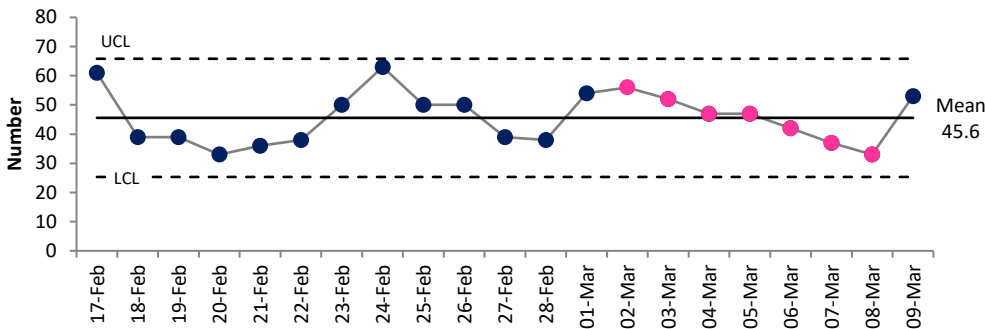


## COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Introduction:

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

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

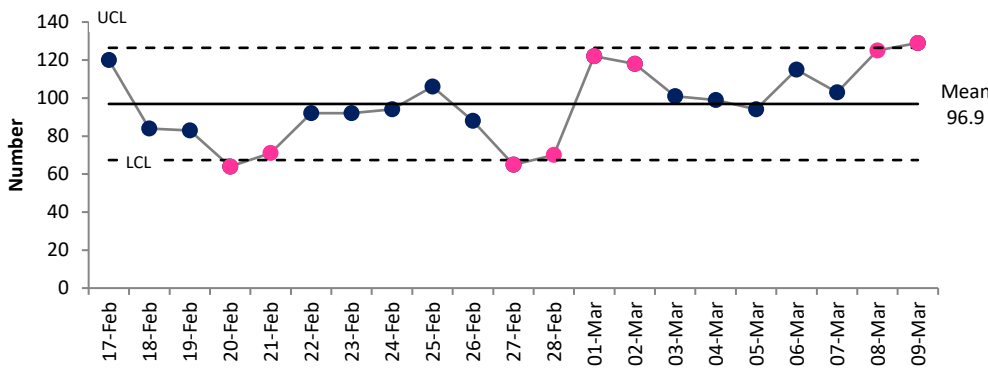


The SPC chart shows an average of 45.6 admissions per day of COVID positive patients since 17<sup>th</sup> February. The number of admissions trended downwards from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March but data for today shows that this trend has not continued.

A total of 311 admissions over the past 7 days, **down 11% on the previous week** (350 admissions last week).

**53 admissions today**

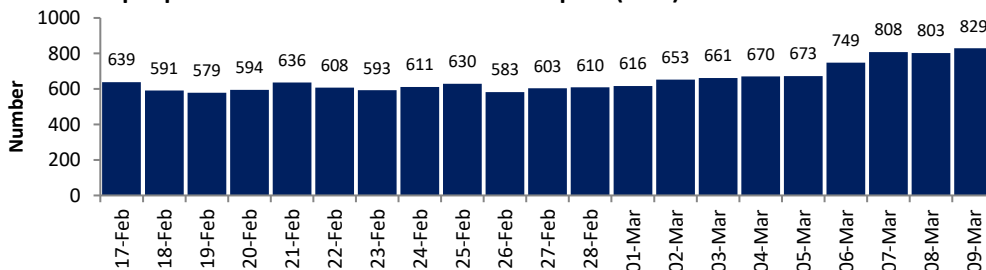
#### Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 96.9 new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission). New confirmed cases in hospital were higher than expected for the past 2 days.

