COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 21st July 2021

Introduction:

As restrictions continue to ease and numbers of cases 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 20th July, **5,285,596 COVID vaccine doses have** been administered (2,822,388 first doses, 2,296,255 second doses and 166,953 single doses). In the <u>7 days up to</u> <u>20th July a total of 340,693</u> <u>doses</u> were administered (average of 48,670 per day).



The SPC chart shows that the number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital is increasing. For the last eight days new confirmed COVID cases in hospital has been above the mean of 12.1, with a high of 23 on the 15th July.

The number of people with COVID in hospital fluctuates by day (usually higher at weekends) but **overall is trending upwards slowly**.

96 in hospital at 8am today, up 32% on the same day last week.

Of the 96 people in hospital with confirmed COVID, 15 are in Letterkenny, 13 in Mayo Hospital, 7 in Connolly Hospital and 7 in Galway University Hospital.

9 hospitals currently have no patients with confirmed COVID.

The number with COVID-19 in critical care has been relatively stable over the past 3 weeks, although there are signs of a slow increase. Currently 22 in ICU (up from 20 on the same day last week) with 3 new admissions today.





Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care



1

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1101 1159 1182 1223

870 956 1024

1098 1183

983

828

708

626

613 679

7 dav

5 dav

moving

average

moving

average

5 and 7 day moving averages of new cases per day (last 14 days)

557 585

545 581

584 595

1,500

1,000

500

0

488 502

486

08-Jul 09-Jul 10-111 11-112 112-111 11

503

Number

The number of new cases fluctuates by day but overall is now trending upwards.

New cases this week are up 93% on the previous week.

Compared to last week, the 5 day average is up 95% and the 7 day average is up 93%.

Compared to 2 weeks ago, the **5 day average is up 160%** and the **7 day average is up 150%**.

Compared to last week the overall 14 day incidence rate is up 66%. The 14 day incidence rate is highest among 19-24 year olds (up 82% on last week). Compared to last week the rates for all age groups increased. The rate among 75-84 year olds increased by 110% and the rate among 85+ increased by 100% (from a low base).

Of 10,846 new cases with known most likely transmission source notified within the past 2 weeks, 6,406 (59.1%) were close contacts. 819 (7.6%) were travel related. 71 (0.7%) were acquired in healthcare settings (51 patients & 20 staff), and 3,550 (32.7%) were community transmission (no other identified source).

The SPC funnel plot shows that the rates of new cases in all counties are within the expected range of variation when compared to the national average, with the exception of Donegal & Louth which are above the upper control limit, and Cork which is below the lower control limit.

This is a signal that the current 14 day rates in Donegal & Louth are higher than expected relative to the national rate, and the rate in Cork is lower than expected relative to the national average.

Rate of new cases per 100,000 population by age group notified over the past 2 weeks



Most likely transmission source of new cases notified over the past 2 weeks



Note: Transmission source remains under investigation for 13% of cases. The percentages above are based on those with known transmission source. Transmission source should be interpreted with caution as data may not be updated based on additional investigations undertaken by Departments of Public Health.



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The latest 14 day incidence rate is 260.5 per 100,000 population, while the 7 day incidence rate is 171.9. The 7 day rate is more than half (66%) of the 14 day rate; this means that there were more new cases in the most recent 7 days than in the previous 7 days.

At county level, the 7 day rates for **all counties are greater** than half of the 14 day rates. This is a disimprovement on the same day last week when 17 counties had a 7 day rate greater than 50% of their 14 day rate.

Number of community referrals for COVID-19 testing







Community referrals for COVID testing have been increasing over the past 3 weeks. Referrals for the most recent 7 days were up 12% on the previous 7 days, with an average of 11,753 referrals per day over the past week.

Data from the WHO on COVID incidence rates within Europe shows that the 14 day incidence rate in Ireland has increased by 99% compared to 2 weeks ago and is now 9th highest out of the 31 countries (8th highest last week).

The 14 day incidence rates in <u>25 of the 31 countries have</u> <u>increased</u> compared to 2 weeks ago. Rates have decreased in 6 countries.

Compared to 2 weeks ago, 11 countries have had increases of over 100%, indicating that their rates have more than doubled in 2 weeks.

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Key trends & recent changes:

- In the 7 days up 21st July there were 8,282 new cases reported; up 93% on the previous week (4,294 new cases in the 7 days up to 14th July).
- **58.7% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among people ages 19-44 years**. 28.1% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among children aged 0-18 years. 10.3% of new cases were among people aged 45-64 years and 2.9% were among people aged 65 and over.
- The 14 day incidence rate is currently 260.5 per 100,000. This varies significantly by age group, and for 0-34 year olds is 417 per 100,000, compared to 144 per 100,000 among 35-64 year olds and 56 per 100,000 among people aged 65 and over.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is up 32% compared to last week** (96 at 8am on 21st July, 73 at 8am on 14th July). There are 251 beds available.
- Over the past 7 days there have been 122 new confirmed cases in hospital (an average of 17 per day), up 74% on the previous week (70 new cases in the 7 days up to 14th July).
- Of 18 new confirmed cases in hospital in the previous 24 hours (as of 2pm on 21st July), 8 were among fully vaccinated people. 7 of the 8 fully vaccinated new cases in hospital today were aged 50+, with 1 case among a fully vaccinated person aged 19-49 years.
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of confirmed COVID cases in ICU is up 10% compared to last week, although absolute numbers remain low (22 on 21st July, 20 on 14th July). There are 259 adult critical care beds occupied, with 26 adult critical care beds available.

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (ending 17th July), there were **3 new outbreaks in acute hospitals** reported, with 18 linked cases.
- There was 1 new outbreak in a nursing home (2 linked cases) and 1 new outbreak in community hospitals / longstay units (2 linked cases).
- There were no new outbreaks in residential institutions reported.
- There was 1 new outbreak among members of the Irish traveller community, with 7 linked cases.
- There were **10 new outbreaks associated with childcare facilities with 48 linked cases.**
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Conclusion:

We continue to see substantial progress in vaccinations, with over 1 million doses administered since the beginning of July. However new COVID cases reported are increasing at a rapid rate. While the numbers of patients in hospital and in ICU are also trending upwards, the increase is at a slower rate than the increase in cases.

New data available on the vaccination status of new confirmed cases in hospital shows that hospitalisations are occurring among fully vaccinated people, with 44% of new cases in hospital on 21st July occurring among fully vaccinated people (18 new cases in hospital, of whom 8 were fully vaccinated).

The situation across Europe is deteriorating, with rates increasing among 25 of the 31 countries compared to 2 weeks ago. Rates are increasing at faster rate in 11 countries compared to the rate of increase in Ireland.