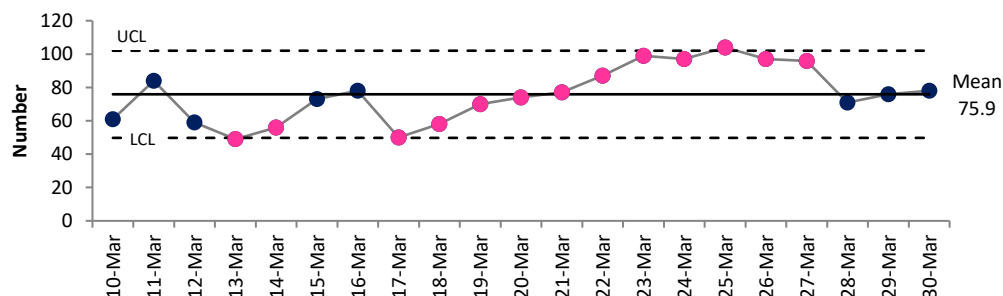


COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 30th March 2022

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.

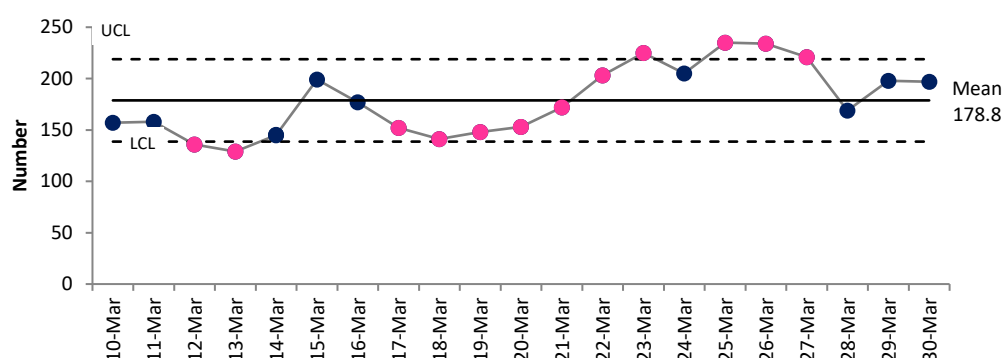
Number of hospital admissions of COVID positive patients during the previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows admissions **trending upward from Mar 17th to Mar 27th**, with an average of 75.9 admissions per day of COVID positive patients. This compares to an average of 61.2 for the 3 weeks to 23rd Mar.

A total of 619 admissions over the past 7 days, **up 20% on the previous week** (515 admissions last week). **78 admissions today**

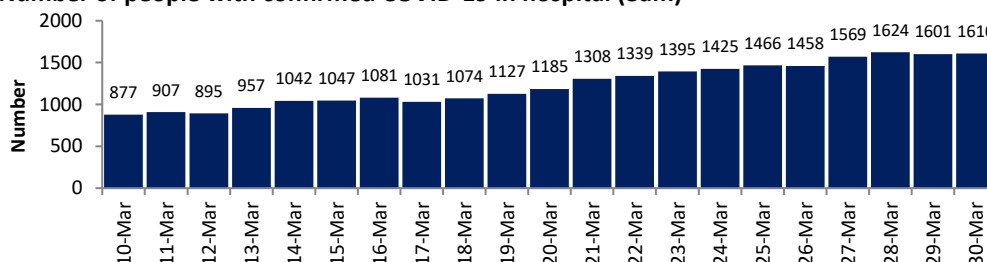
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 178.8 new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission). **New confirmed cases in hospital trended upwards from 17th March.**

197 new cases in hospital today. A total of 1,459 new cases over the past 7 days (an average of 208 per day), **up 22% on the previous week.**

