated long-term (LT) and respite residents for influenza (flu) and COVID-19**

#### **Notes:**

- 1. Where a RCF has no reported eligible respite residents, the uptake is not applicable**
- 2. Where a RCF reports where no residents have been vaccinated, it is more than likely that this is because local management do not have access to the relevant vaccination information either from their records or via access to the IIS/COVAX dashboard/portal**

**An excel file listing of the 167 participating RCFs in the 2024/2025 PPS with details of the eligible and influenza (flu) and COVID-19 vaccinated long-term (LT) and respite residents is available to download [here](#)**

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to all residential care facilities who provided information for this report. All gratefully received.

## Further information available on HPSC website:

[Links here to Influenza guidance for residential care facilities and survey protocols](#)

[Links here to reports on influenza vaccine uptake in healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities](#)

The screenshot shows the HPSC website navigation bar with 'PUBLICATIONS' selected. The breadcrumb trail is 'HOME / A - Z / RESPIRATORY / INFLUENZA / SEASONAL INFLUENZA / GUIDANCE / RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES GUIDANCE'. The main heading is 'Influenza guidance for residential care facilities'. Below it, there is a link to 'Information on Winter Preparedness in Nursing Homes and Residential Care Facilities is available here.' and a description: 'Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control guidance on the prevention and management of cases and outbreaks of respiratory viral infections in Residential Care Facilities'. The file size is 682kb and the publication date is 4 December 2024. A second entry is shown: 'Protocol for measuring HCW influenza & COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Hospitals and Residential Care Facilities, 2024-2025 season', with a file size of 300 KB and a publication date of 30 October 2024. A sidebar on the left lists 'RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES GUIDANCE' with sub-links for 'Antiviral Treatment and Prophylaxis Guidance', 'Pregnancy Guidance', 'Infection control advice', 'Residential Care Facilities Guidance', 'ECDC RAGIDA Guidelines', and 'Laboratory'. A 'Find a Topic' search box is at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the HPSC website navigation bar with 'PUBLICATIONS' selected. The breadcrumb trail is 'HOME / A - Z / RESPIRATORY / INFLUENZA / SEASONAL INFLUENZA / VACCINATION / VACCINE UPTAKE IN HCWS AND RESIDENTS OF LTCFS'. The main heading is 'Influenza vaccine uptake in healthcare workers and residents of long term care facilities'. Below it, there is a link to 'Report on the uptake of the Influenza Vaccine for Health Care Workers (HCWs) and residents in Long-Term Care Residential Facilities (LTCFs) 2023-2024 Season' with a file size of 932 KB and a publication date of 12 February 2025. A second entry is shown: 'Appendices for HPSC report on Flu Vaccine Uptake in Hospitals and Long-Term Care Residential Facilities (LTCFs) in Ireland, 2023-2024 [EXCEL file]', with a file size of 316 KB and a publication date of 23 September 2024. A sidebar on the left lists 'VACCINE UPTAKE IN HCWS AND RESIDENTS OF LTCFS' with a link to 'HCW Influenza Vaccine Uptake Survey Forms'. A 'Find a Topic' search box is at the bottom.