

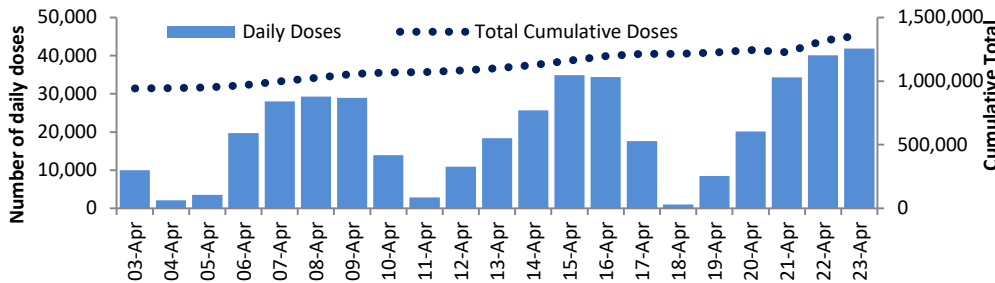
# COVID-19 Data Summary 26/04/2021

Based on data as of Sunday evening 25/04/2021

## Introduction:

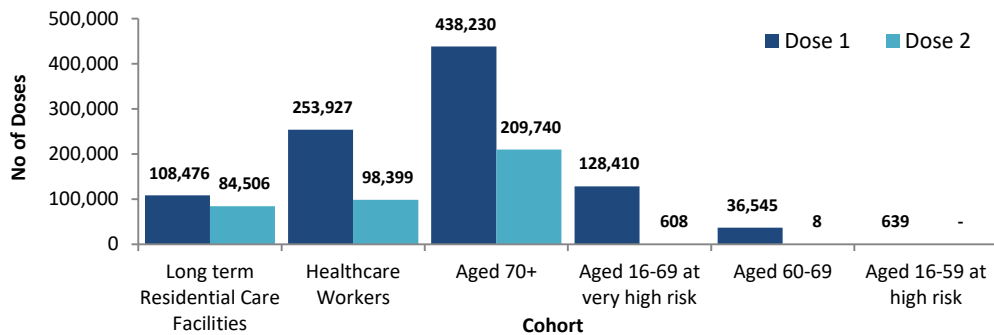
As restrictions start to ease we will continue to monitor the situation closely to predict future pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.

### Daily & cumulative doses of COVID-19 vaccinations



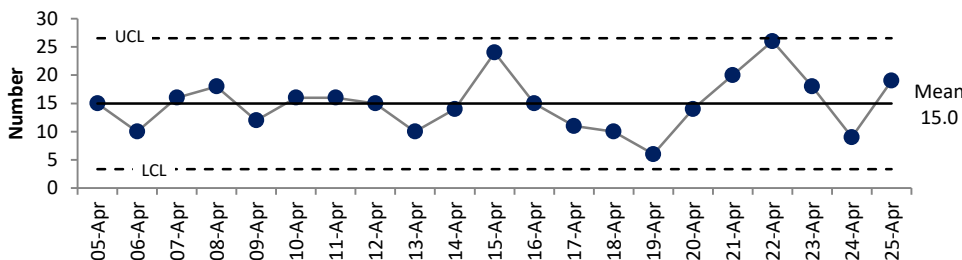
Up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April, **1,359,921 COVID vaccine doses have been administered (966,611 first doses & 393,310 second doses)**. In the 7 days up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April a total of **163,528 doses were administered (average of 23,361 per day), up 15.9% on the previous 7 days.**

### Vaccinations by Cohort



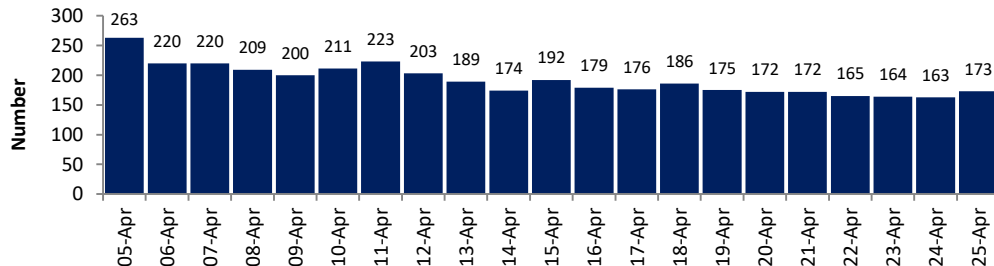
Of the 1,359,921 vaccine doses administered to date: 14% were administered to people in Long-term Residential Care Facilities; 26% were frontline HCWs; **48% were people aged over 70**, 9.5% were people aged 16-69 at very high risk; and 2.7% were people aged 60-69.