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

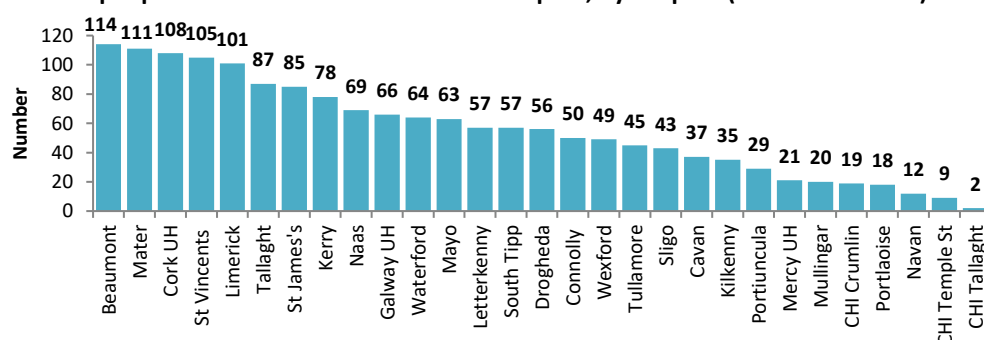


The number of people with COVID in hospital has increased over the last three weeks.

1,610 in hospital at 8am today.

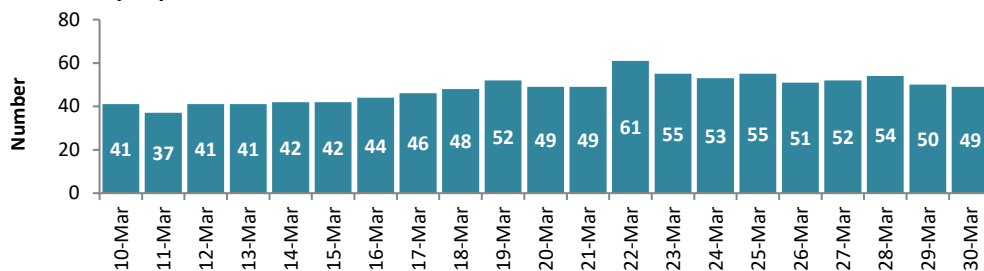
Up 15% on the same day last week and up 49% on the same day two weeks ago.

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 30th Mar)



Of the 1,610 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **the Beaumont has the highest number (114 people)**, followed by the Mater (11), Cork UH (108), St. Vincent's (105) and Limerick (101).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

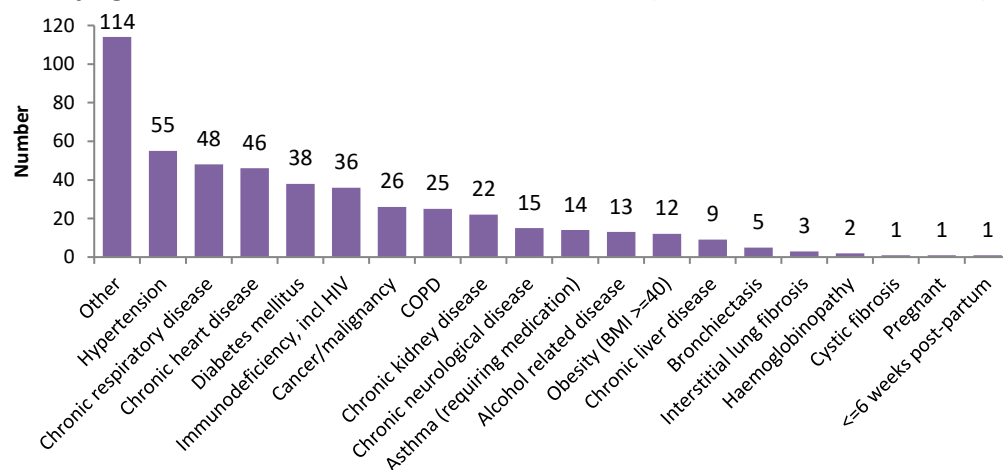


The number with COVID-19 in critical care has decreased this week.

Down 11% on this day last week but **up 11%** on two weeks ago.

