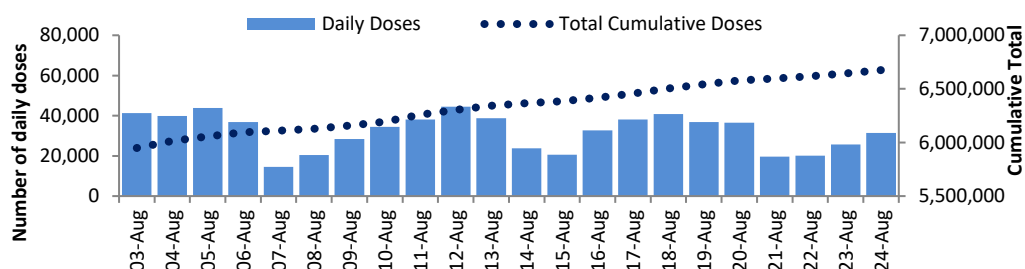


COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 25th August 2021

Introduction:

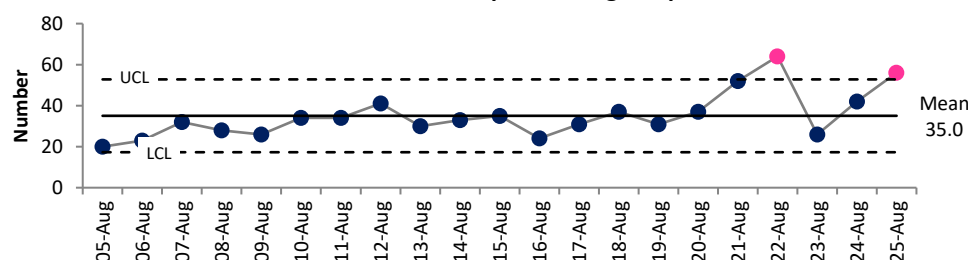
As restrictions continue to ease and numbers of cases rise we will continue to monitor the situation closely to predict future pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.

Daily & cumulative doses of COVID-19 vaccinations



Up to 24th August, **6,675,404 COVID vaccine doses have been administered (3,398,237 first doses, 3,046,199 second doses and 230,968 single doses)**. In the **7 days up to 24th August a total of 210,976 doses were administered** (average of 30,139 per day).

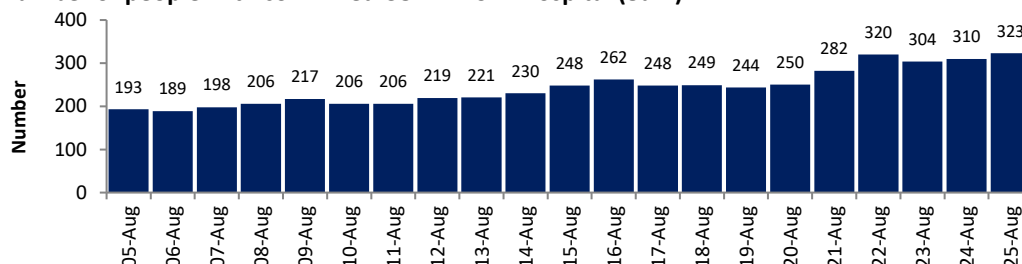
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital during the previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows that the number of new confirmed COVID cases admitted has shown signals of increase on 22nd & 25th of Aug, with higher admissions than expected.

56 today, with a **rolling 7 day increase of 33% (308 week to 25th Aug, 231 week to 18th Aug.)**

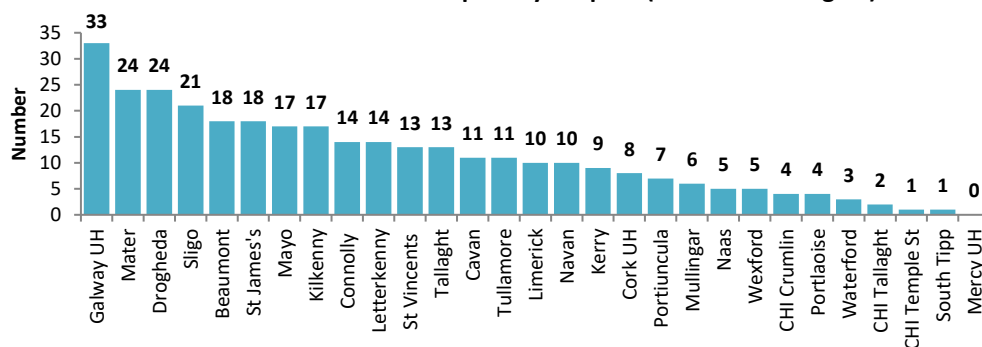
Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital (8am)



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

323 in hospital at 8am today, **up 30% on the same day last week**.