**129 new cases in hospital today.** A total of 766 new cases over the past 7 days (an average of 109 per day), **up 16% on the previous week.**

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

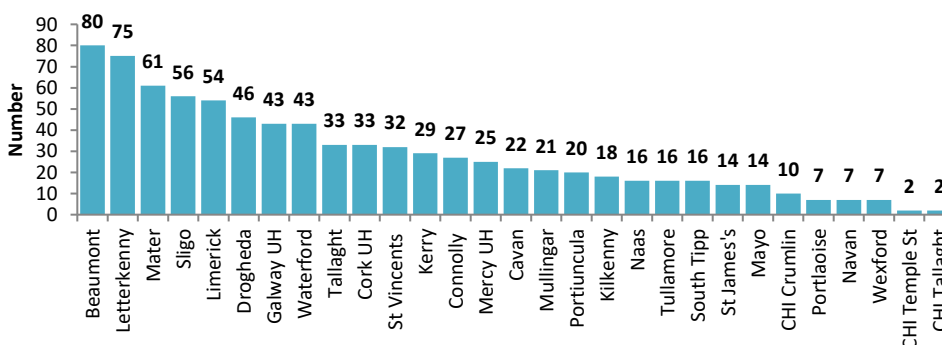


The number of people with COVID in hospital has increased over the last week.

829 in hospital at 8am today.

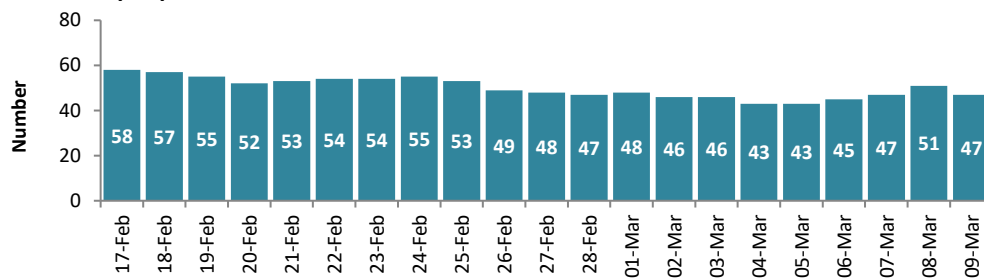
**Up 27% on the same day last week and up 39.8% on the same day two weeks ago.**

#### Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar)



Of the 829 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **Beaumont has the highest number (80 people)**, followed by Letterkenny (75), The Mater (61), Sligo (56), and Limerick (54).

### Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

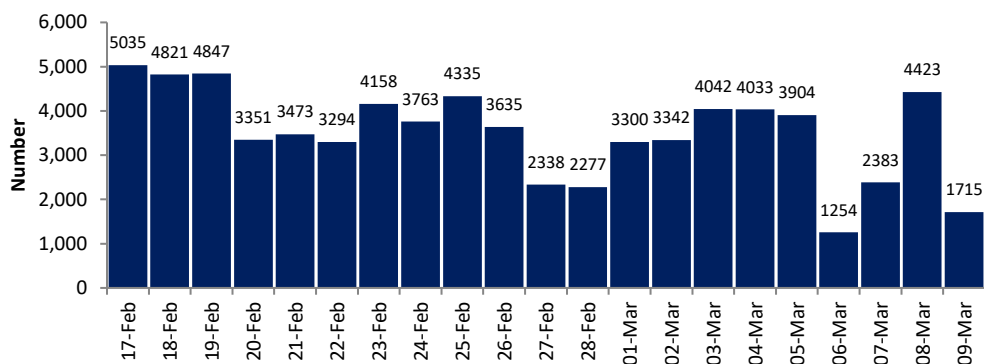


The number with COVID-19 in critical care is stable.

**Up 2.2%** on this day last week and **down 13%** on two weeks ago.

Currently 47 in ICU (**up 1** on the same day last week). **3 new admissions today.**

