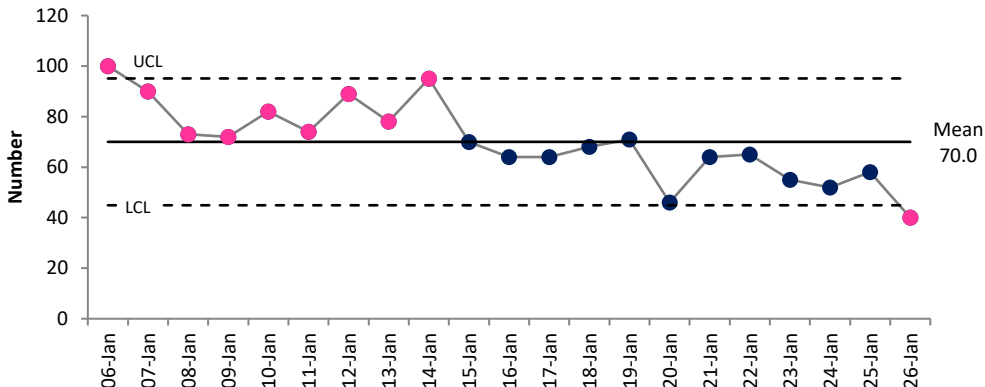


COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 26th January 2022

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 an average of 70 admissions per day of COVID positive patients since 6th January, with signals of a reduction since 15th Jan compared to 6th-14th Jan.

40 admissions today (below the expected level). A total of 380 admissions over the past 7 days (average of 54 per day), **down 25% on the previous week.**

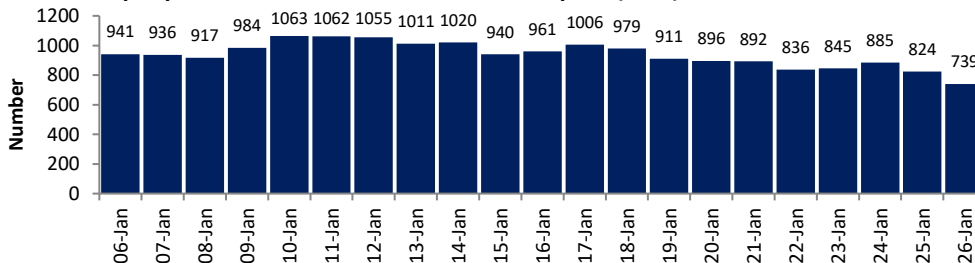
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows signals of improvement in the number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission).

78 new cases in hospital today (below the expected level). A total of 698 new cases over the past 7 days (average of 99.7 per day), **down 19% on the previous week.**

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

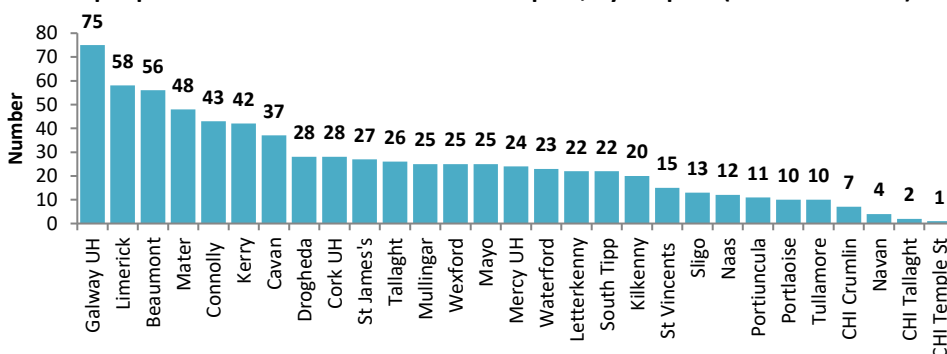


The number of people with COVID in hospital is trending downwards.

739 in hospital at 8am today.

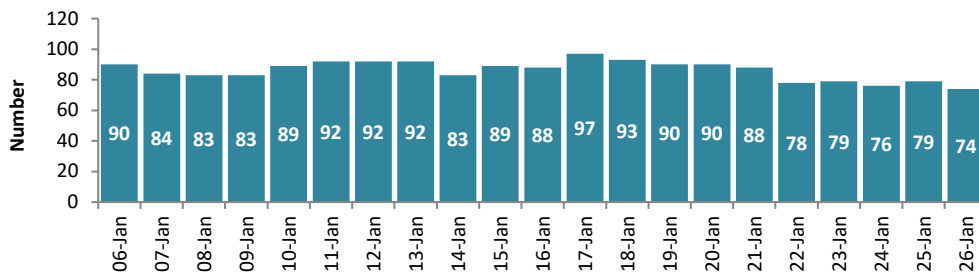
Down 19% on the same day last week and down 30% on the same day two weeks ago.