### Number of hospital admissions during the previous 24 hours of COVID positive patients



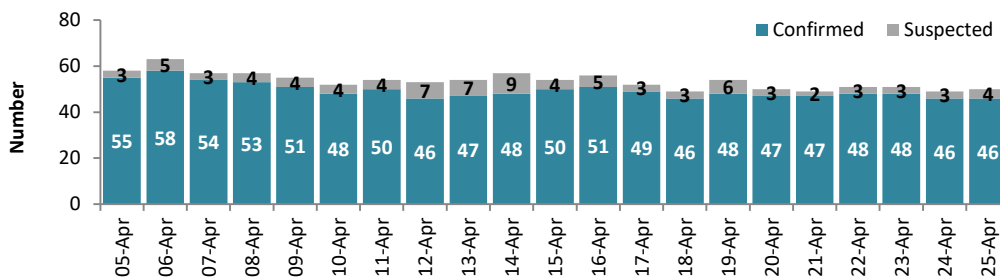
The SPC chart shows that the number of admissions has been stable since 5<sup>th</sup> April. Admissions this week are **up 13% compared to last week. 19 new admissions today, with 8 discharges.**

### Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital (8pm each day)



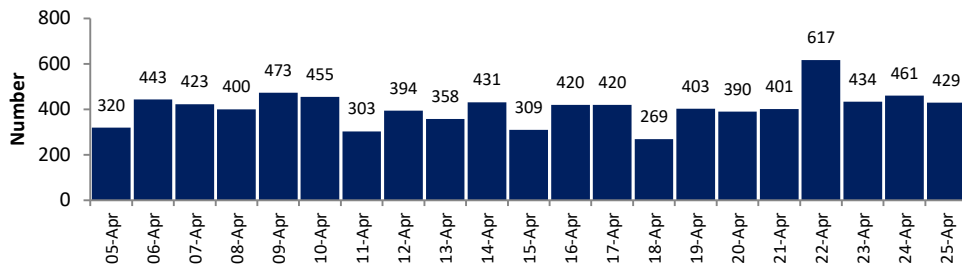
The number of people with COVID in hospital fluctuates by day (usually higher at weekends) but overall is trending downwards. 173 in hospital at 8pm today, **down 7% on the same day last week**, and down 91% on the 8pm peak of 1982 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care (as of 18:30 each day)



The number with COVID-19 in critical care fluctuates by day but appears to be stable, but it **has not decreased in the last week**. Currently 46 confirmed (same as last week) with **1 new admission today**. There are **47 adult public critical care beds available & 245 occupied.**

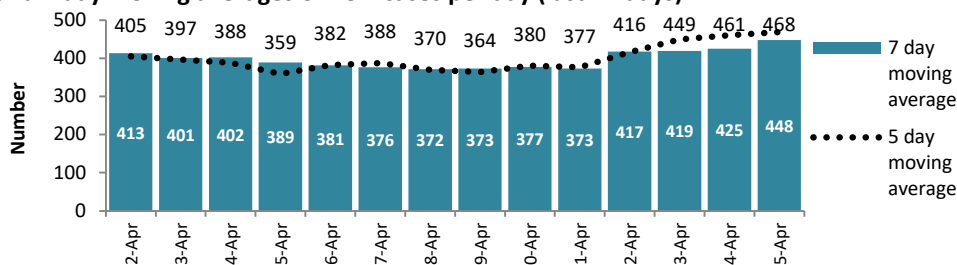
### Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks)



The number of new cases fluctuates by day but the slow downward trend of recent weeks appears to have stalled.

