COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 08th December 2021

Introduction:

As certain restrictions are introduced and case numbers rise we will continue to monitor the situation closely to predict future pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.



Up to 7th December **1,034,077** additional dose vaccinations have been administered. 92, 8261 (9%) of which were administered to the immunocompromised.

In the latest week (1st- 7th December) 200,758 total doses were administered. 179,931 (90%) were additional doses (excl. Immunocompromised), 4,450 (2%) were administered to the immunocompromised and 16,377 (8%) were first, second or single doses.

Cumulative uptake of full vaccination by age group, Ireland & EU/EEA (7th December)



Data from ECDC shows that 77.6% of adults age 18+ in the EU/EEA have been fully vaccinated, with 66.4% of the total population (including children) fully vaccinated.

Additional dose uptake is 26.1% of adults age 18+ for Ireland and 13.6% for the EU/EEA. 19.8% of the total population of Ireland has had an additional dose compared to 11.1% in the EU/EEA.

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

The SPC chart shows relative stability in the number of new admissions of COVID positive patients over the past 3 weeks around a mean of 50.3 admission per day. An outlying value of 81 admissions on 20th November was recorded. 60 admissions today.

A total of 316 admissions over the past 7 days (down 8% on the previous week).





Prepared in partnership by Emma Hogan, Florina Rizoaica & Gráinne Cosgrove (National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate) and Dr Philip Crowley (Strategy & Research)



Prepared in partnership by Emma Hogan, Florina Rizoaica & Gráinne Cosgrove (National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate) and Dr Philip Crowley (Strategy & Research)



Prepared in partnership by Emma Hogan, Florina Rizoaica & Gráinne Cosgrove (National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate) and Dr Philip Crowley (Strategy & Research)



Key trends & recent changes:

- In the 7 days up to 8th December there were 33,052 new cases reported; up 4% on the previous week (31,781 new cases in the 7 days up to 1st December). Compared to the previous week, the 5 day average is up 5% and compared to two weeks ago, up 1%).
- Variant B.1.1.529 (Omicron) has emerged as a variant of concern (26th November).
 - This variant is marked by a large number of mutations in protein spikes. These have the potential to change the transmissibility and vaccine susceptibility of the virus. The ECDC reports evidence for impact on immunity has been published¹. Evidence on transmissibility and severity has not yet been published.
 - The ECDC report 274 confirmed cased of the Omicron Variant of Concern across 19 of the EU/EEA as of 7th December, 62 of which were reported on 6 December
 - o Ireland has reported 1 case of the Omicron Variant
 - The ECDC reports 863 confirmed cases across 33 countries outside of the EU/EEA.
 - The **UK has reported 336 cases** of the Omicron variant.
 - \circ $\;$ Northern Ireland has today confirmed their first case of the Omicron variant

 ¹Pulliam JRC, van Schalkwyk C, Govender N, von Gottberg A, Cohen C, Groome MJ, et al. Increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection associated with emergence of the Omicron variant in South Africa. medRxiv. 2021:2021.11.11.21266068.

• **32.2% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among children aged 0-18 years.** 41.2% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among people aged 19-44 years. 21% of new cases were among people aged 45-64 years and 5.7% were among people aged 65 and over.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is down 6% compared to last week** (544 at 8am on 8th December, 578 at 8am on 1st December).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **316 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 45 per day), **down 8% on the previous week** (345 new admissions in the 7 days up to 1st December).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU has** increased by 1% compared to last week (118 on 8th December, 117 on 1st December).
- <u>The 14 days to 8th December</u>: Of 64,780 new cases notified in the 14 days to 8th Dec, <u>545 (0.8%) have been</u> <u>hospitalised to date and 25 (0.04%) have been admitted to ICU</u>. Of these 545 hospitalised cases:
 - o 59 (10.8%) were aged 0-18 years, with 0 ICU admissions in this age group
 - $\circ~$ 65 (11.9%) were aged 19-34 years, with 2 ICU admissions in this age group
 - o 226 (41.5%) were aged 35-64 years, with 14 ICU admissions in this age group
 - 195 (35.8%) were aged 65 and over, with 6 ICU admissions in this age group.

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (ending 5th of December), there were 10 new outbreaks in acute hospitals reported (12 last week).
- There were 10 new outbreaks in nursing homes (10 last week).
- There were 5 new outbreaks in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (1 last week).
- There were 10 outbreaks in other healthcare services (12 last week).
- There were 26 new outbreaks in residential institutions (30 last week).
- There were 30 new outbreaks reported in schools (45 last week)
- There were 8 new outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (6 last week).
- There were 7 outbreaks in vulnerable populations (14 last week); 3 among members of the Irish traveller community and 4 in direct provision centres.
- There were 7 new outbreaks in workplaces (6 last week).
- There was 1 travel-related outbreak, which included one confirmed case of the Omicron variant of concern.
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Conclusion:

There are some signals of disimprovement. Cases continue to increase, albeit at a slower rate of growth than previously and incidence continues to rise, particularly among 5-12 year olds. The emergence of the Omicron variant is of considerable concern.

However, **14 day incidence rates for all age group 55 years or older have decreased compared to last week.** The number of COVID-19 positive patients in hospital and the number of admissions of COVID-19 patients to hospital has reduced compared to last week.

It should be noted that, identified trends and signals are based on recent data, which reflects recent conditions. Ireland remains vulnerable to external shocks or changes in those conditions, which could create a step change positively or negatively e.g. change in transmissibility due to Omicron variant, changes to socialisation level over the holiday period or new emerging treatments etc.

The high uptake of vaccinations among all ages and the continued roll-out of the booster vaccination programme, including **close to 180,000 additional doses this week** remain positive signals.