COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 29th December 2021

Introduction:

As certain restrictions are introduced and the Omicron Variant of Concern spreads, we will continue to monitor the situation closely to predict future pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.



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















The number of people with COVID in hospital decreased during the week before Christmas but is now increasing.

Up 32% on the same day last week and up 28% on the same day two weeks ago.

568 in hospital at 8am today

Of the 568 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **Beaumont has the highest number (48 people),** followed by Tallaght (41), Drogheda (40), Limerick (40), the Mater (38) and Letterkenny (35).

The number with COVID-19 in critical care is stable with a slight decrease on recent weeks but up slightly since 25-Dec.

Down 7% on this day last week and down 11% on two weeks ago.

Currently 93 in ICU (down 7 on the same day last week). 5 new admissions today.

The number of cases fluctuates by day but has increased considerably over the past week.

The number of new cases in the 7 days to 29th Dec is up 105% on the previous week.

Compared to last week the 5 day average is up 95% and the 7 day average is up 105%.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the **5 day average is up 162%** and the **7 day average is up 153%**.

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10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December) 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 28th December)



14 Day Incidence Rate per 100,000 Population

Over the past 7 days (up to 28th Dec) there have been 78,184 positive COVID-19 tests reported by laboratories, **more than double the number reported in the previous 7 days** (38,740 in the 7 days up to 21st Dec).

16,959 positive tests reported yesterday, 28th December.

The positivity rate has increased sharply (more than doubled) in the most recent week, up from 16.4% for the week ending 21-Dec to 34.9% for the week ending 28th December. **This is the highest weekly positivity rate we have experienced**. This may be influenced by people getting PCR tests after prior positive antigen testing.

While the current weekly positivity rate from 22^{nd} to 28^{th} December is 34.9%, the positivity rate has increased considerably from the beginning of the week (24.1% on 22^{nd} Dec) to over 40% for the past 3 days.

Data from the WHO on COVID incidence rates within Europe shows that the 14 day incidence rate is the 2nd highest out of the 31 countries (7th highest last week).

The 14 day incidence rates in 16 of the 31 countries have increased compared to 2 weeks ago, including Ireland (up 48%).

Rates have decreased in 15 countries.

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Key trends & recent changes:

- In the 7 days up to 29th December there were 74,931 new cases reported; up 105% on the previous week (36,611 new cases in the 7 days up to 22nd December). Compared to the previous week, the 5 day average is up 95% and compared to two weeks ago, up 162%).
- A new graph is included: Number of positive COVID-19 tests reported by laboratories, last 14 days.
 A case of COVID is notified once the person with a positive test result is contacted by national Contact Tracing or a Department of Public Health. There can be a time delay between the person receiving an SMS with their positive test result and them being interviewed. This explains the majority of the difference between number of positive tests and number of new cases per day. Other reasons explaining this difference include some positive test results are repeat tests rather than new infections. It should be noted that while there may be a delay in contacting a case for interview, that there is no significant delay in cases receiving the SMS advising of a COVID 19 detected result.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is up 32% compared to last week** (568 at 8am on 29th December, 431 at 8am on 22nd December).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **282 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 40 per day), **up 14% on the previous week** (247 new admissions in the 7 days up to 22nd December).
- Over this same period there has been an average of 60 patients a day with newly diagnosed COVID in hospital. This difference may represent 'incidental COVID', i.e. a patient is admitted with some other illness but happens to have COVID, or may represent hospital acquired COVID. In the last 2 days the number of people in hospital with newly diagnosed COVID was 100 and 107, compared with 50 and 60 respectively admitted with COVID.
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU has** decreased by 7% compared to last week (93 on 29th December, 100 on 22nd December).

Vaccination status of cases admitted to hospital and ICU

- Data for the month of November 2021 shows that unvaccinated people were 4 times more likely to be hospitalised with COVID than fully vaccinated people.
- Unvaccinated people were 11 times more likely to be admitted to ICU with COVID than fully vaccinated people during November.

Positivity rate:

- The positivity rate has increased to an extremely high level, and is now considerably higher than during the peaks of the previous waves.
- Over the past 7 days (up to 28th December), 223,874 tests were completed, of which 34.9% were positive (78,184 positive tests). Of tests carried out in the community (i.e. excluding tests in acute hospitals), 42.1% were positive. The positivity rate for tests carried out in acute hospitals over the past 7 days was 9.3%.
- Of the 37,503 tests completed yesterday (28th December), 16,959 (45.2%) were positive. Of tests carried out in the community (i.e. excluding hospital tests), 53.6% were positive. The positivity rate for tests carried out in acute hospitals was 12.6%.

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (ending 26th of December), there were 21 new outbreaks in acute hospitals reported (8 last week).
- There were 8 new outbreaks in nursing homes (7 last week).
- There was 1 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities (1 last week).
- There were 13 outbreaks in other healthcare services (7 last week).
- There were 19 new outbreaks in residential institutions (21 last week).
- There were 12 new outbreaks reported in schools (22 last week).
- There was 1 new outbreak associated with childcare facilities (2 last week).
- There were 4 new outbreaks in workplaces (4 last week).
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Conclusion:

Clearly we are at a stage of significant increase in infections with the widespread transmission of the Omicron variant. The vaccination programme continues to deliver through GPs, pharmacies and mass vaccination clinics and this is providing significant protection. While hospital admissions have increased, ICU numbers are currently stable. We will need to keep a very close eye on this data over the coming days.