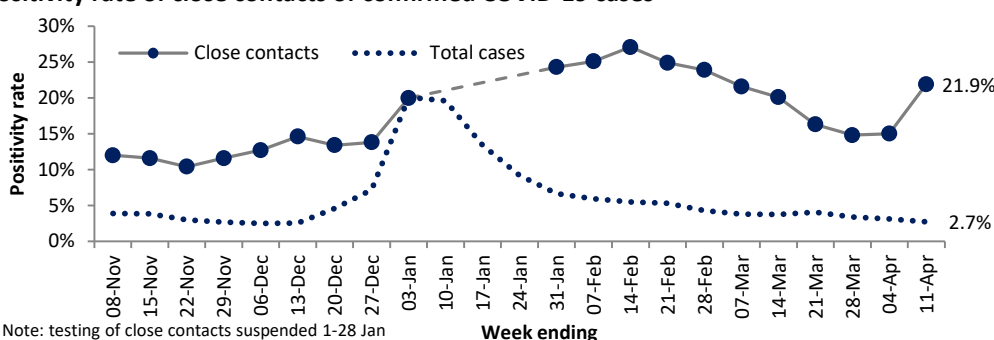
New cases this week are **up 21% on the previous week.**

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



Compared to last week, the **5 day average is up 27%** and the **7 day average is up 21%.**

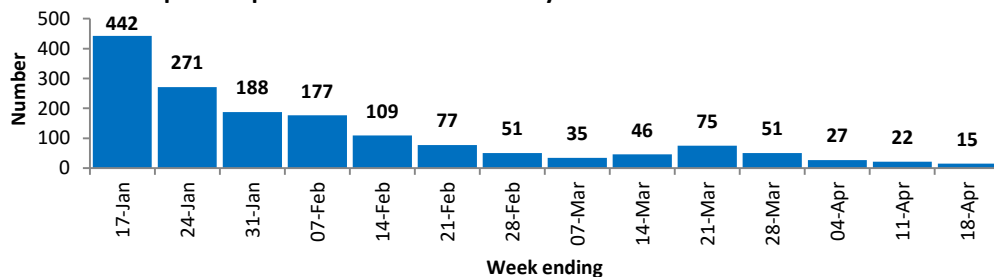
### Positivity rate of close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases



The positivity rate for close contacts (based on Test 1) for the week ending 11<sup>th</sup> April was **21.9%, up from 15.0% for the previous week.** The overall positivity rate was 2.7% for the week ending 11<sup>th</sup> April.

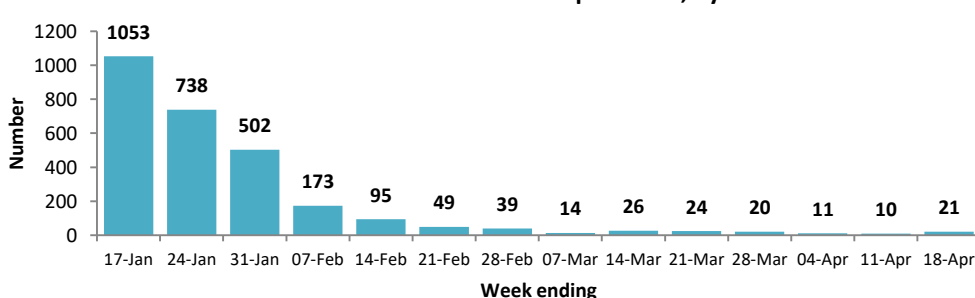
The positivity rate for close contacts had been trending downwards since a peak of 27.1% in mid February.

### Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



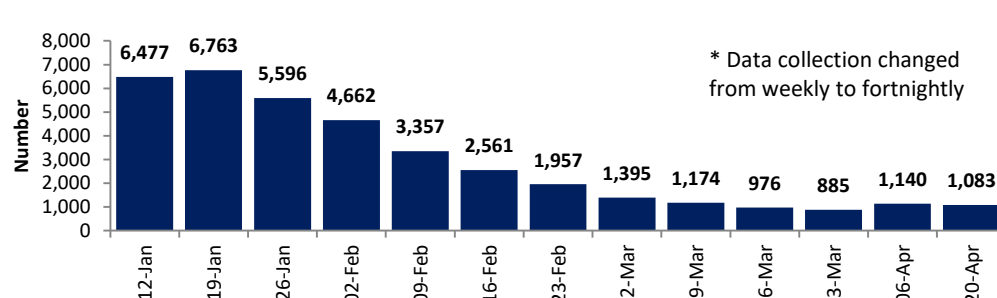
There were **15 hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 in the past week, down 32% on the previous week** and down 97% on the peak (week ending 17<sup>th</sup> Jan). Of the 15: Tallaght 4, Naas 4, St James's 3, Letterkenny 3, Beaumont 1.