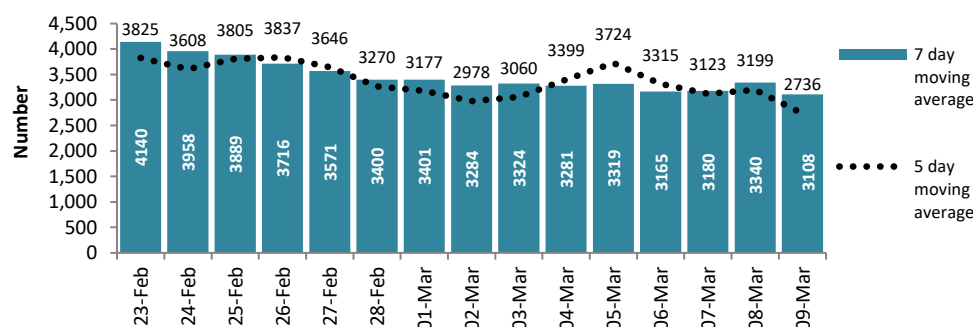
### Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 9<sup>th</sup> Mar), based on PCR only



The number of new cases **over the past 3 weeks is trending downward, despite daily variation. Down 5%** on total cases in last 7 days compared to week before.

It is important to note the change in testing policy from 28<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> March), PCR only

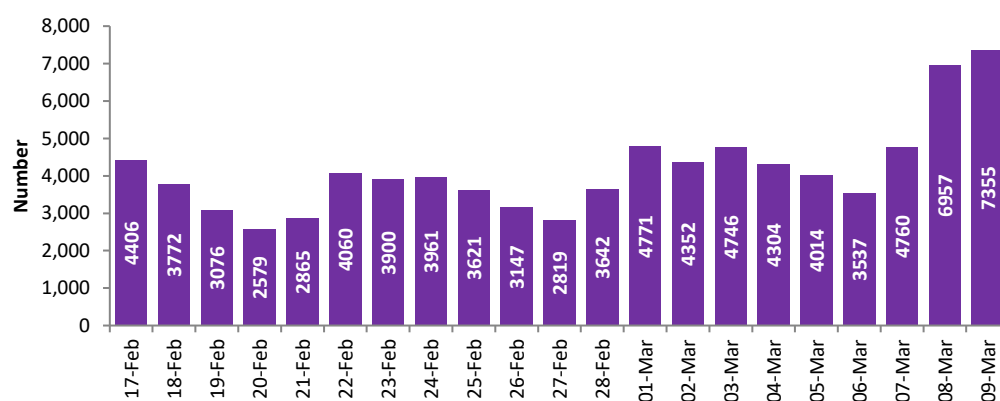


Compared to last week the **5 day moving average is down 8%** and the **7 day moving average is down 5%**.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the 5 day average is down 28.5% and the 7 day average is down 25%.

Note change in testing policy from 28<sup>th</sup> February.

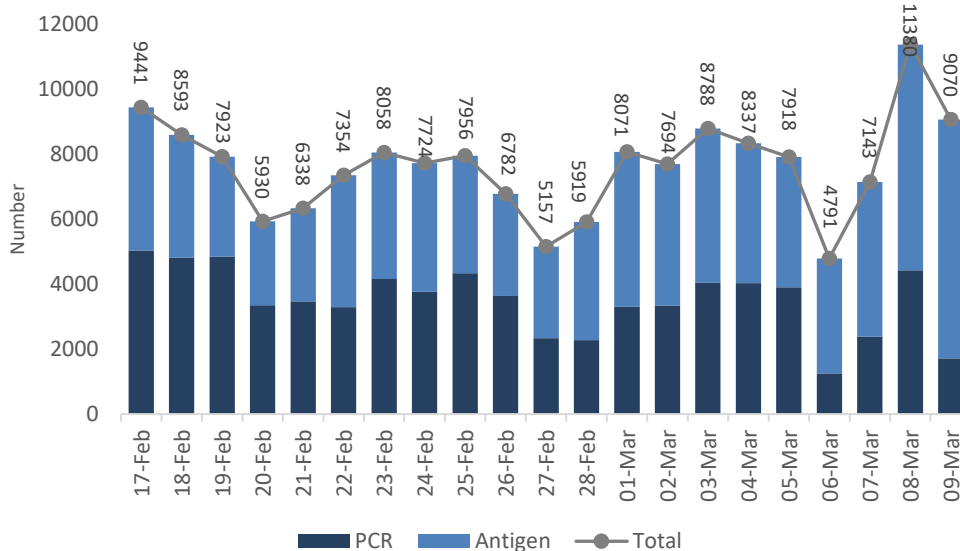
### Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 35,673 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (an average of 5,096 per day). Compared to one week ago this is up 35.6% and compared to two weeks ago up 44.7%.

