

Epidemiology of COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Ireland

Weekly Report

Prepared by HPSC on 15th March 2022

Week 10 2022 (week ending 12th March 2022)

Note: Data are provisional

This report includes data extracted from CIDR on 15th March 2022 at 8:30am and includes COVID-19 outbreaks notified on CIDR up to midnight 12/03/2022.

Total number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 10 2020:	22,807
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified from Week 26 2021:	5,435
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 OPEN:	1,520
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified since Week 26 2021 CLOSED:	3,915
Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Week 10 2022:	183

Waves (weeks)	Dates
Wave 1 (Weeks 10 – 31 2020)	01/03/2020 – 01/08/2020
Wave 2 (Week 32 – 47 2020)	02/08/2020 – 21/11/2020
Wave 3 (Week 48 2020 – Week 25 2021)	22/11/2020 – 26/06/2021
Wave 4 (Week 26 – 50 2021)	27/06/2021 – 18/12/2021
Wave 5 (Week 51 2021 onwards)	19/12/2021 onwards

Regional Departments of Public Health are currently prioritising the investigation and reporting of outbreaks in settings that benefit most from public health and clinical intervention. These settings include acute hospitals, nursing homes, community hospital/long-stay units, residential institutions, other healthcare settings, vulnerable populations, special educational needs schools/classes and childcare facilities. For this reason, outbreaks in other settings may be underestimated. This report focuses on these key settings/groups.

In addition, due to the surge in case numbers in recent months, the processing time of case notifications on CIDR has increased. Outbreak cases may not yet be processed and linked to their outbreak on CIDR. Due to these delays, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used in outbreak settings (report pages 8-18).

Due to the cyber-attack on the HSE IT systems on 14/05/2021, CIDR was unavailable for the reporting of COVID-19 outbreaks from 14/05/2021 to the 28/06/2021. As a result, there has been a delay in reporting for many outbreaks on CIDR. To account for this, outbreak week for all outbreaks created between May 14th and

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October 9th is based on the following algorithm: earliest of 1. outbreak recognition date; 2. first reported date; 3. outbreak created date. Outbreak week is based on outbreak created date for all outbreaks created on or before May 13th 2021, and on or after October 10th 2021.

Please note COVID-19 outbreaks and cases are continuously validated/updated on Ireland's National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR).

The COVID-19 outbreak definition is available in appendix 2 of this report and on the HPSC website at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/covid-19outbreakcasedefinitionforireland/>

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.

22,807 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in Ireland since Week 10, 2020 (Figure 1).

Summary (Week 26 2021 to Week 10 2022)

5,435 COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported from Week 26 2021 onwards (week beginning 27/06/2021; fourth wave of COVID-19 infection in Ireland) and key outbreak locations are as follows:

- 426 (7.8%) were reported in hospitals
- 566 (10.4%) were reported in nursing homes
- 82 (1.5%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units
- 740 (13.6%) were reported in residential institutions
- 225 (4.1%) were reported in 'other' healthcare services
- 599 (11.0%) were reported in schools[#]
- 254 (4.7%) were reported in childcare facilities
- 2,543 (47%) were reported in a range of other settings

3,915 outbreaks have been closed and 1,520 outbreaks are open (See Appendix 1, Table A for breakdown of outbreaks by location and outbreak status. Note that it is common practice not to close private house outbreaks on CIDR due to the large volume of outbreaks in this category).

#In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/2021 academic year) were retrospectively notified.

Wave 5 (Week 51 2021 – Week 10 2022)

1,486 of the 5,435 COVID-19 outbreaks reported from Week 26 2021 occurred since the beginning of wave 5 (week beginning 19/12/2021). Of these, 234 (18%) were reported in hospitals, 401 (30.8%) were reported in nursing homes, 45 (3.5%) were reported in community hospital/long-stay units and 429 (32.9%) were reported in residential institutions.