### 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 has decreased significantly in recent weeks. There were 21 new cases last week, up from 10 for the previous week but **down 98% on the week ending 17<sup>th</sup> January.**

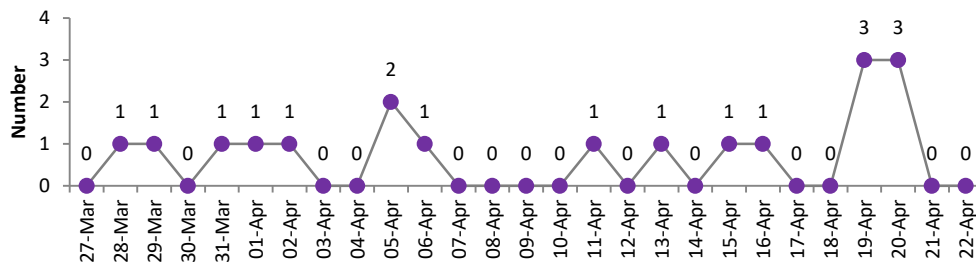
### Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19



The number of health service staff absent due to a diagnosis of COVID or self-isolation for the **fortnight** from 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April was **1,083, down 5% on the previous fortnight.** This is an overall COVID health service absenteeism rate of **0.7%.**

**Note:** the last two figures refer to the total absent over a 2 week period; previous figures were weekly numbers.

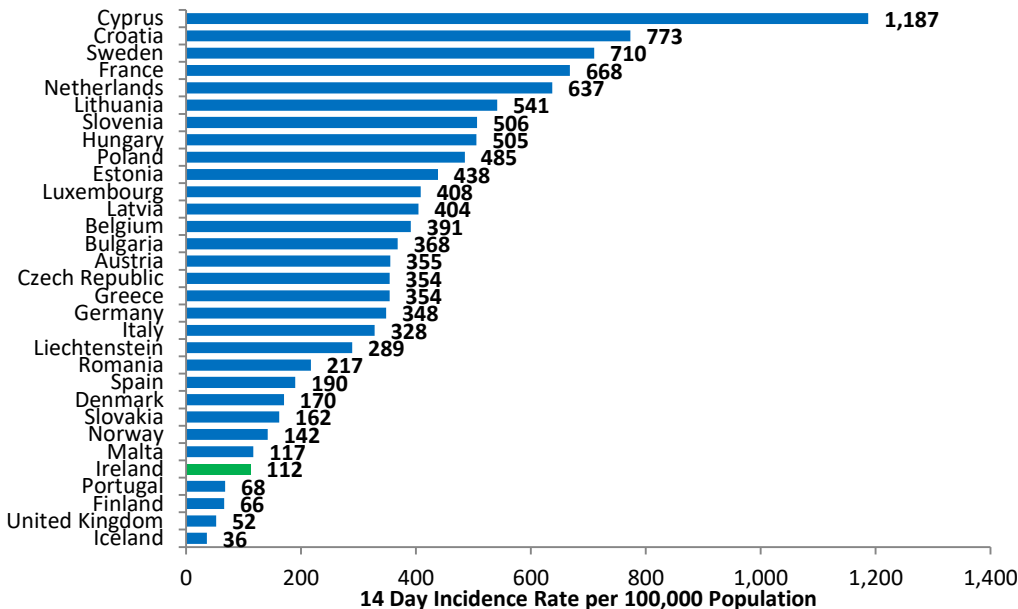
### Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in Long Term Residential Facilities (LTRFs)



The number of outbreaks in LTRFs notified varies significantly by day, but overall appears to be relatively stable.

**7 outbreaks in the past 7 days, 3 during the previous week.**

### 14-day COVID-19 rates per 100,000 population EU/EEA & UK (WHO Data, 25<sup>th</sup> April)



Data from the WHO on COVID incidence rates within Europe shows that the **14 day incidence rate in Ireland remains the 5th lowest out of the 31 countries.**

The 14 day incidence rates in 22 of the 31 countries have decreased compared to 2 weeks ago. **Rates have increased in 9 countries. 57% increase in Cyprus and 45% decrease in Estonia.**

### Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 25<sup>th</sup> April** there were 3,135 new cases notified; **up 21% on the previous week** (2,601 new cases in the 7 days up to 18<sup>th</sup> April).
- Over the past week (up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April) 115,510 COVID-19 tests were carried out, of which 3,217 were positive. This is a positivity rate of 2.8%, up slightly from 2.7% last week.

