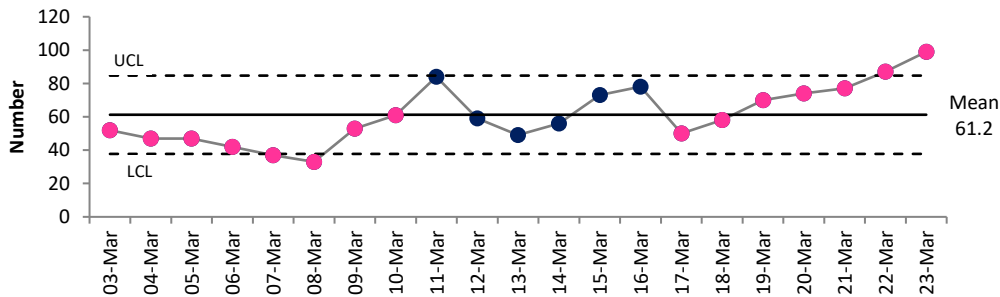


COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Introduction:

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

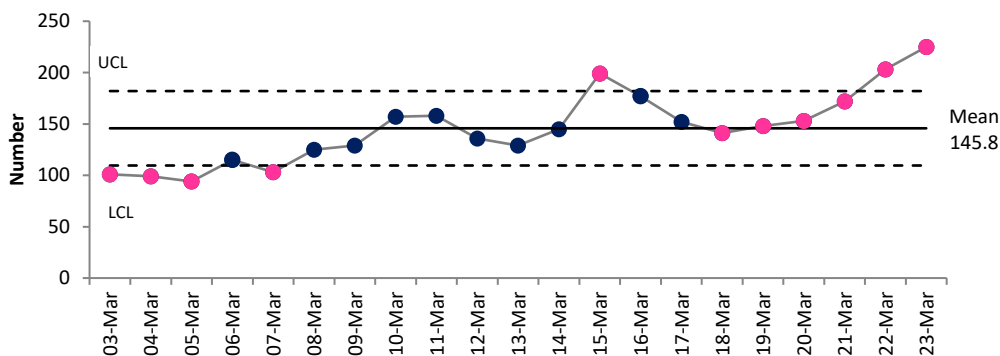
Number of hospital admissions of COVID positive patients during the previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows admissions are **trending upward over the last week**, with an average of 61.2 admissions per day of COVID positive patients.

A total of 515 admissions over the past 7 days, **up 12% on the previous week** (460 admissions last week). **99 admissions today**

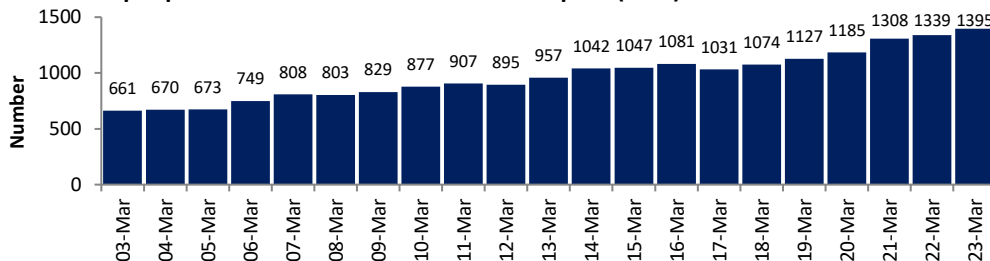
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 145.6 new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission). **New confirmed cases in hospital are trending upwards.**

225 new cases in hospital today. A total of 1,194 new cases over the past 7 days (an average of 170 per day), **up 8% on the previous week.**