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 26th Jan)



Of the 739 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **Galway UH has the highest number (75 people)**, followed by UH Limerick (58), Beaumont (56), Mater (48), and Connolly (43).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

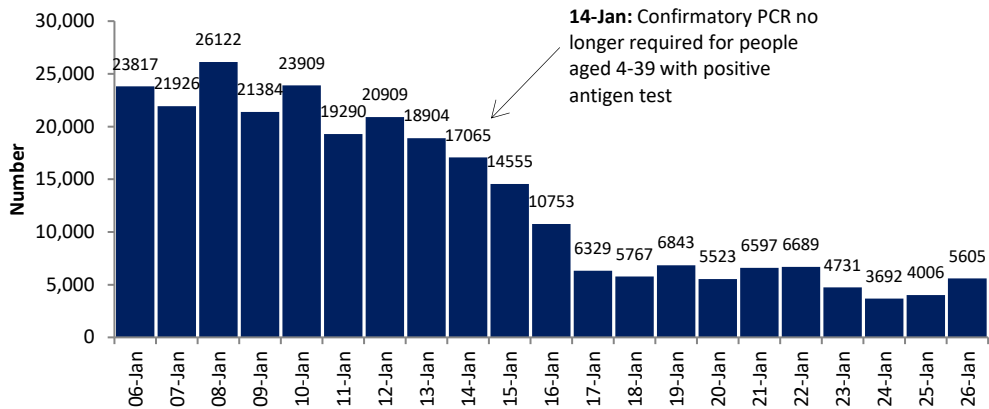


The number with COVID-19 in critical care now appears to be trending downwards.

Down 18% on this day last week and **down 20%** on two weeks ago.

Currently **74** in ICU (down **16** on the same day last week). **4** new admissions today.

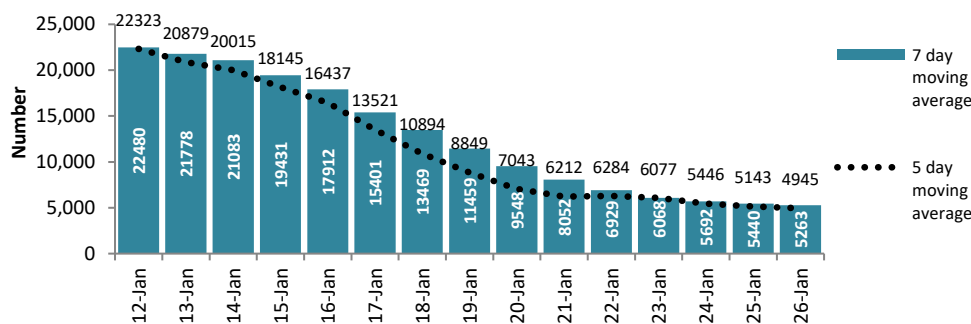
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 26th Jan), based on PCRs only



The number of new cases (based on positive PCR results uploaded to the COVID Care Tracker) has decreased considerably over the past 2 weeks. The **number of new PCR positive cases in the 7 days to 26th Jan is down 54% on the previous week.**

It is important to note the **change in testing policy from 14th January** with confirmatory PCR tests no longer required for people aged 4-39 years with positive antigen tests.

5 and 7 day moving averages of new cases per day (14 days to 26th January), PCRs only

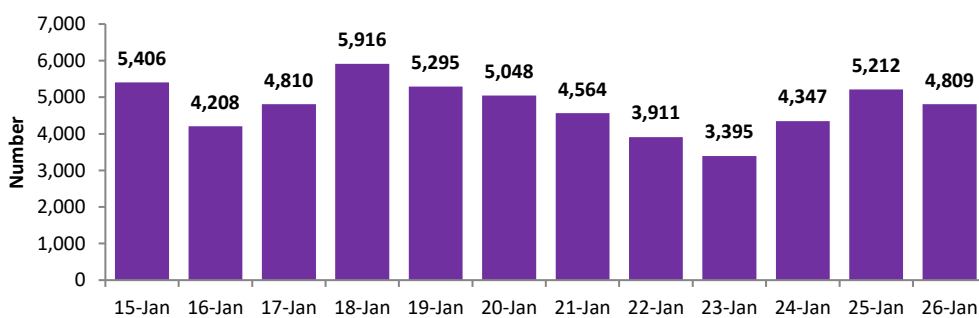


Compared to last week the **5 day moving average is down 44%** and the **7 day moving average is down 54%.**

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the **5 day average is down 78%** and the **7 day average is down 77%.**

Note change in testing policy from 14th January.

