



Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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8th December 2020

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 36195/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 cases that have arisen from attendance at religious sermons

Dear Deputy Gould

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Data Source: CIDR 72/12/2020 09.45am

Among confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases notified to the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) to 07/12/2020, in total 203 confirmed cases have been linked to religious or other ceremonies.

There have been 188 cases linked to 17 confirmed outbreaks with the outbreak location 'Religious/Other ceremony' in a variety of settings (Table 1).

There have been 15 sporadic confirmed cases i.e. cases unlinked to any outbreak, associated with the setting 'Religious/Other ceremony'. Of these 15 cases, six were linked to funerals, four to weddings, three to communions and one each to a christening and a Christian meeting.

Note: some events with the location 'Religious/Other ceremony' may have been parties/gatherings related to the ceremony, rather than the ceremony itself.

Table 1: Number of confirmed outbreaks and confirmed linked cases of COVID-19 related to location 'Religious/Other ceremony' to 07/12/2020. Data from CIDR 9.30am 07/12/2020

Location/Event	Number of Outbreaks	Total number of confirmed cases associated with outbreak
Wedding	6	98
Funeral	5	48
Communion	4	26
Prayer Service	1	15
Confirmation	1	1
Grand Total	17	188

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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