Summary (Week 10, 2022)

In **Week 10 2022**, there were **183** COVID-19 outbreaks notified:

- The overall number of outbreaks notified in Week 10 2022 increased by 55 compared to Week 9 2021
- In healthcare settings there were:
 - 30 acute hospital outbreaks notified
 - 45 nursing home outbreaks notified
 - six community hospital/long-stay unit outbreak notified
 - 55 residential institution outbreaks notified
 - 17 outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- The remaining 30 outbreaks were reported in a number of other settings: schools (n=15); childcare facilities (n=1); private houses (n=7; Irish Traveller Community (n=7)); extended family (n=3; Irish Traveller Community (n=3)); university/college (n=1); retail outlet (n=1); social gathering (n=1) and workplace (n=1)

Note: Data are provisional

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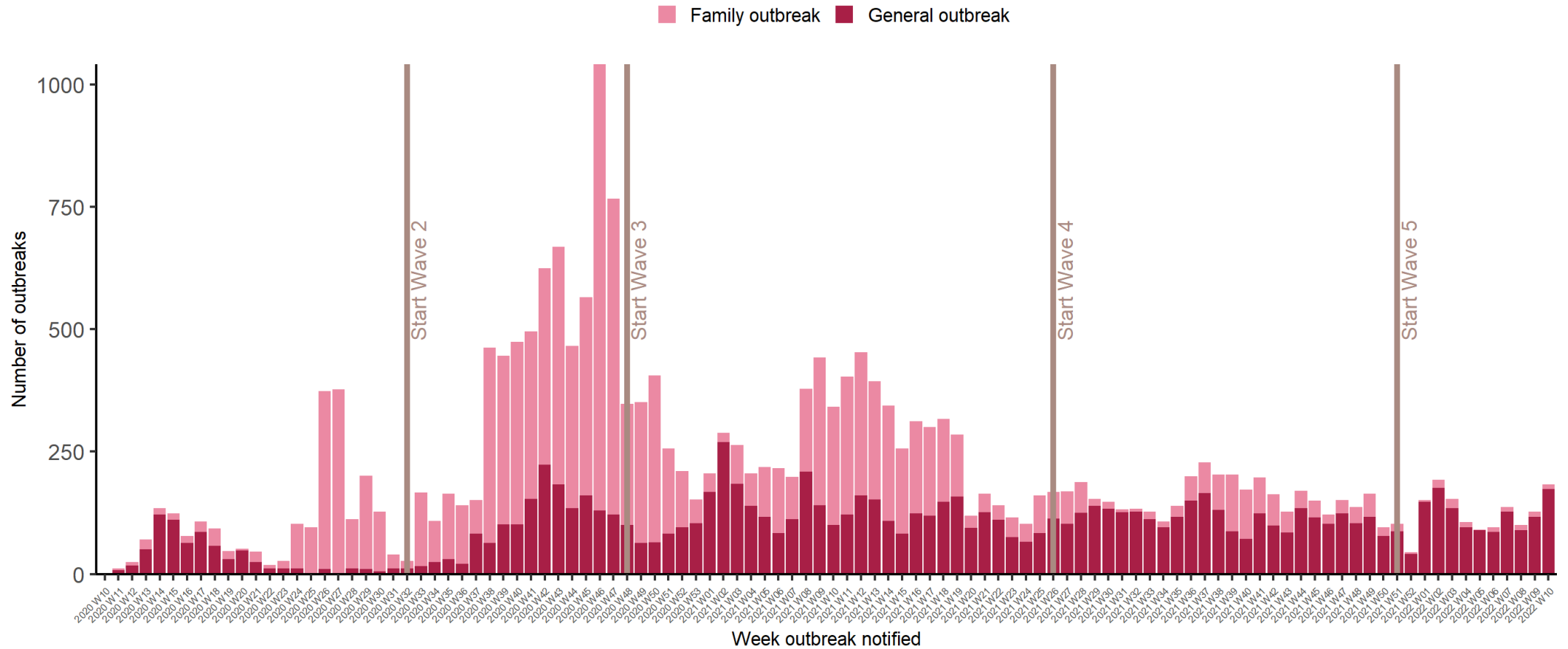


