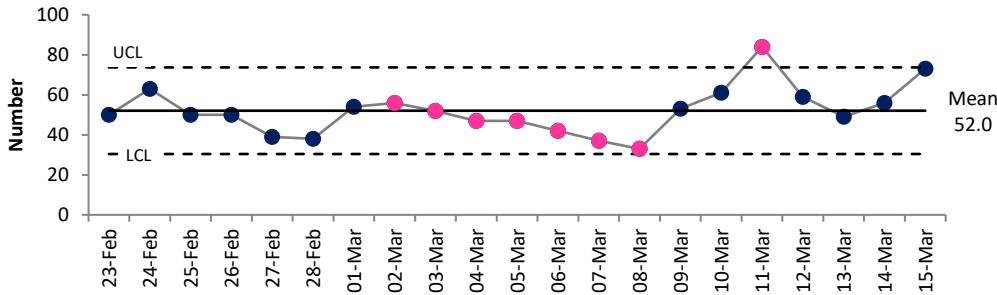


COVID-19 Data Summary, Tuesday 15th March 2022

Introduction:

As the COVID restrictions are eased and case number and hospitalisations increase, we will continue to monitor the situation closely to assess pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.

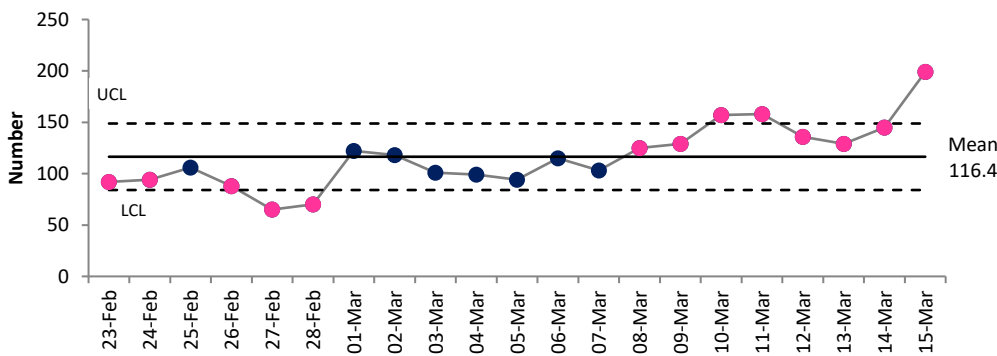
Number of hospital admissions of COVID positive patients during the previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 52 admissions per day of COVID positive patients since 23rd February. The number of admissions trended downwards from 2nd – 8th March but this trend has not continued. 84 admissions were recorded on 11th March, which was higher than expected.

A total of 435 admissions over the past 7 days, **up 39% on the previous week** (314 admissions last week), **73 admissions today**

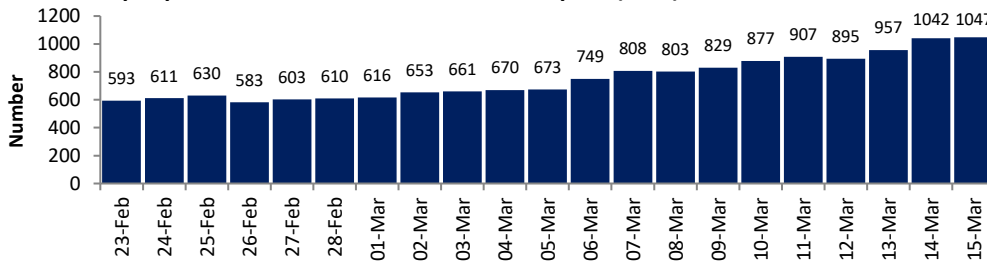
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 116.4 new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission). New confirmed cases in hospital have exhibited signals of increase over the last 8 days.