### Hospital activity:

- The number currently **in hospital is down 7% in one week** (186 at 8pm on 18<sup>th</sup> April; 173 at 8pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April). **We have 436 vacant hospital beds.**
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of confirmed COVID cases **in ICU is the same as last week** (46 on 18<sup>th</sup> April; 46 on 25<sup>th</sup> April). **Of the 46 patients with COVID in ICU, 28 are ventilated.**
- Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID account for 20% of occupied adult ICU beds (20% on the same day last week also), down from a peak of 70% on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- Over the **past week** there were **112 new admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital (an average of 16 per day), up 13% on the previous week** (99 new admissions during the previous 7 days).

### Update from Contact Management Programme (CMP) on close contacts of confirmed cases:

- The Test 1 positivity rate among **close contacts for the most recent week** (based on close contacts created from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April) was **21.9%**, up from 15.0% for the previous week. This has **decreased from a peak of 27.1% during the week ending 14<sup>th</sup> February, but remains higher than average positivity rates (based on Test 1) for close contacts per month of less than 12% up to November 2020.** This suggests higher current transmissibility of circulating strains.
- The Test 1 positivity rate among household contacts in the most recent week was 31.6%, up from 26.9% for the previous week. Positivity rates were lower among social contacts (13.4%), workplace contacts (13.4%), and childcare facilities (8.8%).
- The **average number of close contacts per confirmed case** (including cases with no close contacts) in the most recent week (up to 18<sup>th</sup> April) was **2.3 per case** (same as the previous week).

#### Update on walk-in testing (25<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April):

- Between 25<sup>th</sup> March & 24<sup>th</sup> April there were **42,952 walk-ins** for testing with **1,374 positive cases** detected; this is a **positivity rate of 3.4%**.
- Of the centres open as of 24<sup>th</sup> April positivity rates were **highest** in the walk-in test centres in Dublin **Coolock** (8.0%) and **Mulhuddart** (5.7%) and Dublin 8 (4.2%).
- 38% of walk-ins were aged under 35. **Positivity rates are highest among 15-24 yrs (5.0%)** and are lowest among people aged 65+ (1.5%).

#### Update on serial testing:

- **Cycle 10 of serial testing in nursing homes** is currently underway, and to date there have been **57 positive cases detected from 58,525 tests**. This is a **positivity rate of 0.1%**, i.e. **one positive case detected per 1,027 tests**. Since serial testing in nursing homes commenced a total of 4,631 positive cases have been detected from 735,484 tests; this is a positivity rate of 0.63%.
- **Cycle 8 of serial testing in food production plants** is currently underway, and to date there have been **55 positive cases detected from 17,180 tests**. This is a **positivity rate of 0.32%**, i.e. one positive case detected per 312 tests. Since serial testing in food production plants commenced a total of 1,320 positive cases have been detected from 175,108 tests; this is a positivity rate of 0.75%.
- A total of **2,435 tests have been carried out to date as part of quarantine testing**, of which there have been **54 positive cases detected**. This is a positivity rate of 2.22%.