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

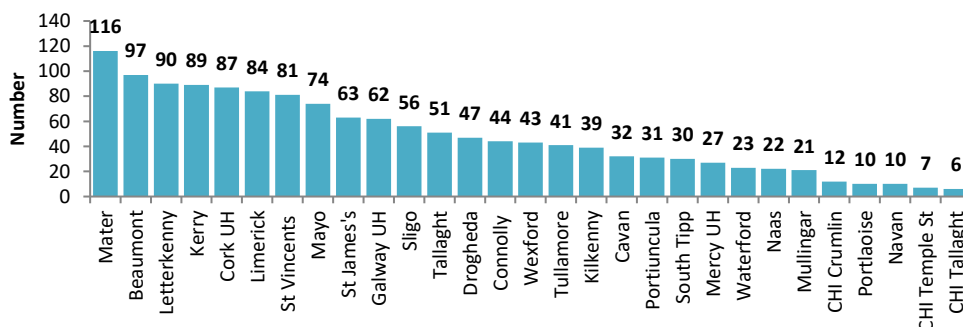


The number of people with COVID in hospital has increased over the last three weeks.

1395 in hospital at 8am today.

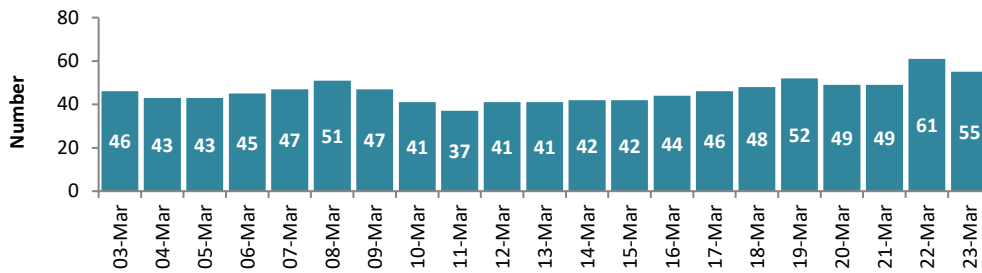
Up 29% on the same day last week and up 68% on the same day two weeks ago.

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 23rd Mar)



Of the 1,395 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **the Mater has the highest number (116 people)**, followed by Beaumont (97), Letterkenny (90), Kerry (89), Cork UH (87) and Limerick (84).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

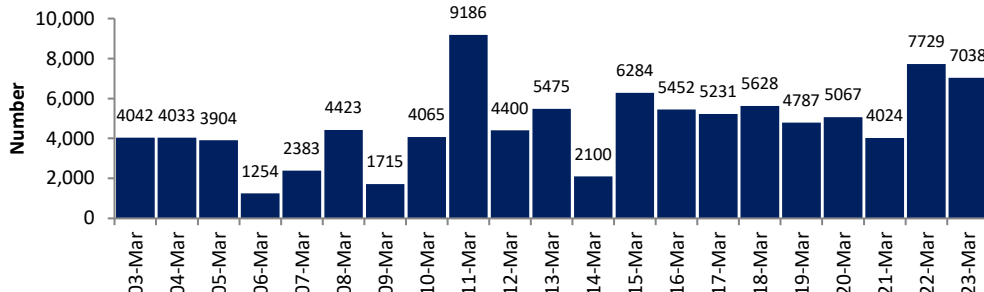


The number with COVID-19 in critical care has increased this week.

Up 25% on this day last week and up 17% on two weeks ago.

Currently 55 in ICU (**up 11 on the same day last week**).
8 new admissions today.

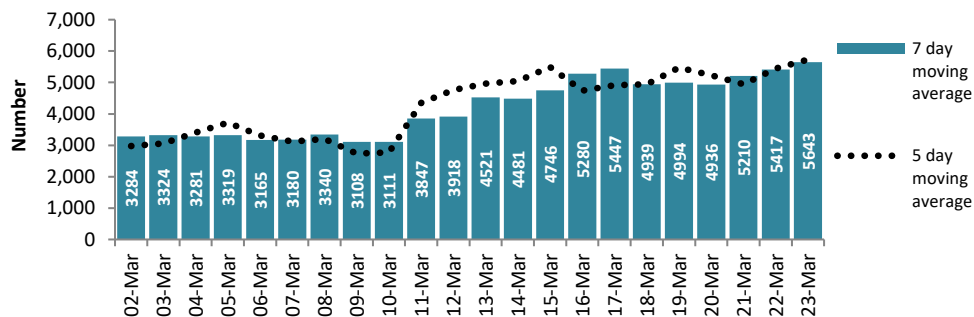
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 23rd Mar), based on PCRs only