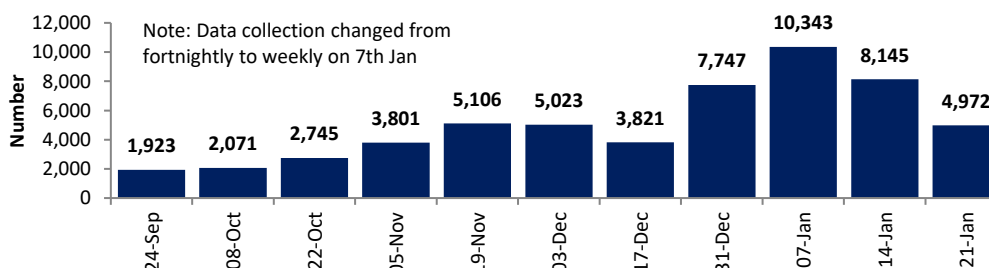
Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 31,286 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (**average of 4,469 per day**).

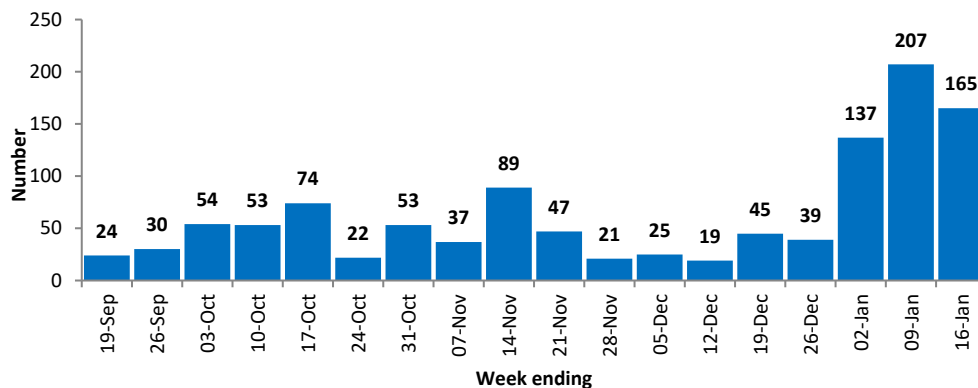
Note that the portal opened on 14th January. The figures reported refer to the number of people who registered a positive test on the portal during the previous day (i.e. data for 15-Jan refers to positive results reported on 14-Jan).

Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19



The number of staff absent due to a diagnosis of COVID or self-isolation remains high but has decreased for the past 2 weeks. **For the week ending 21st January 4,972 staff were absent (down 39% on the previous week).** This is an overall COVID health service absenteeism rate of **3.3%.**

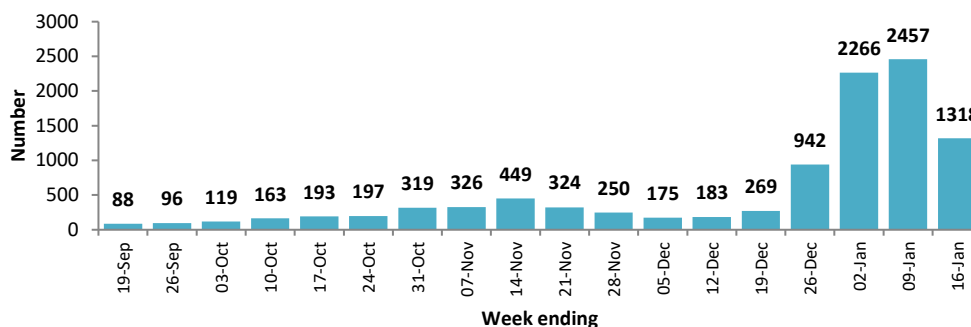
Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high relative to recent months although has decreased by 20% compared to last week.