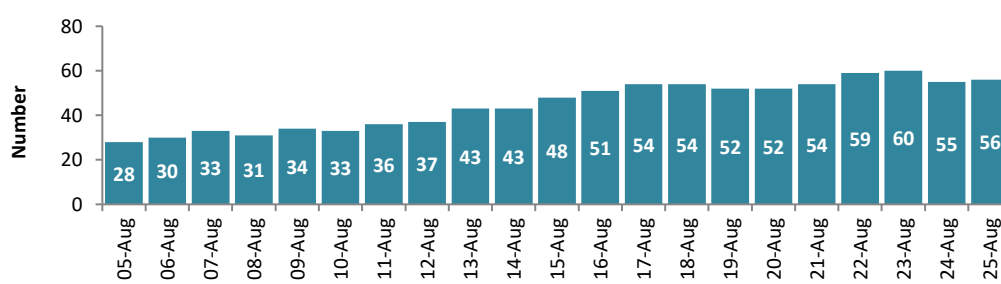
Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital by hospital (8am on 25th August)



Of the 323 people in hospital with confirmed COVID, 33 are in Galway University Hospital, 24 in each of the Mater and Drogheda, 21 in Sligo and 18 in each of Beaumont and St James's.

1 hospital (Mercy UH) currently has no patients with confirmed COVID (compared to 1 last week).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

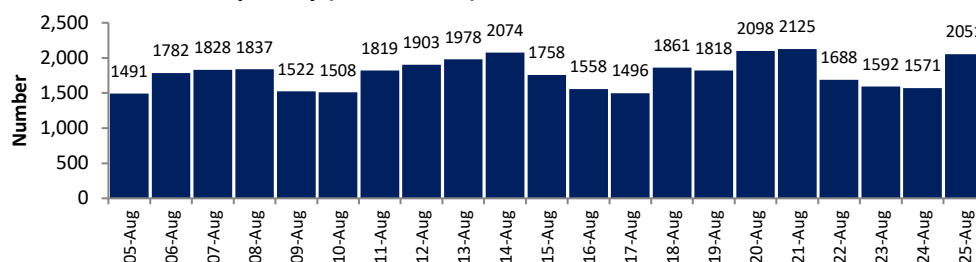


The number with COVID-19 in **critical care has been slowly increasing over the past 3 weeks**.

Currently 56 in ICU (up from 54 on the same day last week, a 4% increase).

5 new admissions today.

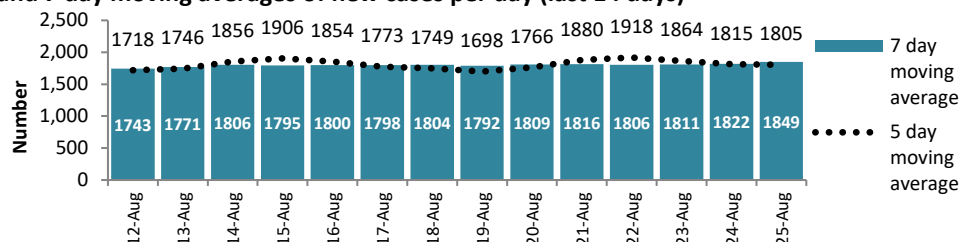
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks)



The number of new cases fluctuates by day but there has been an overall upward trend, which has slowed in the last week.

New cases this week are up 2% on the previous week (compared to a 7% increase last week).

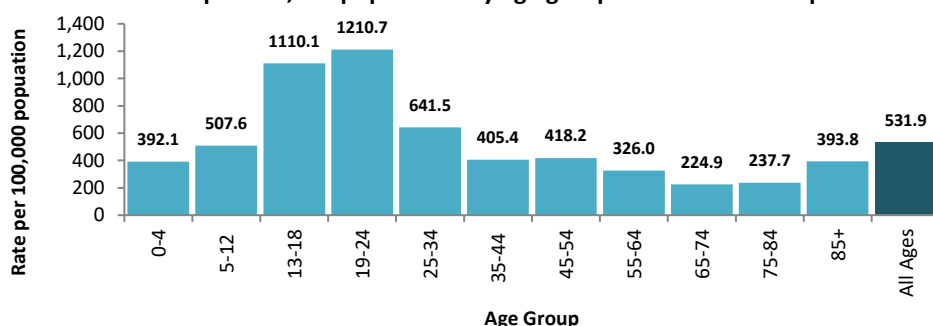
5 and 7 day moving averages of new cases per day (last 14 days)



Compared to last week, the **5 day average is up 3%**, (up 3% last week) and the **7 day average is up 2%** (Up 7% last week).