#### Variants of concern:

- Cases of **three variants of concern** have been identified in Ireland to date; **B.1.1.7 (UK)**, **B.1.351 (South African)** and **P.1 (Brazilian)**. **Five variants of interest** have been identified in Ireland; **P.2 (Brazil)**, **B.1.525 (Nigeria)**, **B.1.526 (New York)**, **A.27 (France)** and **B.1.429 (California)**. In addition, **3 cases of B.1.617 (Indian)** and **36 cases of B.1.318 (UK)** have also been identified.
- Transmission of the **B.1.1.7 (UK) variant** is now widespread in Ireland. **94% of cases** sequenced since the week ending 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were found to be infected with the B.1.1.7 variant.
- Up to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 55 cases had been confirmed of the **South African variant**. Of these 55 cases the most likely mode of transmission was: travel related 19, close contact with a confirmed case 23, community transmission 9, and healthcare setting acquired (staff) 3. One case remains under investigation. A further 16 cases have been identified in the most recent week, bringing the total to **71 cases**.
- Up to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 21 outbreaks have been reported that have more than one associated case of the South African variant, accounting for 39 of the confirmed 55 cases. 7 of the outbreaks are in Waterford, with a smaller number of outbreaks in Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, Cork, Mayo, Galway, Sligo & Roscommon.
- Up to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 24 cases had been confirmed of the **Brazilian (P.1) variant**. Of these 24 cases the most likely mode of transmission was: travel related 14, close contact with a confirmed case 10. A further 3 cases have been identified in the most recent week, bringing the total to **27 cases**.
- Up to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 8 outbreaks have been reported that have more than one associated case of the Brazilian variant, accounting for 17 of the confirmed 24 cases. 5 of the outbreaks were related to travel from Brazil, 1 outbreak was in a meat processing plant (travel link), and the remaining 2 were outbreaks in private houses linked to the meat plant outbreak.

#### Conclusion:

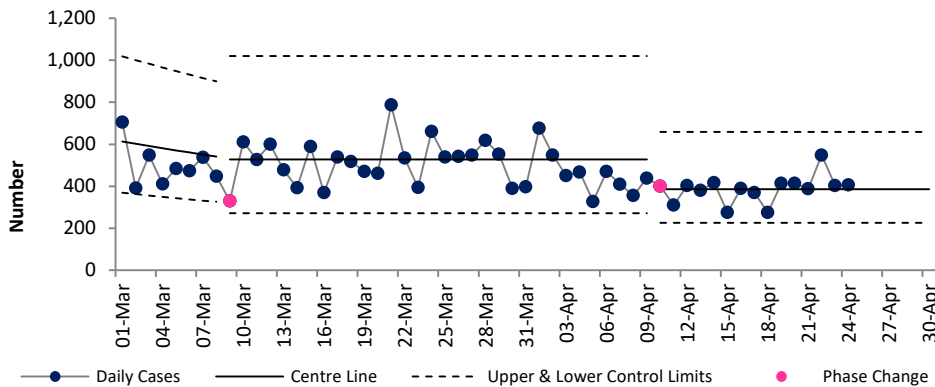
There are on-going signs of improvement in some of our key measures, including low numbers of hospital acquired COVID, low numbers of COVID cases among hospital staff and very low numbers of cases in nursing homes detected through serial testing. However the **downward trend in numbers of new cases appears to have stalled, and numbers in hospital and ICU, and admissions of COVID positive patients are not decreasing at the same rate that they were in recent weeks.**

[See weekly report on COVID-19 Statistical Process Control Charts on page 5.](#)

# Weekly Report on COVID-19 Statistical Process Control Charts

25 April 2021

Daily COVID-19 Reported Cases

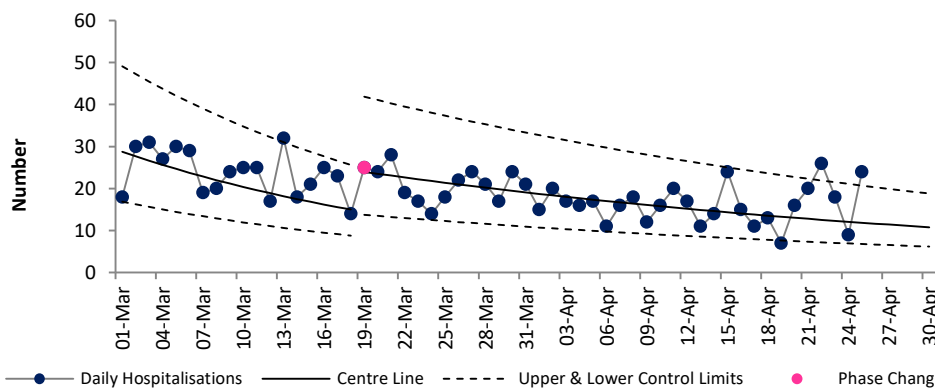


**Epoch 3: Plateau or descent in daily reported cases**

The number of cases trended downwards between 10<sup>th</sup> January & 8<sup>th</sup> March, but at a slower rate from 3<sup>rd</sup> February onwards. The number of cases then stabilised from 9<sup>th</sup> March onwards at an average of 529 per day.