Currently 49 in ICU (**down 6 on the same day last week**). **11 new admissions today.**

Underlying Conditions of COVID-19 admissions to ICU (19 Dec 2021 - 19 Mar 2022)

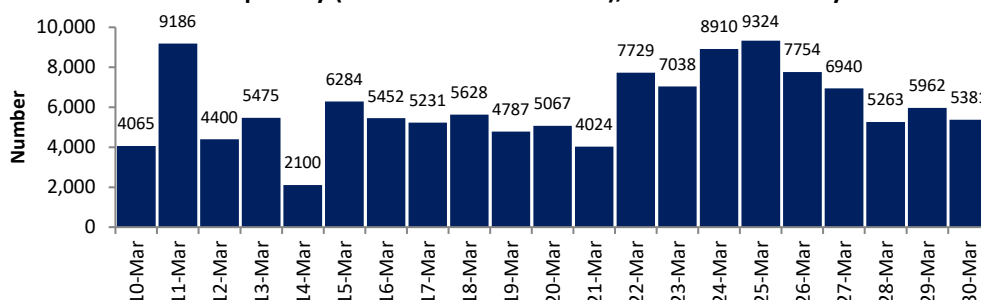


205 people (15+ years) with COVID-19 were admitted to ICU from 19th Dec 2021 to 19th Mar 2022.

82% had one or more underlying medical conditions.

55 had hypertension; 48 had chronic respiratory disease, 46 had chronic heart disease, and 114 had other unspecified underlying conditions.

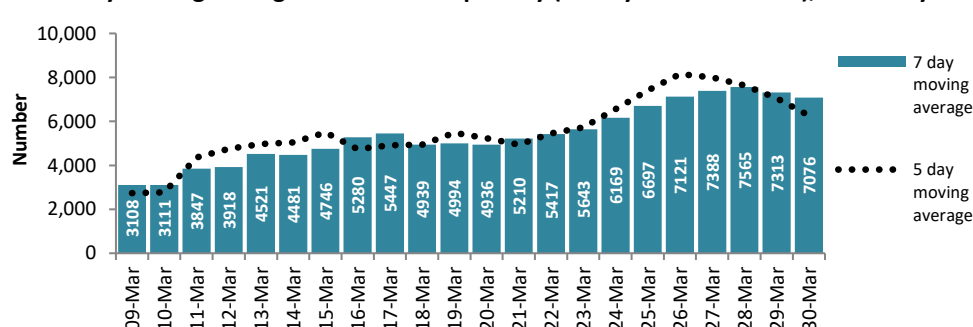
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 30th Mar), based on PCRs only



The number of new cases has **increased over the last week. Up 25%** on total cases (49,534) in last 7 days compared to week before (39,504).

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 30th March), PCRs only

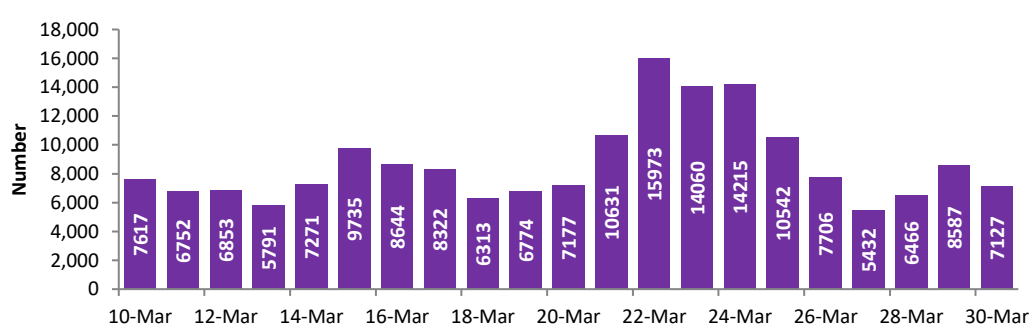


Compared to last week the **5 day moving average is up 9%** and the **7 day moving average is up 25%**.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the 5 day average is up 32% and the 7 day average is up 34%.

Note change in testing policy from 28th February.