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

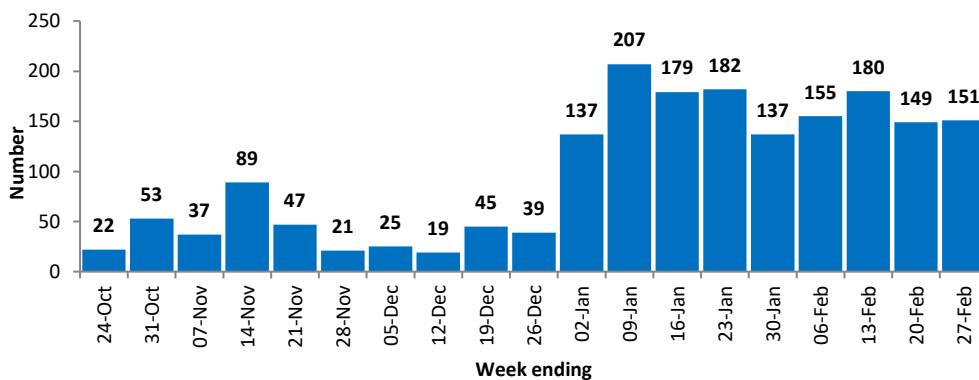


A daily case number can be estimated by combining total PCR results and Antigen test results.

**9,070 estimated daily cases today, 1,715 PCR and 7,355 Antigen.** This represents an increase in estimated daily cases of 18% compared to this day last week (7,694 estimated cases on 2<sup>nd</sup> March).

\* These data are provisional, are subject to validation and do not represent notified cases. There may be some duplication due to people with positive antigens also getting positive PCRs as confirmation

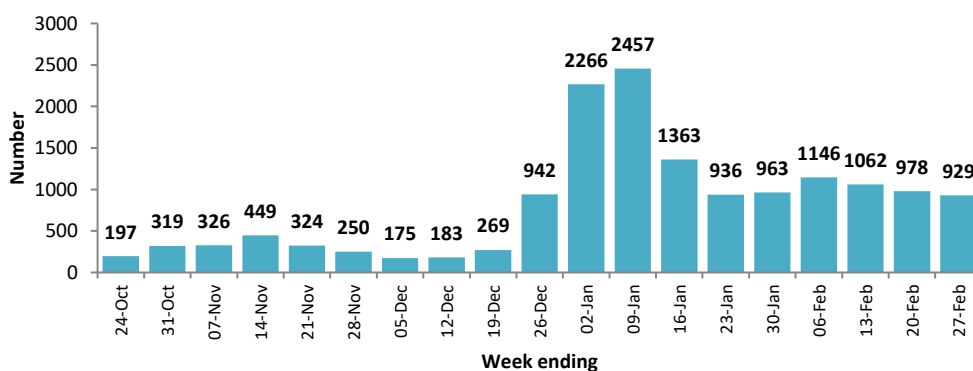
### Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



**The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high relative to the end of 2021.** It has increased by 1% compared to week ending 20<sup>th</sup> Feb and decreased by 16% compared to week ending 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The number of hospital acquired cases during this wave has remained lower than the peak of 495 hospital acquired cases during the week ending 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.