However on 10<sup>th</sup> April there was a **signal of improvement**, and since then the number of cases remains stable but at a lower level. Based on the current data we can continue to expect to see an average of 386 new cases per day. **There is no signal of disimprovement yet.**

Daily new hospital admissions of COVID-19 positive patients

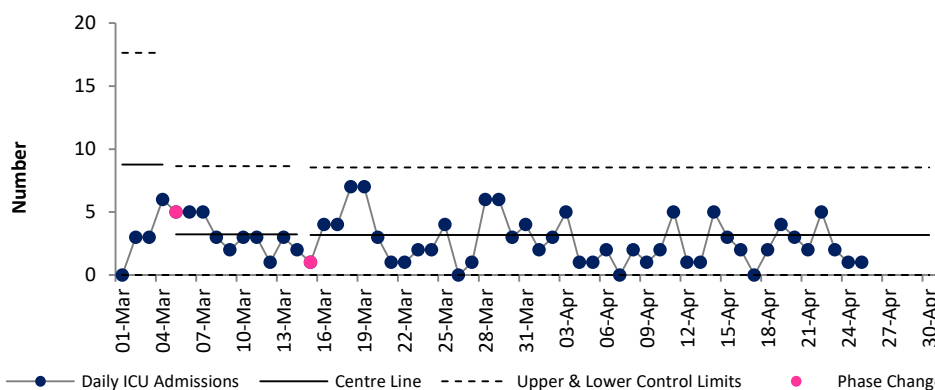


**Epoch 3: Plateau or descent in daily reported hospital admissions**

The number of new hospitalisations per day of COVID positive patients has been trending downwards since 12<sup>th</sup> January. Since 19<sup>th</sup> March the number continues to trend downwards but at a slower rate.

Based on the current data we can expect to continue to see a slowly decreasing trend over the next 2 weeks, from a current average of 12 new admissions per day to less than 11 admissions per day by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Daily admissions to ICU of COVID-19 positive patients

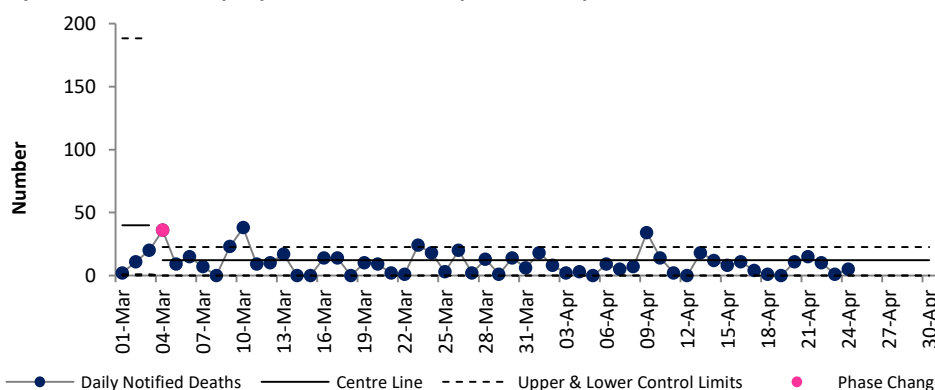


**Epoch 4: Stability after descent in daily reported ICU admissions**

There was a signal of a reduction in the average number of ICU admissions of COVID positive patients per day from 8.8 since 28<sup>th</sup> Jan to 3.24 since 5<sup>th</sup> March. There was a further slight decrease in the average to 3.19 ICU admissions per day from 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The number is stable since then and based on the current data we can expect to continue to see an average of 3.19 admissions per day.

Daily notified deaths of people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19



**Epoch 3: Plateau or descent in daily reported deaths**

Between 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> March there was an average of 40 deaths notified per day. There was a signal of a reduction (a series of 8 days below average), and since 4<sup>th</sup> March the average has been 12 deaths per day. The number of deaths notified per day is now stable, and while it remains stable we can expect to continue to see an average of 12 deaths notified per day.

For more information on the methodology used above and the team behind the development of this SPC approach see <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/covid-19-qi-learning/resources-developed-to-support-the-national-covid19-response/understanding-variation-in-key-covid-19-indicators-in-ireland-using-statistical-process-control-shewhart-charts.pdf>