The number of new cases **has increased over the last week. Up 7% on total cases (39,504) in last 7 days compared to week before (36,962).**

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 23rd March), PCRs only

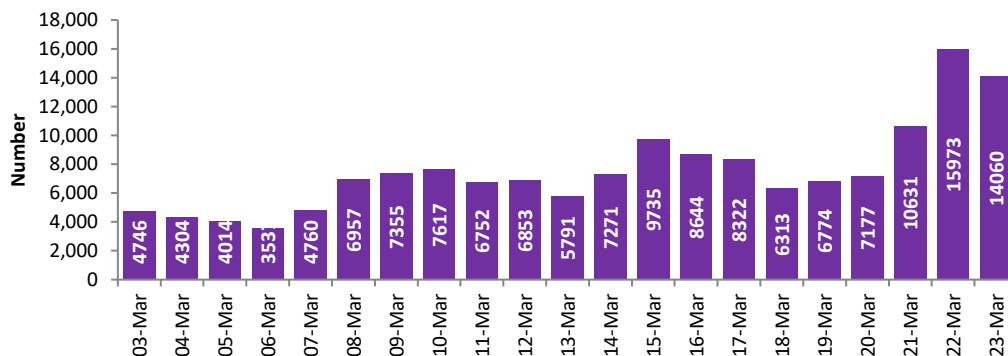


Compared to last week the 5 day moving average is up 21% and the 7 day moving average is up 7%.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the 5 day average is up 109% and the 7 day average is up 82%.

Note change in testing policy from 28th February.

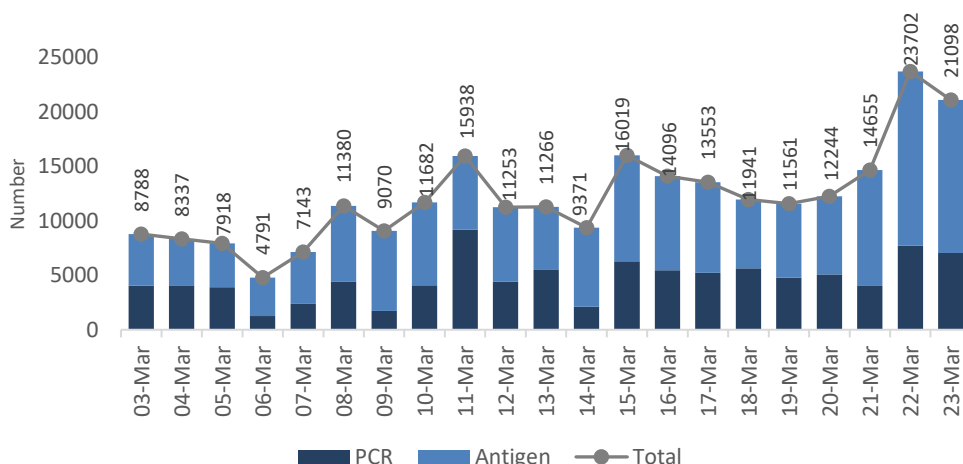
Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 69,250 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (an average of 9,883 per day).
Compared to one week ago this is up 31.5% and compared to two weeks ago up 94.1%.

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

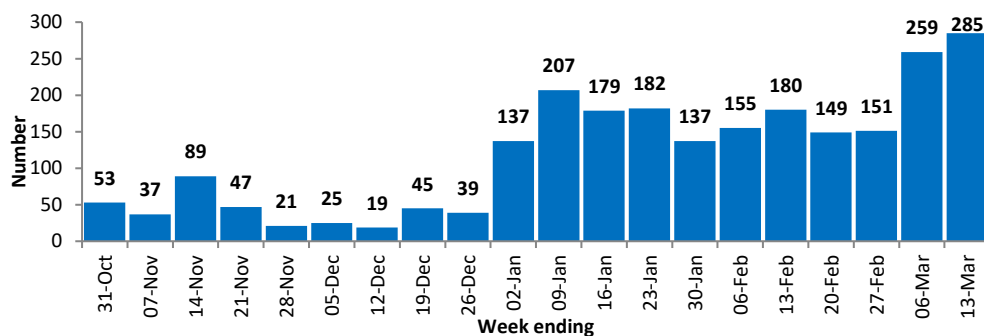


A daily case number can be estimated by combining total PCR results and Antigen test results. **21,098 estimated daily cases today, 7,038 PCR and 14,060 Antigen.** This represents an increase in estimated daily cases of 50% compared to this day last week 14,096 estimated cases on 16th March).