199 new cases in hospital today. A total of 1053 new cases over the past 7 days (an average of 150 per day), **up 39% on the previous week.**

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital (8am)

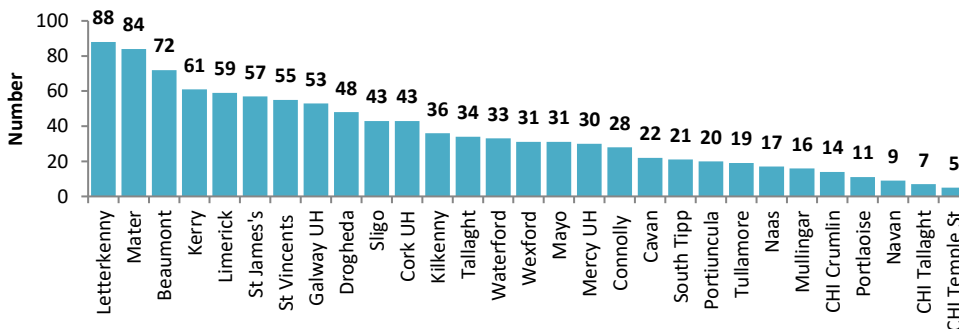


The number of people with COVID in hospital has increased over the last 10 days.

1047 in hospital at 8am today.

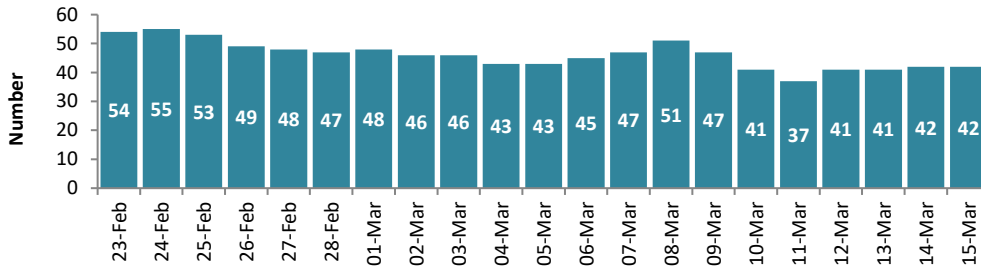
Up 30% on the same day last week and up 70% on the same day two weeks ago.

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 15th Mar)



Of the 1047 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **Letterkenny has the highest number (88 people)**, followed by The Mater (84), Beaumont (72), Kerry (61), and Limerick (59).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

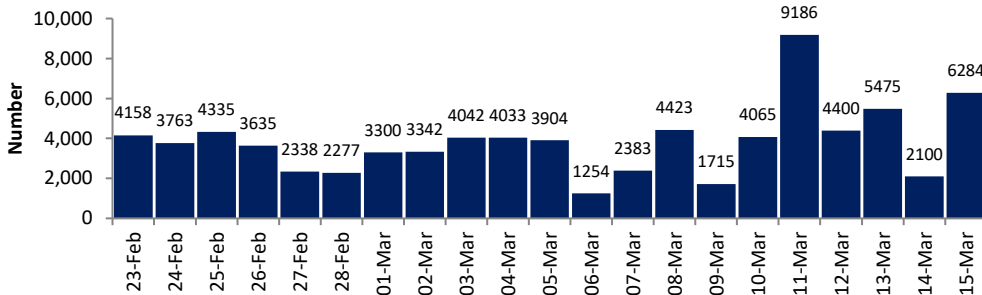


The number with COVID-19 in critical care has trended down gently over the last three weeks

Down 17.6% on this day last week and down 12.5% on two weeks ago.

Currently 42 in ICU (down 9 on the same day last week). 6 new admissions today.

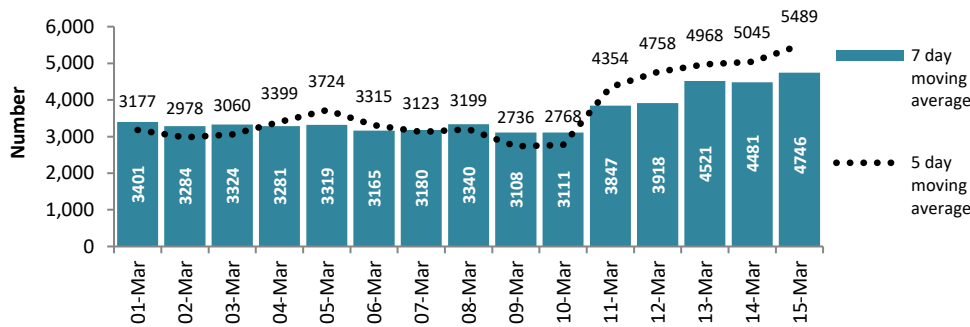
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 15th Mar), based on PCRs only



The number of new cases has increased over the last week. Up 42% on total cases (33,225) in last 7 days compared to week before (23,381).