Figure 1: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in all settings notified in Ireland by week of notification and outbreak type (see technical note 5, Appendix 2) to midnight on 12/03/2022, N=22,807. Data source: CIDR

Vertical lines indicate the timeline of epidemic waves of COVID-19 infection in Ireland. Second wave of infection commenced in Week 32 2020 (week beginning 02/08/2020); the third wave commenced in Week 48 2020 (week beginning 22/11/2020); the fourth wave commenced Week 26 2021 (week beginning 27/06/2021); the fifth wave commenced Week 51 2021 (week beginning 19/12/2021)).

Table 1: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and by week of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022, and difference in number of outbreaks notified in Week 10 2022 compared to the previous week, N=5,435. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Week of Outbreak Notification									Difference in number of outbreaks notified since last week	Total Wave 4 and 5 (Week 26 2021 - Week 10 2022)
	Week 26 2021 to week 2 2022	2022									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Hospital	272	13	17	17	14	22	13	28	30	+2	426
Nursing home	291	46	29	25	21	41	31	37	45	+8	566
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	52	5	0	4	3	3	4	5	6	+1	82
Residential institution	466	47	22	20	28	38	30	34	55	+21	740
Other healthcare services	156	2	5	14	5	8	7	11	17	+6	225
School total*#	518	18	17	7	9	13	2	0	15	+15	599
Special educational needs	92	17	17	6	8	10	1	0	15	+15	166
Other school type	426	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	433
Childcare Facility	246	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	+1	254
Other locations	2440	20	15	3	15	11	12	13	14	+1	2543
Total	4441	154	106	91	95	137	100	128	183	+55	5435

*These outbreaks are outbreaks associated with school children +/- school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks. #In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified. Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present. \$Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR.

Note: Data are provisional

Table 2A: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022 N=5,435. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	HPSC#	Total
Hospital	166	19	37	49	55	25	33	42	0	426
Nursing home	183	35	62	53	30	55	77	71	0	566
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	15	2	6	2	15	12	22	8	0	82
Residential institution	233	33	101	117	53	79	81	43	0	740
Other healthcare service	28	3	55	30	14	27	34	34	0	225
School total***§	161	59	129	66	73	24	47	40	0	599
Special educational needs	60	13	35	14	10	8	21	5	0	166
Other school type	101	46	94	52	63	16	26	35	0	433
Childcare facility	83	22	30	46	20	11	13	29	0	254
Other locations	342	251	360	252	654	149	308	226	1	2543
Total	1211	424	780	615	914	382	615	493	1	5435

Table 2B: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks by outbreak location and HSE-Area notified in Ireland during Week 10 2022 (week ending 12/03/2022), N=183. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	East	Midlands	MidWest	NorthEast	NorthWest	SouthEast	South	West	Total
Hospital	9	0	3	1	5	2	4	6	30
Nursing home	11	2	7	5	1	7	6	6	45
Community Hospital / Long-stay unit	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	6
Residential institution	20	1	6	7	3	12	5	1	55
Other healthcare service	2	1	4	3	0	5	1	1	17
School total*§	0	0	4	2	2	5	2	0	15
Special education	0	0	4	2	2	5	2	0	15
Other school type	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Childcare facility	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other locations	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	10	14
Total	42	5	26	18	13	32	22	25	183

*These outbreaks are associated with school children +/- or school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks. #Outbreak involves three or more public health regions. ##In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified. Outbreaks in settings in grey may be underestimated due to public health focus on key settings at present. §Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR.