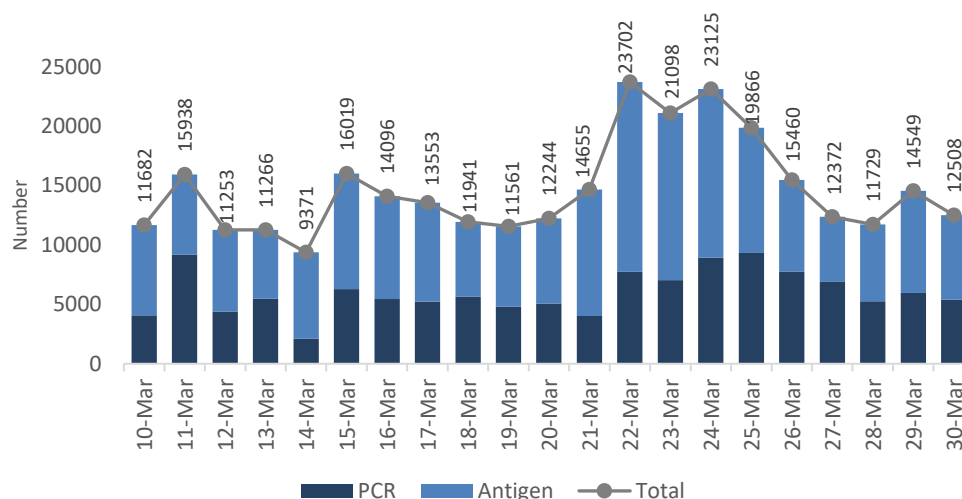
Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 60,075 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (an average of 8,582 per day). **Compared to one week ago this is down 13.2%** and **compared to two weeks ago up 14.1%**.

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

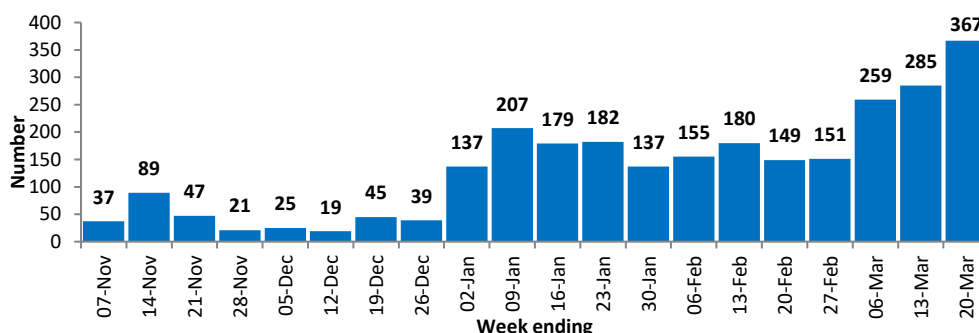


A daily case number can be estimated by combining total PCR results and Antigen test results. **12,508 estimated daily cases today, 5,381 PCR and 7,127 Antigen.** This represents a decrease in estimated daily cases of 41% compared to this day last week (21,098 estimated cases on 23rd March).

109,609 estimated cases in the previous 7 days, up 1% 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

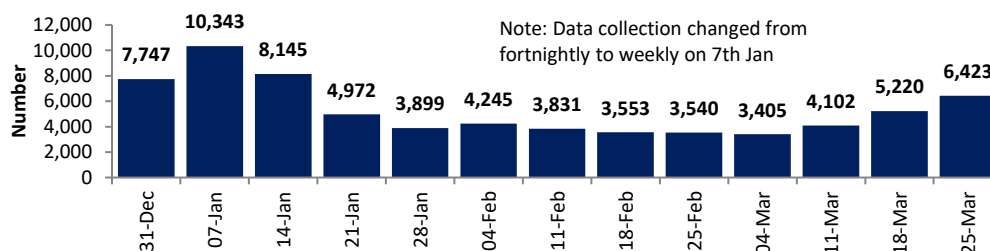
Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high. It has increased by 29% compared to week ending 13th Mar and increased by 42% compared to week ending 6th Mar.

This latest week ending 20th March recorded the highest level since week ending 24th Jan 2021 (271) but lower than the peak of 442 hospital acquired cases during the week ending 17th Jan 2021.

Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19

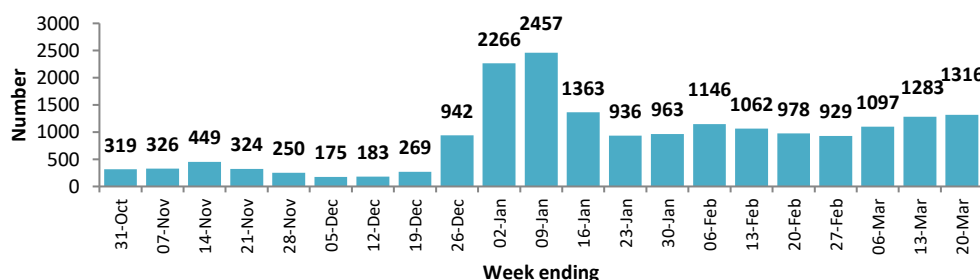


Note: Data collection changed from fortnightly to weekly on 7th Jan

The number of staff absent due to a diagnosis of COVID has increased over the last three weeks. 6,423 (4.2% of total workforce) for week ending 25th March, an increase of 23% compared to week ending 18th of March.

This has reduced from a recent peak of 10,343 (or 6.9% of total workforce) to week ending 7th Jan.

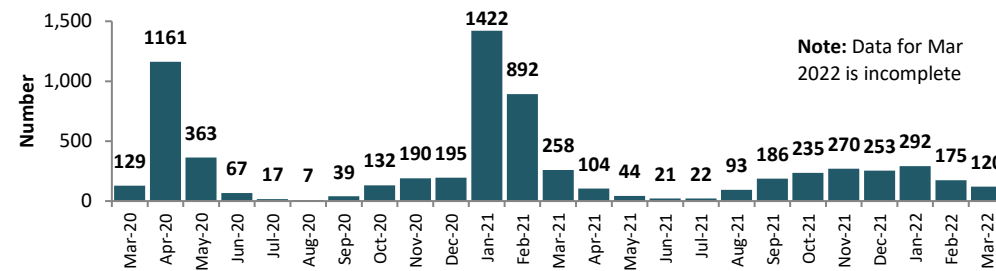
Number of new lab confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff, by week



The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff is significantly higher over the past 13 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 20th March) is up 3% on the previous seven days and up 20% on week ending 6th March.

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

COVID-19 related deaths by month of death

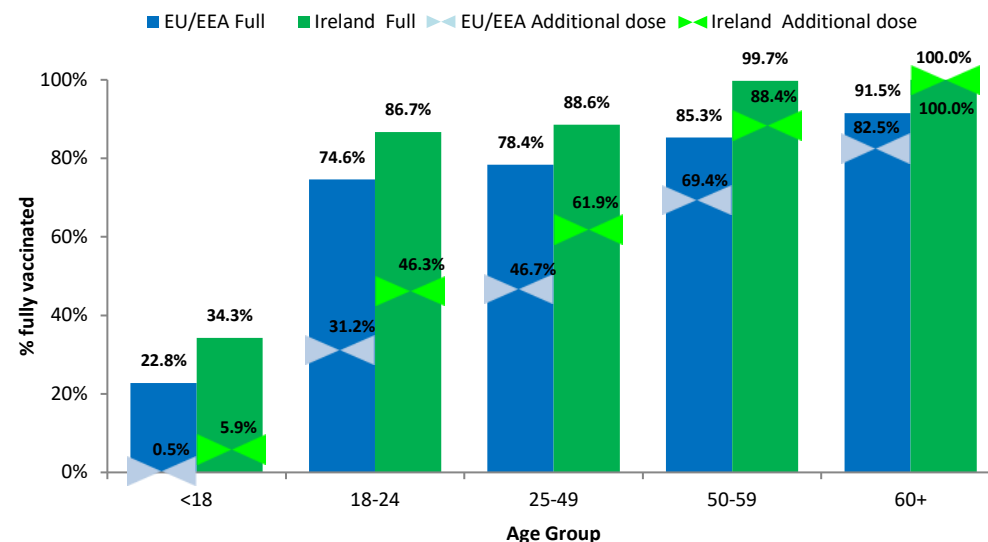


The deaths of 6,721 people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19 have been reported to date (up to 26th March).

The deaths of 120 people during the month of March 2022 have been reported to 26th March.