It is important to note the change in testing policy from 28th February with confirmatory PCR tests no longer required for most people, with the exception of certain groups.

5 and 7 day moving averages of new cases per day (14 days to 15th March), PCRs only

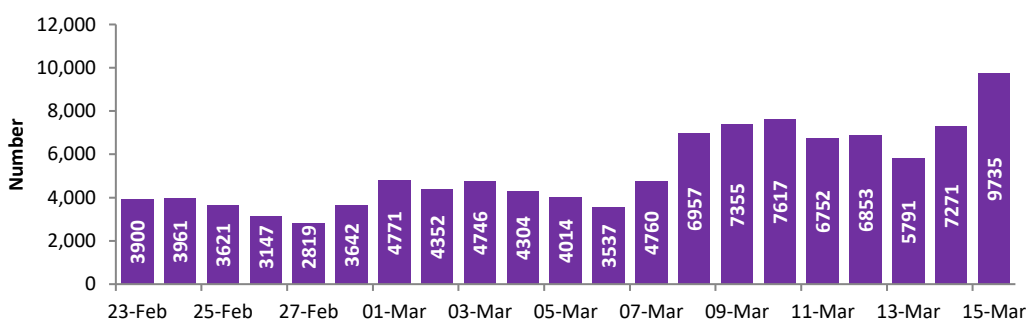


Compared to last week the 5 day moving average is up 72% and the 7 day moving average is up 42%.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the 5 day average is up 73% and the 7 day average is up 40%.

Note change in testing policy from 28th February.

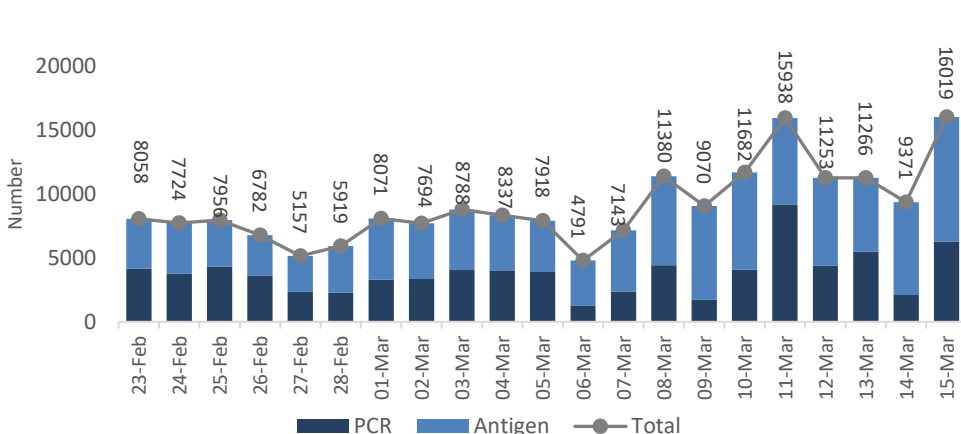
Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 51,374 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (an average of 7,339 per day). Compared to one week ago this is up 57.3% and compared to two weeks ago up 98.7%.

Note the figures reported refer to the number of people who registered a positive test on the portal during the previous day.