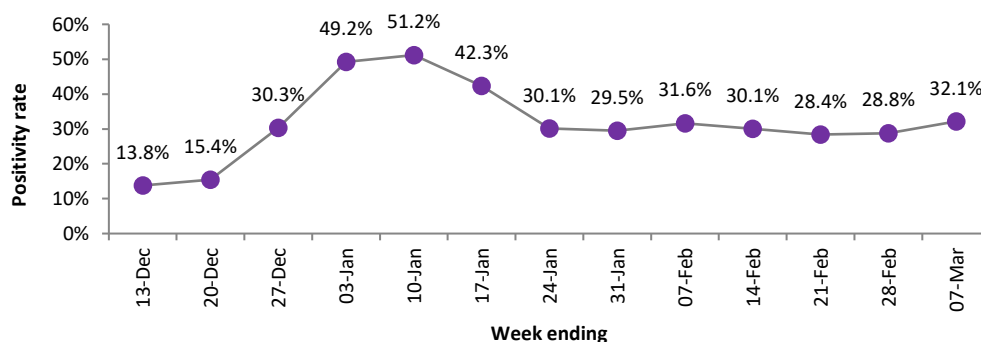
### Number of new lab confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff, by week



The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff is significantly higher over the past 10 weeks than in previous months but has decreased from this wave's peak of 2,457 (week ending 9<sup>th</sup> Jan). The latest reported week (ending 27<sup>th</sup> Feb) is down 5% on the previous seven days and down 13% on week ending 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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

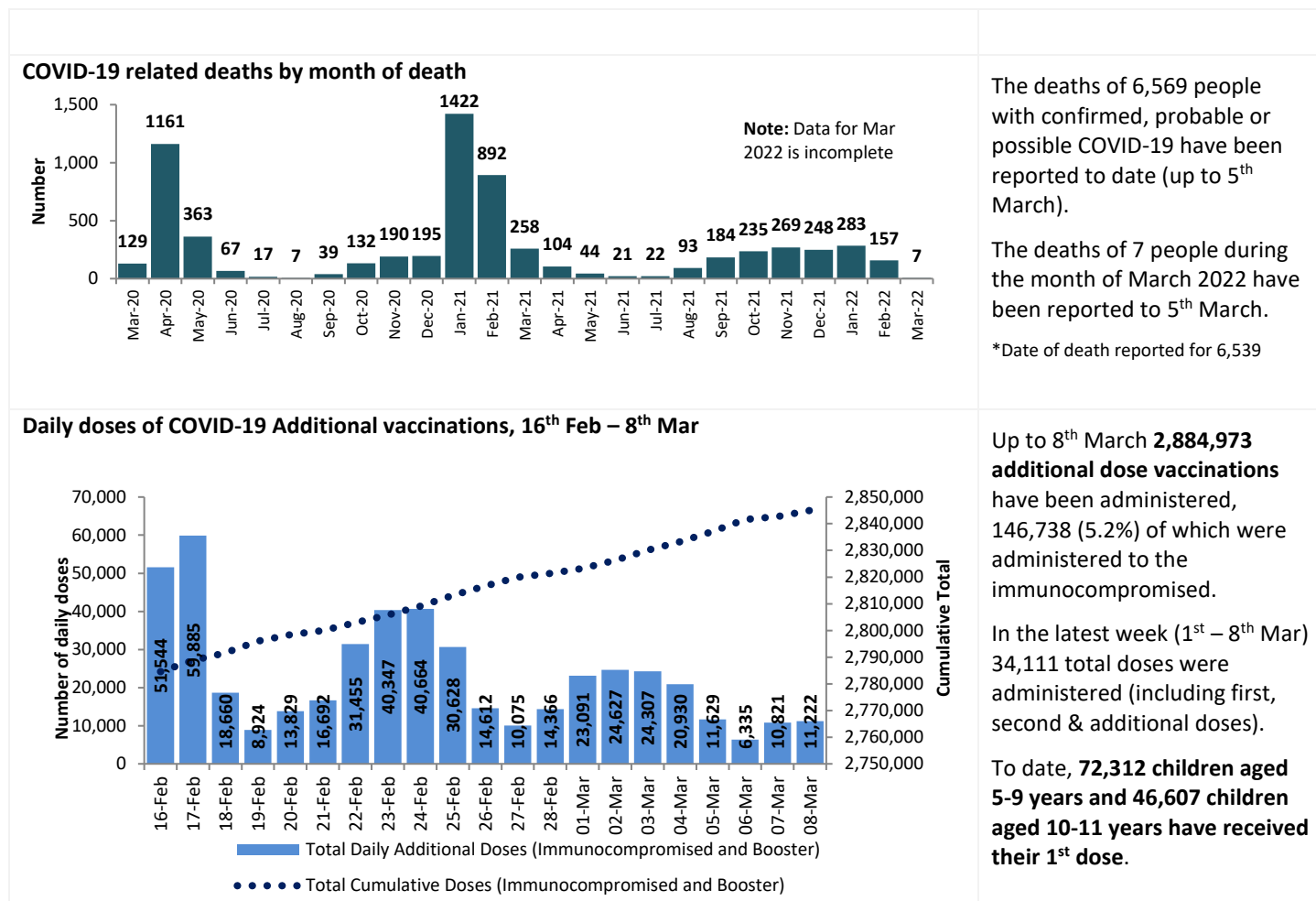
### Positivity rate for COVID-19 PCR tests by week