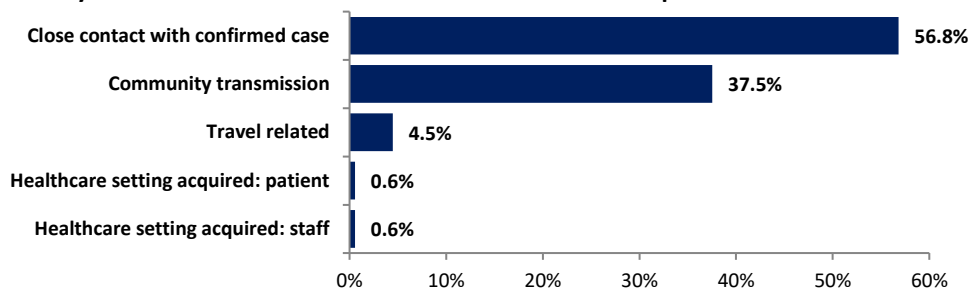
Compared to 2 weeks ago, the **5 day average is up 6%** and the **7 day average is up 10%**.

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



Compared to last week **the overall 14 day incidence rate is up 6%**. The 14 day incidence rate is **highest among 19-24 year olds (but down 14% on last week)**. The rate for 25-34 year olds decreased by 4% and the rates for all other age groups increased compared to last week. The rate among 85+ year olds increased by 56%.

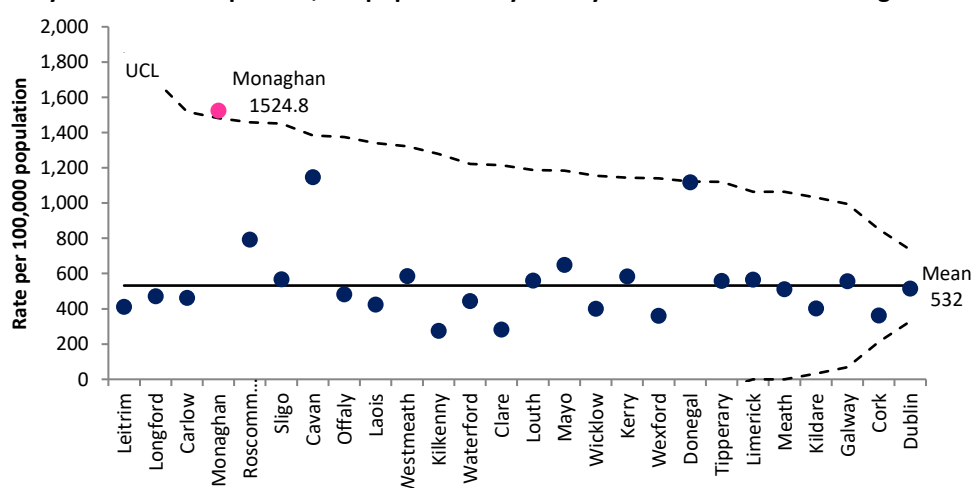
Most likely transmission source of new cases notified over the past 2 weeks



Note: Transmission source remains under investigation for 21.6% 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.

Of 19,885 new cases with known most likely transmission source notified within the past 2 weeks, 11,282 (56.8%) were close contacts. 890 (4.5%) were travel related. 228 (1.2%) were acquired in healthcare settings (113 patients & 115 staff), and 7,455 (37.5%) were community transmission (no other identified source).