Total Estimated daily case number: PCR results and self-reported antigen test results

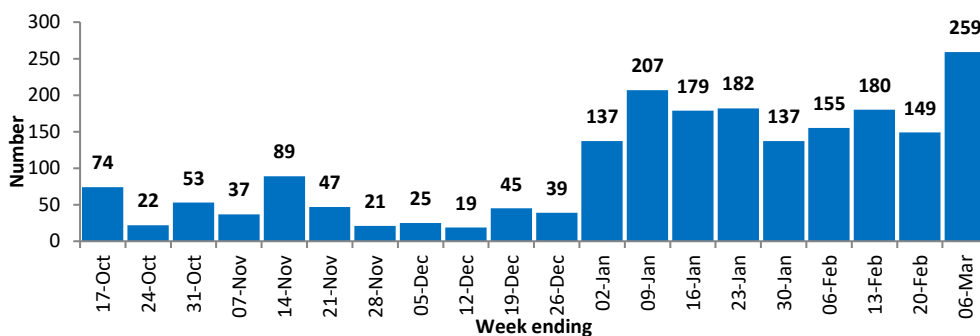


A daily case number can be estimated by combining total PCR results and Antigen test results.

16,019 estimated daily cases today, 6,284 PCR and 9,735 Antigen. This represents an increase in estimated daily cases of 41% compared to this day last week 11,380 estimated cases on 8th March).

*These data are provisional, are subject to validation & do not represent notified cases. Some duplication may occur due to people with positive antigens also getting positive PCRs as confirmation

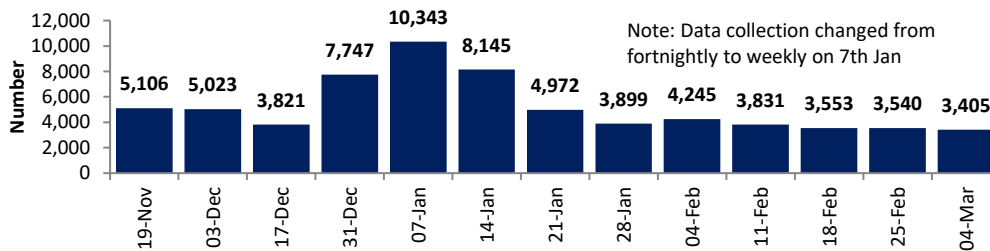
Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high. It has increased by 72% compared to week ending 20th Feb and increased by 44% compared to week ending 13th Feb.

This latest week ending 6th March recorded the highest level since week ending 24th Jan 2021 (271) but lower than the peak of 495 hospital acquired cases during the week ending 17th Jan 2021.

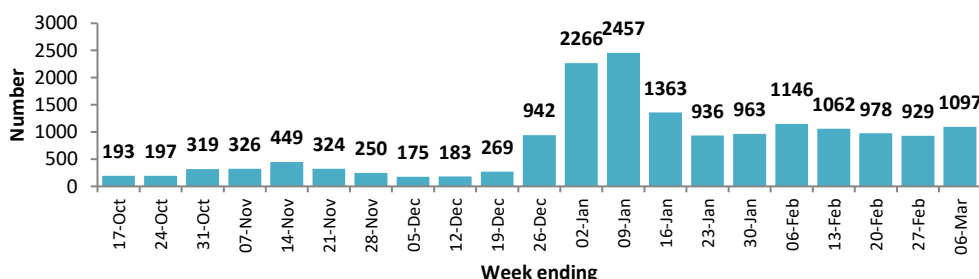
Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19



The number of staff absent due to a diagnosis of COVID has reduced from a recent peak of 10,343 (or 6.9% of total workforce) to 3,405 (2.2%) week ending 4th March.

This is a decrease of 4% compared to the week ending 25th of February.

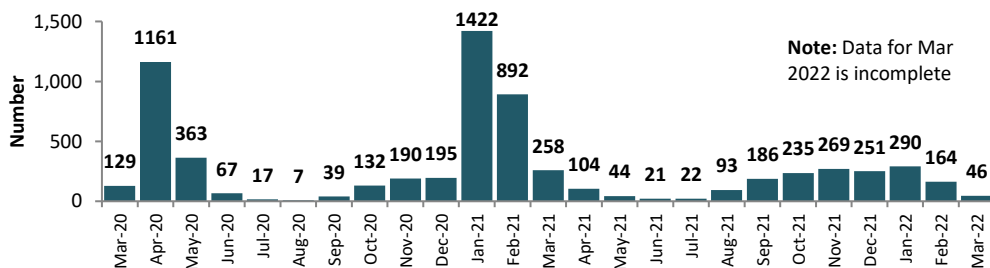
Number of new lab confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff, by week



The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff is significantly higher over the past 11 weeks than in previous months but has decreased from this wave's peak of 2,457 (week ending 9th Jan). The latest reported week (ending 6th March) is up 18% on the previous seven days and up 12% on week ending 20th Feb.