108,754 estimated cases in the previous 7 days, up 21% on the preceding 7 days.

*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

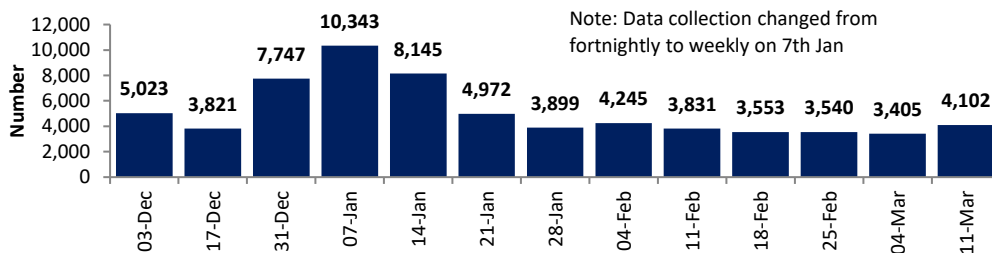
Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high. It has increased by 10% compared to week ending 6th Mar and increased by 89% compared to week ending 27th Feb.

This latest week ending 13th 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.

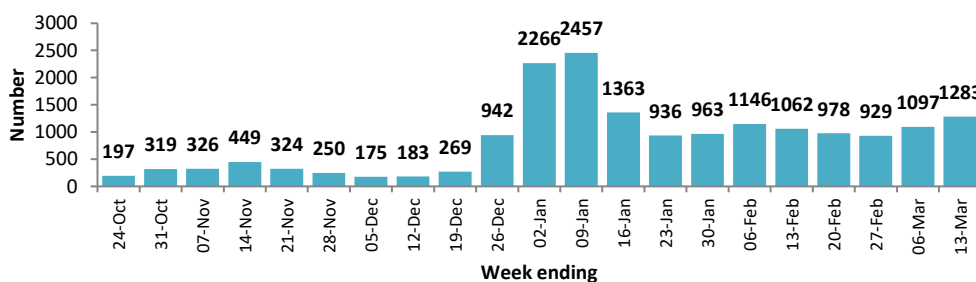
Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19



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 4,102 (2.7%) week ending 11th March.

This is an increase of 20% compared to the week ending 4th of March.

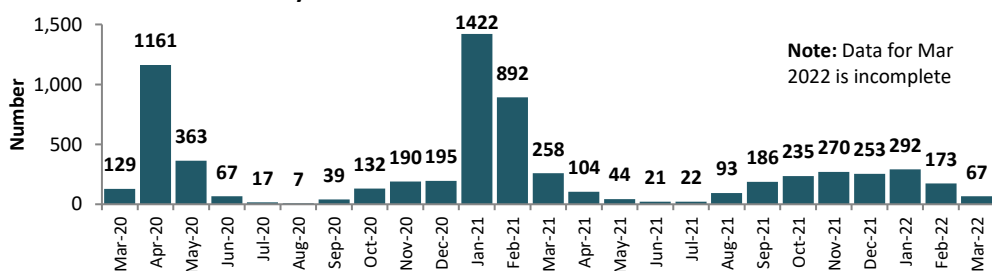
Number of new lab confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff, by week



The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff is significantly higher over the past 12 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 13th March) is up 17% on the previous seven days and up 38% on week ending 13th March.