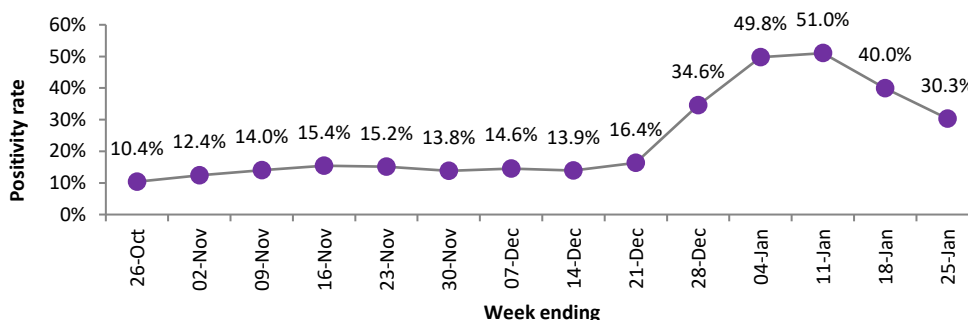
The number of hospital acquired cases during this wave has remained lower than the peak of 495 hospital acquired cases during the week ending 17th Jan last year.

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



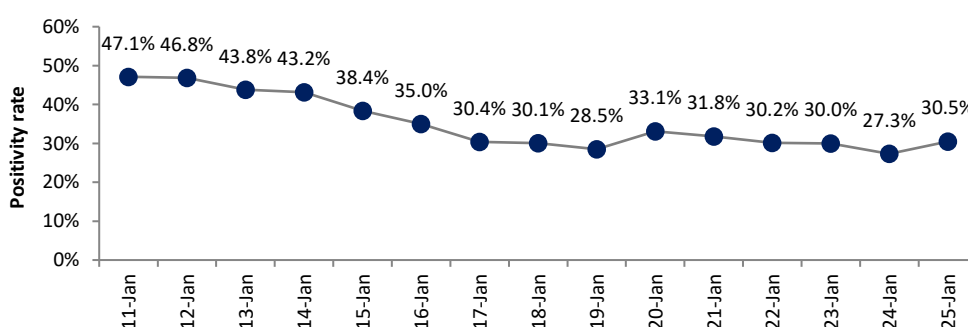
The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff increased significantly over the past 4 weeks, although the number for the most recent week (1,318) is down 46% on the previous week. The numbers reported in the past 3 weeks are higher than the previous peak (1,022 new cases for the week ending 17th Jan 2021).

Positivity rate for COVID-19 PCR tests by week



The positivity rate remains very high but has decreased to 30.3% this week compared to 40% last week, after increasing sharply to 51% for the week ending 11th January. The positivity rate may be impacted by presentations post positive antigen test.

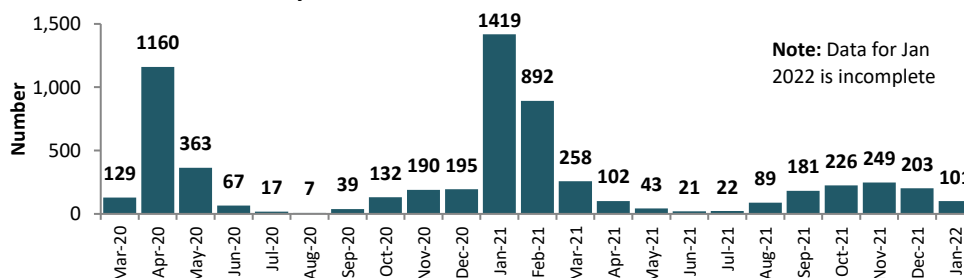
Positivity rate for COVID-19 PCR tests by day



The daily positivity rate appears to have stabilised after previously trending downwards since early January.

The positivity rate on 25th January was 30.5% (5,392 positives from 17,681 PCR tests).