**Based on available unvalidated information from hospitals on confirmed cases among staff.*

COVID-19 related deaths by month of death



The deaths of 6,629 people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19 have been reported to date (up to 12th March).

The deaths of 46 people during the month of March 2022 have been reported to 12th March.

**Date of death reported for 6,598*

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the 7 days up to 15th March there were 33,225 new cases reported (**based on positive PCR results**); up 42% on the previous week (23,381 new cases in the 7 days up to 8th March). Compared to the previous week, the 5 day moving average is up 72% and compared to 2 weeks ago up 73%.
- In addition, over the past 7 days 51,374 people reported a positive antigen test to the HSE portal (average of 7,339 per day). Compared to the previous week, the **reported positive antigens tests are up 57.3%**.
- It is important to note the change in testing policy with people aged 4-39 referred for antigen self-testing rather than PCR testing, and no longer needing a confirmatory PCR following a positive antigen test since 14th January. In addition, from 28th Feb the requirement to get a PCR test was removed for most people, with the exception of

certain groups (including over 55s without a booster, immunocompromised, healthcare workers, those with high-risk medical conditions or pregnant, those living with or caring for someone with a weak immune system).

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital at 8am on 15th March is up 30% compared to last week** (1,047 at 8am on 15th March, 803 at 8am on 8th March).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **435 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 62 per day), **up 39% on the previous week** (314 new admissions in the 7 days up to 8th March).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is up 17.6% compared to last week** (42 on 15th March, 51 on 8th March) and down 12.5% compared to two weeks ago.
- **In addition to patients in ICU, on 15th March 181 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (50 patients with COVID and 131 non-COVID patients), up from 168 on the same day last week.**

Outbreaks (HSPC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters Report, 15th March):

- For the most recent week (up to 12th March), there were **30 new outbreaks in acute hospitals notified (28 last week)**.
- **There were 45 outbreaks in nursing homes notified (39 last week)**
- There were 6 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (5 last week)
- **There were 55 outbreaks in residential institutions notified (32 last week)**
- There were 15 outbreaks associated with schools (0 last week)
- There was 1 outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (0 last week)

Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Deaths (HPSC weekly report on COVID-19 deaths, 14/3/2022):

- **6,629** deaths with confirmed (6,343), probable (100) and possible cases (186) of COVID-19 were recorded from 01/03/2020 to 12/03/2022
 - **The median age was 82**
 - 3,081 (46.5%) were female and 3,548 (53.5%) Male
 - **5,426 (81.9%) had one or more underlying condition**, 651 (9.8%) did not and it is unknown for a further 552 (8.3%)
- **3,855 (58.2%)** were linked to outbreaks
 - **2,343 in nursing homes**
 - 931 in Hospital
 - 186 in Community Hospitals/Long stay units
 - 117 in Residential institution
 - 278 in other locations

* A death linked to an outbreak in a particular setting does not of itself indicate that transmission occurred within that setting. A case may be detected as part of an outbreak investigation, and associated with an outbreak, despite exposure and transmission having occurred elsewhere.

Conclusion:

Cases are increasing. Total estimated daily case numbers are up 41% this week. Despite initial reduction in new positive PCRs following the change in testing policy on 28th February, positive PCRs have increased by 42% this week, and 70% over 5 days. Antigen positives are also up by 57% compared to last week. In addition, the number of people with confirmed COVID in hospital is up 30% compared to last week, and up 70% compared to 2 weeks ago. Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital in the previous 24 hours show a statistically significant upward trend with an increase of 39%. This reflects both increasing hospital acquired COVID, which has increased by 70% for week ending 6th March compared to the previous week, and increased admission to hospital with COVID (up 39% this week). On a positive note the number of people with confirmed COVID in ICU is trending down gently.