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

COVID-19 related deaths by month of death

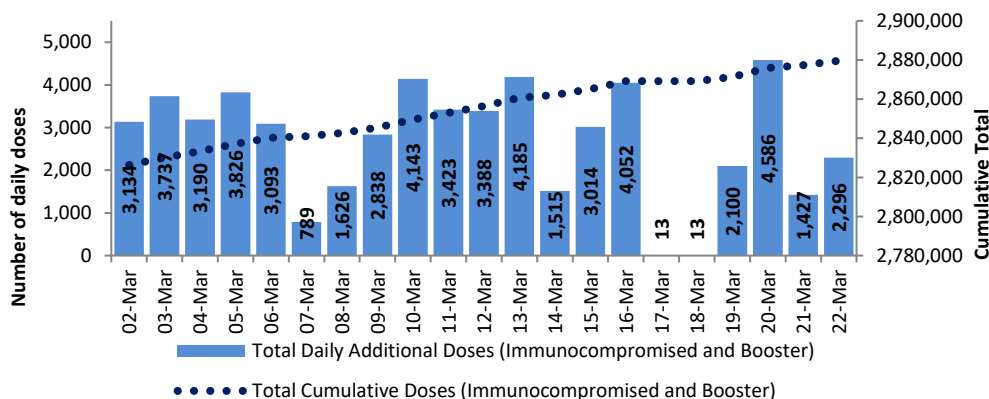


The deaths of 6,664 people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19 have been reported to date (up to 19th March).

The deaths of 67 people during the month of March 2022 have been reported to 19th March.

**Date of death reported for 6,633*

Daily doses of COVID-19 Additional vaccinations, 2nd – 22nd March



Up to 22nd March 2,879,619 additional dose vaccinations have been administered, 148,680 (5.2%) to the immunocompromised. In the latest week 21,635 total doses were administered (incl. first, second & additional doses).

To date, 72,519 children aged 5-9 years and 47,143 children aged 10-11 years have received their 1st dose.

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 15th March** there were **39,504 new cases** reported (**based on positive PCR results**); **up 7% on the previous week** (36,962 new cases in the 7 days up to 16th March). Compared to the previous week, the **5 day moving average is up 21% and compared to 2 weeks ago up 109%**.
- In addition, over the past 7 days 69,250 people reported a positive antigen test to the HSE portal (average of 9,893 per day). Compared to the previous week, the **reported positive antigens tests are up 31.5%**.

*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 23rd March is up 29% compared to last week** (1,395 at 8am on 23rd March, 1,081 at 8am on 16th March).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **515 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 73 per day), **up 12% on the previous week** (460 new admissions in the 7 days up to 16th March).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is up 25% compared to last week** (55 on 23rd March, 44 on 16th March) and up 17% compared to two weeks ago.
- **In addition to patients in ICU, on 21st March 190 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (53 patients with COVID and 137 non-COVID patients), up from 181 on the same day last week.**

Outbreaks (HSPC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters Report, 22nd March):

- For the most recent week (up to 19th March), there were **16 new outbreaks in acute hospitals notified (30 last week)**.
- **There were 34 outbreaks in nursing homes notified (45 last week)**
- There were 5 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (6 last week)
- **There were 44 outbreaks in residential institutions notified (55 last week)**
- There were 6 outbreaks associated with schools (15 last week)
- There were no outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (1 last week)

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

Deaths (HPSC weekly report on COVID-19 deaths, 21st March):

- **6,664** deaths with confirmed (6,375), probable (101) and possible cases (188) of COVID-19 were recorded from 01/03/2020 to 19/03/2022
 - **The median age was 82**
 - 3,090 (46.4%) were female and 3,574 (53.6%) Male
 - **5,454 (81.8%) had one or more underlying condition**, 647 (9.7%) did not and it is unknown for a further 563 (8.4%)
- **3,874 (58.1%)** were linked to outbreaks
 - **2,354 in nursing homes**
 - 939 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. Just under an estimated 109,000 cases (PCR and Antigen) were reported in the last 7 days. This is a 21% increase on the previous 7 days, driven by increases in antigen positives (31.5% increase). The number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital in the previous 24 hours is exhibiting a statistically significant upward trend. This includes admissions with known COVID and cases with COVID diagnosed after admission. Admissions with known COVID has entered a rapid growth phase (see next page) and hospital acquired COVID remains high. The number of people with COVID-19 in critical care has also increased over the last week.