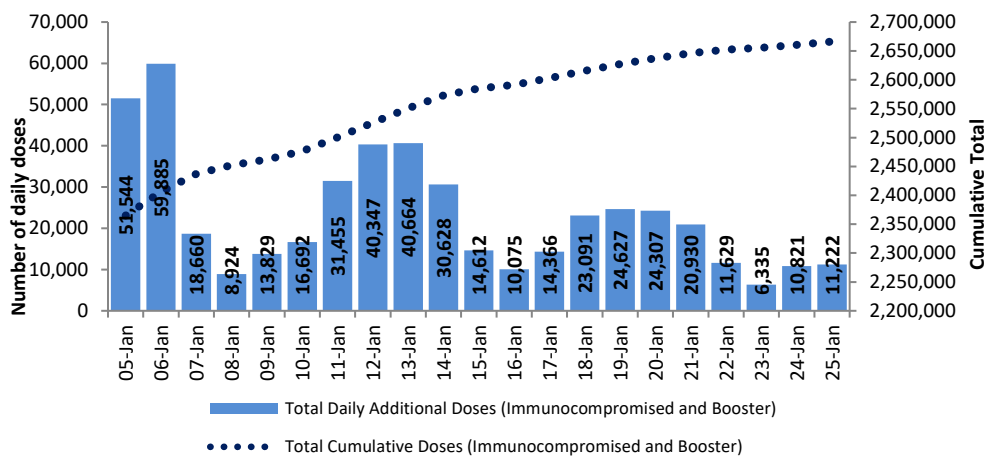
COVID-19 related deaths by month of death



The deaths of 6,136 people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19 have been reported to date (up to 25th January).

The deaths of 101 people during the month of January 2022 have been reported to date.

Daily doses of COVID-19 Additional vaccinations, 5th - 25th January



Up to 25th January **2,666,201 additional dose vaccinations** have been administered, 110,809 (4.2%) of which were administered to the immunocompromised.

In the latest week (19th – 25th Jan) 75,430 total doses were administered (including first, second & additional doses).

To date, **56,665 children aged 5-9 years and 36,409 children aged 10-11 years have received their 1st dose.**

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 26th January** there were **36,843 new cases reported** (based on positive PCR results uploaded to the COVID Care Tracker); **down 54% on the previous week** (80,216 new cases in the 7 days up to 19th January). Compared to the previous week, the **5 day moving average is down 44% and compared to two weeks ago, down 78%.**
- In addition, over the past 7 days 31,286 people reported a positive antigen test to the HSE portal (average of 4,469 per day).
- 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.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is down 19% compared to last week** (911 at 8am on 19th January, 739 at 8am on 26th January).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **380 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 54 per day), **down 25% on the previous week** (510 new admissions in the 7 days up to 19th January).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is down 18% compared to last week** (90 on 19th January, 74 on 26th January).
- **In addition to patients in ICU, on 24th January 174 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (66 patients with COVID and 108 non-COVID patients),** down from 189 on the same day last week.

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (ending 22nd January), there were 13 new outbreaks in acute hospitals reported (33 last week).
- There were 51 new outbreaks in nursing homes (57 last week).
- There were 3 new outbreaks in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (4 last week).
- There were 2 outbreaks in other healthcare services (12 last week).
- There were 45 new outbreaks in residential institutions (69 last week).
- There were 18 new outbreaks reported in schools (3 last week).
- There were 4 new outbreaks associated with childcare facilities (none last week).
- There were 2 new outbreaks in a workplace (1 last week).
- There were 28 outbreaks in vulnerable populations (28 also last week); 17 associated with the Irish Traveller community, 3 related to direct provision centres, 3 associated with persons with addictions, 1 outbreak associated with the Roma community, 3 associated with the homeless and 1 outbreak associated with prisons.
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Patients waiting for admission (TrolleyGAR data):

- On **26th January** at 8am there were 375 patients in ED waiting for admission, **187 of whom were waiting more than 9 hours for admission**. On the **same day last year** there were 109 patients waiting for admission, with **46 waiting more than 9 hours**. These figures show an **increase of 244% in trolley waiters** compared to the same day last year.
- Of the 187 patients waiting for more than 9 hours at 8am this morning, 30 were in Galway UH, 17 in UH Limerick, 17 in Mercy UH, 16 in UH Kerry, 14 in Sligo UH.
- Of these 187 patients, **68 were waiting for more than 24 hours** including 17 in Galway UH, 9 in UH Kerry, 8 in Mercy UH, 7 in Sligo UH and 6 in UH Limerick.

Conclusion:

We continue to see positive trends in the data, including decreasing trends in the number of people with COVID in hospital and in ICU, reduced admissions and a decrease in staff absenteeism. Although the number of admissions of COVID positive patients is decreasing, there are signs that the hospital system remains under pressure with a significant increase in people waiting in ED for admission compared to the same day last year.