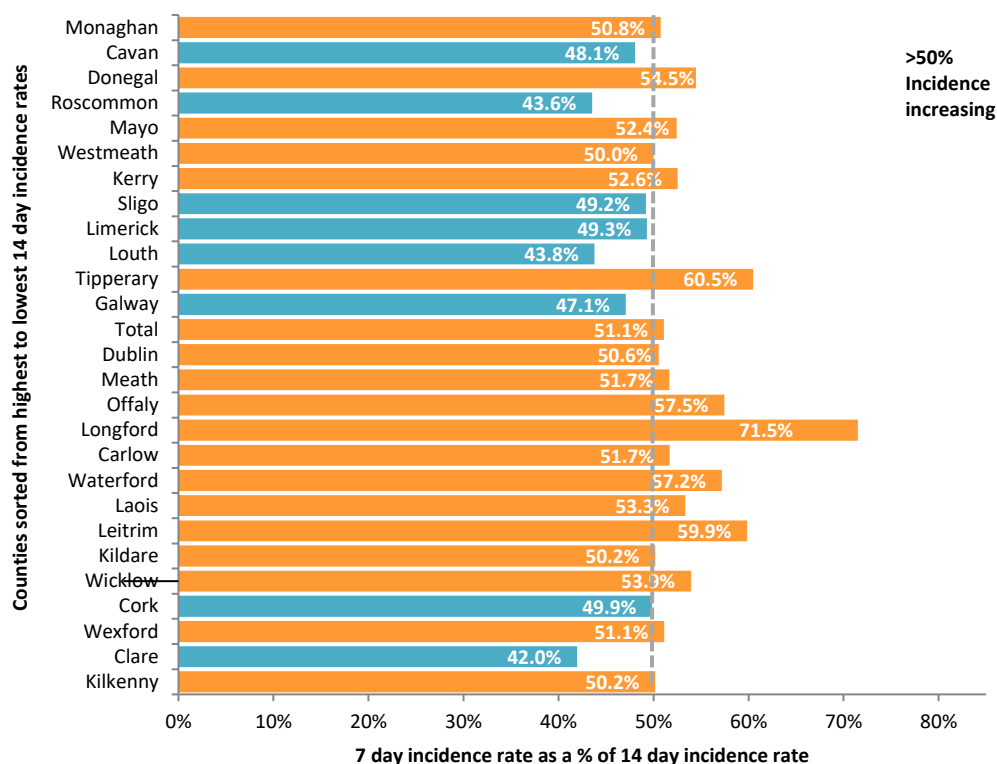
14-day incidence rate per 100,000 population by county notified from 11 – 24 August



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 Monaghan which is above the upper control limit**.

This is a signal that the current 14 day rate in Monaghan is higher than expected relative to the national rate. Donegal, while still experiencing a high incidence (1118.8) is no longer higher than expected relative to the national rate

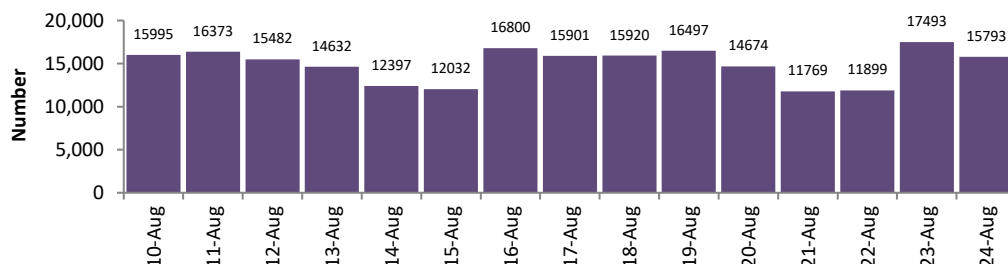
7 day incidence rate as a percentage of 14 day rate, 11 – 24 August



The latest 14 day incidence rate is 532 per 100,000 population, while the 7 day incidence rate is 272. **The 7 day rate is more than half (51.1%) 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**.

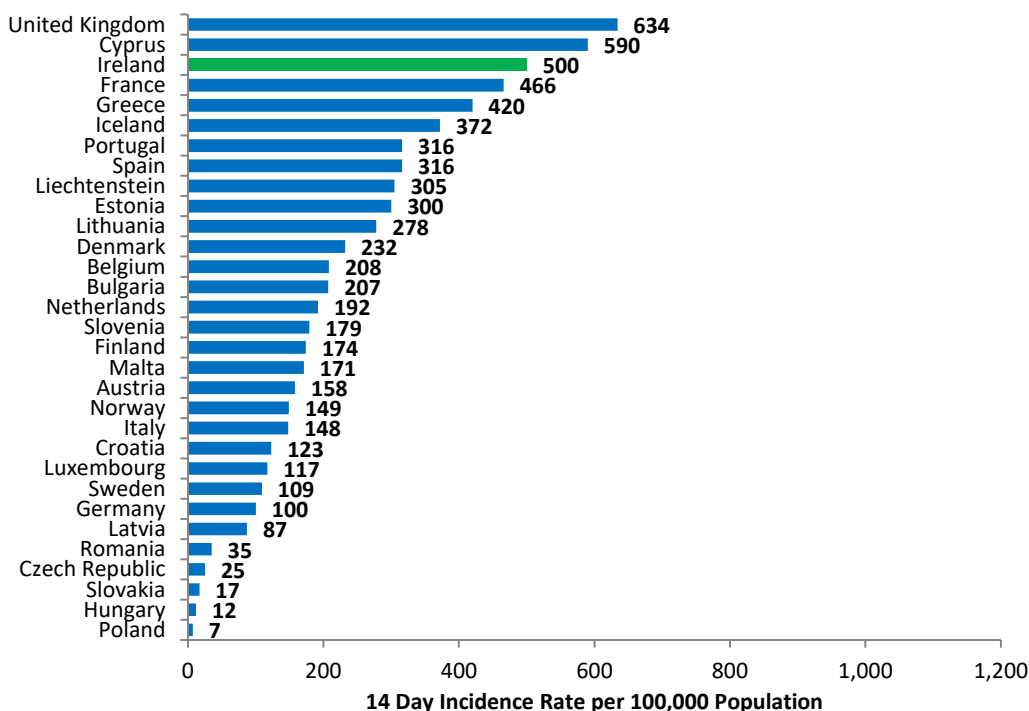
At county level, the 7 day rates for **18 counties are greater** than half of the 14 day rates. This is a disimprovement on the same day last week when 16 counties had a 7 day rate greater than 50% of their 14 day rate.