**The positivity rate remains high but has stabilised around 30% over the last 7 weeks** after a recent peak of 51.2% week ending 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Positivity rate for week ending 7<sup>th</sup> Mar (32.1%) is an increase on week ending 28<sup>th</sup> Feb (28.8%).

The positivity rate may be impacted by presentations post positive antigen test.



#### Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 9<sup>th</sup> March** there were **21,754 new cases** reported (**based on positive PCR results**); **down 5% on the previous week** (22,990 new cases in the 7 days up to 2<sup>nd</sup> March). Compared to the previous week, the **5 day moving average is down 8% and compared to 2 weeks ago down 28.5%**.
- In addition, over the past 7 days 35,673 people reported a positive antigen test to the HSE portal (average of 5,096 per day). Compared to the previous week, the **reported positive antigens tests are up 35.6%**.
- 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 14<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, from 28<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> March is up 27% compared to last week** (829 at 8am on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 653 at 8am on 2<sup>nd</sup> March).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **311 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 44 per day), **down 11% on the previous week** (350 new admissions in the 7 days up to 2<sup>nd</sup> March).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is up 2.2% compared to last week** (46 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 47 on 9<sup>th</sup> March) and down 13% compared to two weeks ago.
- In addition to patients in ICU, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 199 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (49 patients with COVID and 150 non-COVID patients), up from 168 overall and 39 with covid on the same day last week.**

#### Outbreaks (HSPC Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters Report, 8<sup>th</sup> March):

- For the most recent week (up to 5<sup>th</sup> March), there were **28 new outbreaks in acute hospitals notified (13 last week)**.
- There were 39 outbreaks in nursing homes notified (31 last week)**
- There were 5 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (4 last week)

- **There were 32 outbreaks in residential institutions notified (30 last week)**
- There were no outbreaks associated with schools (2 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, 8/3/2022):**

- **6,569** deaths with confirmed (6,285), probable (99) and possible cases (185) of COVID-19 were recorded from 01/03/2020 to 05/03/2022
  - **The median age was 82**
  - 3,053 (46.5%) were female and 3,516 (53.5%) Male
  - **5,367 (81.7%) had one or more underlying condition**, 660 (10%) did not and it is unknown for a further 542 (8.3%)
- **3,831 (58.3%)** were linked to outbreaks
  - **2,325 in nursing homes**
  - 929 in Hospital
  - 184 in Community Hospitals/Long stay units
  - 116 in Residential institution
  - 277 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:**

As expected, the number of new positive PCRs has decreased following the change in testing policy from 28<sup>th</sup> February. With the majority of under 55s and fully vaccinated boosted over 55s now recommended to take antigen tests instead of PCR tests if they have COVID-19 symptoms, the number of positive antigen tests reported through the HSE antigen portal has increased. However when these numbers are combined into the estimated total cases (based on positive PCRs plus positive antigens), the estimated number of new cases is up 18% compared to last week. The number of people with covid admitted to hospital trended down over the previous week and should be considered stable but the number of people with confirmed COVID in hospital is up 27% compared to last week, and up 40% compared to 2 weeks ago this is likely due to spread in hospital or covid diagnosis post admission. The number of people with confirmed COVID in ICU remains stable, and the positivity rate remains high but stable.