Note: Data are provisional

COVID-19 Outbreaks/Clusters in Residential Facilities and Hospital settings in Ireland

A summary of COVID-19 outbreaks linked to nursing homes, acute hospitals, community hospital/long-stay units, and other residential institutions is shown in Figure 2 and in the subsequent “Focus” sections, Tables 3-5 and Figures 3-5.

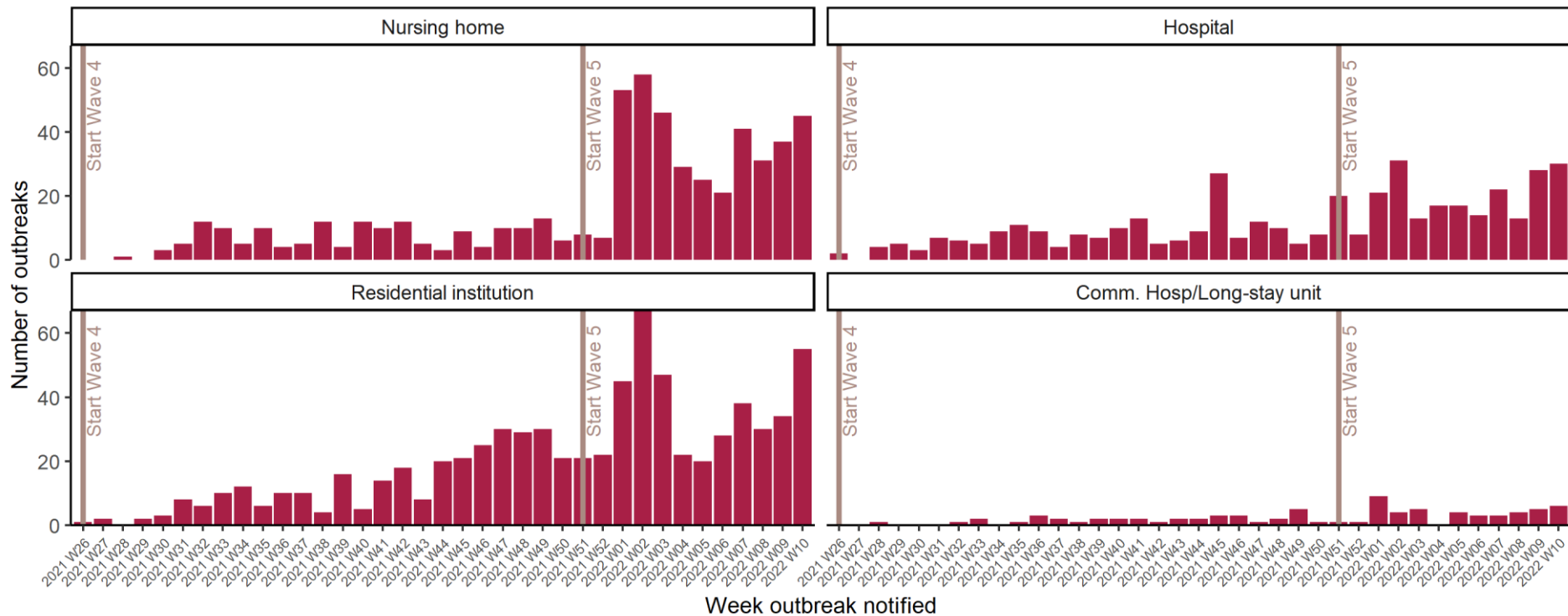


Figure 2: Epi-curve of COVID-19 outbreaks in: Acute Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Community Hospitals/Long-stay units and Residential institutions notified in Ireland by week of notification, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

There have been **1,296** COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long stay units, with **27,254** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

From 27/06/2021 to 12/03/2022, **648** outbreaks in nursing homes or community hospital/long-stay units have been notified and **326** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 3).

There were 45 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in nursing homes and six reported in community hospitals during Week 10 2022.

Table 3: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Nursing home	45	0-24	566	295	0-129
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	6	2-9	82	31	0-65
Total	51	0-24	648	326	0-129

[#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2). [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used.