*Date of death reported for 6,688

Cumulative uptake of full vaccination by age group, Ireland & EU/EEA (ECDC 24th March)



Data from ECDC shows that 83.2% of adults age 18+ in the EU/EEA have completed their primary vaccination course, 94.7% in Ireland.

63.2% of EU/EEA adults have received a booster vaccination, 74.7% in Ireland.

Uptake rates vary significantly by age group, with Ireland having higher uptake rates across all age groups compared to the EU/EEA.

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 30th March** there were **49,534 new cases** reported (**based on positive PCR results**); **up 25% on the previous week** (39,504 new cases in the 7 days up to 23rd March). Compared to the previous week, the **5 day moving average is up 9% and compared to 2 weeks ago up 22%.**
- In addition, over the past 7 days 60,075 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 down 13.2%.**

*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 15% compared to last week** (1,610 at 8am on 30th March, 1,395 at 8am on 23rd March).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **619 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 88 per day), **up 20% on the previous week** (515 new admissions in the 7 days up to 23rd March).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is down 11% compared to last week** (49 on 30th March, 55 on 23rd March) and up 11% compared to two weeks ago.
- In addition to patients in ICU, on 29th March 211 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (76 patients with COVID and 135 non-COVID patients), up from 190 on the same day last week.**

ICU Admissions (HPSC Epidemiology of ICU admissions in Ireland in Wave 5 22-03-2022)

From 19th December 2021 to 19th March 2022 (15+ years)

- 205 ICU admissions of COVID-19 positive patients of which:**

- 41 (20%) remain in hospital
- 90 (43.9%) discharged alive, with median length of stay 6 days (range 1-61)
- 74 (36.1%) died in ICU, with median length of stay 6.5 days (range 1-50)
- 82% of the 638 ICU admissions had one or more underlying illnesses
- There were 2 cases reported among pregnant women of women less than 6 weeks post-partum

Outbreaks (HSPC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters Report, 29th March):

- For the most recent week (up to 26th March), there were **36 new outbreaks in acute hospitals notified (16 last week)**.
- **There were 60 outbreaks in nursing homes notified (34 last week)**
- There were 7 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (5 last week)
- **There were 76 outbreaks in residential institutions notified (44 last week)**
- **There were 17 outbreaks reported in other health care services**
- There were no outbreaks associated with schools (6 last week)
- There were no outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (0 last week)

Note: data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating. Higher numbers may have been recorded this week due to delayed reporting in the previous week as a result of 2 bank holidays.

Deaths (HPSC weekly report on COVID-19 deaths, 28th March):

- **6,721** deaths with confirmed (6,427), probable (106) and possible cases (188) of COVID-19 were recorded from 01/03/2020 to 26/03/2022
 - **The median age was 82**
 - 3,114 (46.3%) were female and 3,607 (53.7%) Male
 - **5,489 (81.7%) had one or more underlying condition**, 651 (9.7%) did not and it is unknown for a further 581 (8.6%)
- **3,898 (58%)** were linked to outbreaks
 - **2,370 in nursing homes**
 - 946 in Hospital
 - 187 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, new confirmed COVID cases in hospital and the number of people with COVID-19 in critical care are all at high levels. However, after experiencing rapid growth to reach these high levels all are showing early signs of stabilisation i.e. the rate of growth has slowed.

Cases marginally increased compared to last week. Just over an estimated 109,000 cases (PCR and Antigen) were reported in the last 7 days. This is a 1% increase on the previous 7 days, driven by increases in PCR positives (25% increase), antigen positives decreased (down 13%). Caution should be exercised when considering case numbers as they are almost certainly underreported.

The number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital in the previous 24 hours exhibited a statistically significant upward trend to 27th March. This includes admissions with known COVID and cases with COVID diagnosed after admission. Admissions with known COVID is exhibiting early signs of stabilising after a rapid growth phase. Hospital acquired COVID remains high. The number of people with COVID-19 in critical care has increased over three weeks, but is relatively stable this week. 49 COVID-19 positive patients in ICU today, which 11% lower than the same day last week.

Ireland's vaccination rates continue to compare favourably with the EU/EEA.