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12th March 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 9627/21 To ask the Minister for Health the 7- and 14-day rate of infection for Covid-19 in nursing homes in each week of January 2021; the number of nursing home residents who have contracted Covid-19 since 1 January 2021; the number of nursing home residents who have passed from Covid-19 since 1 January 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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: Computerised Infectious Diseases Reporting (CIDR) system at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) 26/02/2021 16:15pm.

Data Range: Cases notified on CIDR between 01/01/2021 and midnight 25/02/2021.

Please note that CIDR is a dynamic database and data are updated on an ongoing basis. For this reason, figures reported here may not match previously reported figures.

We do not collect data on the total number of nursing home residents in Ireland and so it is not possible for us to provide the 7 and 14 day COVID-19 incidence rates among nursing home residents.

It is also not always possible to identify sporadic (non-outbreak associated) cases that are resident in nursing homes as these data may be incomplete. For this reason, this response mainly describes cases that are linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units and the analysis is supplemented with available data on cases that are reported to be residents in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units but that were not linked to outbreaks at these facility types. The latter group may be sporadic cases (not linked to any outbreak) or may be linked to an outbreak at another facility type e.g. acute hospital.

Inclusion criteria and data are summarised in Table 1. Please also note the technical notes associated with Table 1 for further description of this analysis.

A total of 124,764 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 were notified to HPSC between 01/01/2021 and midnight 25/02/2021. Of these, 6,917 confirmed cases were linked to outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units. 3,639 (52.6%) of the confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks were aged over 65 years and were reported as not currently employed as a healthcare worker (HCW). These cases are, therefore assumed to be residents of the nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit (please see technical note 1). There were an additional 139 confirmed COVID-19 cases who were reported as a resident in a nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit but who were not linked to outbreaks at these facility types.

Of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units aged over 65 years and not currently employed as a HCW, 763 have died. Of confirmed COVID-19 cases who were reported as a resident in a nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit but who were not linked to outbreaks at these facility types, 55 have died.

Table 1. Summary of inclusion criteria, number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and number of deaths among confirmed COVID-19 cases in residents of nursing home or community hospital/long-stay units in Ireland, 01/01/2021 to midnight 25/02/2021

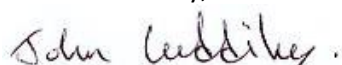
Criteria for inclusion in analysis	Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases	Number of deaths ³ among confirmed COVID-19 cases
Case is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linked to an outbreak in a nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit ▪ Aged >65 years¹ ▪ Not currently employed as a HCW 	3,639	763
Case is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not linked to an outbreak in a nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit² ▪ Reported to be a resident of a nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit ▪ Any age 	139	55
Total	3,778	818

Table 1 technical notes:

1. Any nursing home or community hospital/long-stay unit residents aged 65 years and under are not included in this analysis due to difficulties in differentiating between HCWs and non-HCWs on CIDR
2. This analysis may not capture all sporadic (non-outbreak associated) cases of COVID-19 among residents of nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units
3. Data on deaths is based on cases with COVID-19 notification dates between 01/01/2021 and midnight 25/02/2021 and do not include cases with a notification date prior to 01/01/2021 but who died after 01/01/2021.

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

Yours sincerely,



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