Number of community referrals for COVID-19 testing



Community referrals for COVID testing had been slowing increasing, however that increase stabilised in the last two weeks. Referrals for the most recent 7 days were down 0.4% on the previous 7 days, with an average of 14,864 referrals per day over the past week.

14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 24th August)



Data from the WHO on COVID incidence rates within Europe shows that **the 14 day incidence rate in Ireland has increased by 27% compared to 2 weeks ago and is 3rd highest out of the 31 countries (4th highest last week)**.

The 14 day incidence rates in **24 of the 31 countries have increased** compared to 2 weeks ago. Rates have decreased in 7 countries.

Compared to 2 weeks ago, 6 countries have had increases of over 100%, indicating that their rates have more than doubled in 2 weeks.

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 25th August** there were 12,943 new cases reported; **up 2% on the previous week** (12,628 new cases in the 7 days up to 18th August).
- **44.5% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among people ages 19-44 years.** 32.4% of new cases over the past 2 weeks were among children aged 0-18 years. 16.9% of new cases were among people aged 45-64 years and 6.2% were among people aged 65 and over.
- The 14 day incidence rate is currently 532 per 100,000. This varies significantly by age group, and for 0-34 year olds is 734 per 100,000, compared to 388 per 100,000 among 35-64 year olds and 246 per 100,000 among people aged 65 and over. For 85+ only the 14 day incidence rate is 394.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is up 30% compared to last week** (323 at 8a on 25th August, 249 at 8am on 18th August).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **308 new confirmed cases in hospital** (an average of 44 per day), **up 33% on the previous week** (231 new cases in the 7 days up to 18th August).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is up 4% compared to last** (56 COVID-19 patients in ICU 25th August, 54 August 18th).

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (ending 21st August), there were **5 new outbreaks in acute hospitals** reported, with **15** linked cases.
- There were **11 new outbreaks in nursing homes with 56 linked cases.**
- There were 2 new outbreaks in community hospitals / long-stay with 15 linked cases.
- There were six new outbreaks in residential institutions with 15 linked cases reported.
- There were 9 **new outbreaks among members of the Irish traveller community**, with 47 linked cases.
- There were **14 new outbreaks associated with childcare facilities with 47 linked cases.**
- **There were 16 new outbreaks in workplaces with 48 linked cases. These include 2 in the meat/poultry processing sector, 2 in other food production and processing, 5 in the construction sector, and 7 in 'other' workplaces**
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Conclusion:

Case numbers are rising but slower than in previous weeks. An overall **2% increase** over the last 7 days, compared to a 7% increase over 7 days this day last week. The SPC chart (see next page) for cases indicates that we have entered a plateau of cases around an average of 1758 a day.

Incidence in the over 85s is increasing. Currently the 14 day incidence is 394 which is an increase of 56% among 85+ compared to the previous 14 days. Incidence among the over 85s exceeds that of those in the 55-64, 65-74 and 75-84 cohorts. This is likely driven by **recent nursing home outbreaks** (11 outbreaks in the week to 21st August with 56 linked cases).

Numbers of COVID-19 patients in critical care are increasing. A 4% increase compared to this day last week. The SPC chart for daily admissions to ICU (see next page) indicates that ICU admissions are stable around a higher mean of 4.7 daily admissions. There were 56 COVID-19 patients in ICU as of 8am 25th August. There are 37 critical care beds available at 10.30am.

The number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital is increasing. There was a 30% increase in total confirmed cases admitted in the seven days to 25th August compared to the previous week.

The vaccination programme continues strongly with **close to 6.7 million total doses** administered.