Note: Data are provisional

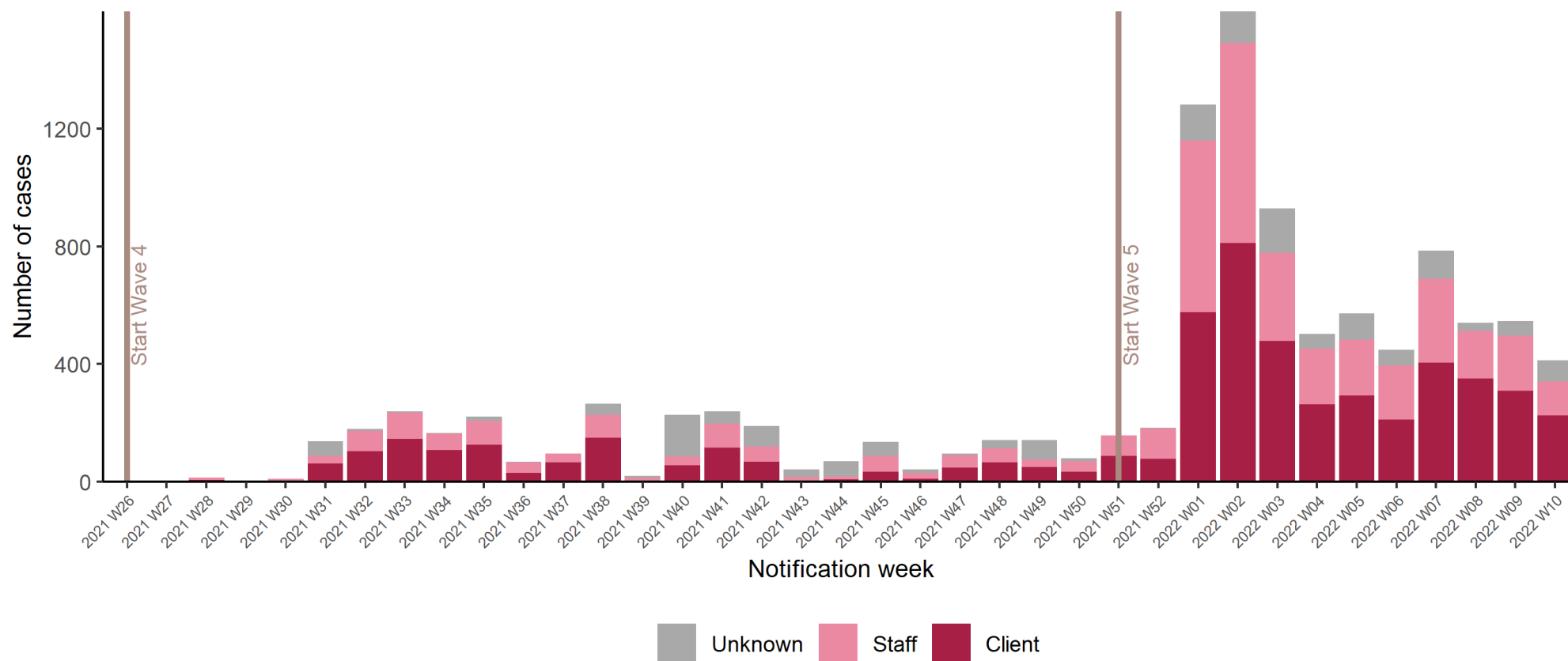


Figure 3: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in nursing homes and community hospital/long-stay units by staff/client status and date of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Acute Hospitals

There were **850** COVID-19 outbreaks in acute hospitals, with **9,626** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 12/03/2022, **426** outbreaks in acute hospitals have been notified and **147** of these outbreaks remain open (Table 4).

There were 30 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in acute hospitals during Week 10 2022.

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in acute hospital settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location: Acute Hospitals	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases
	30	0-13	426	147	0-94

[§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used.

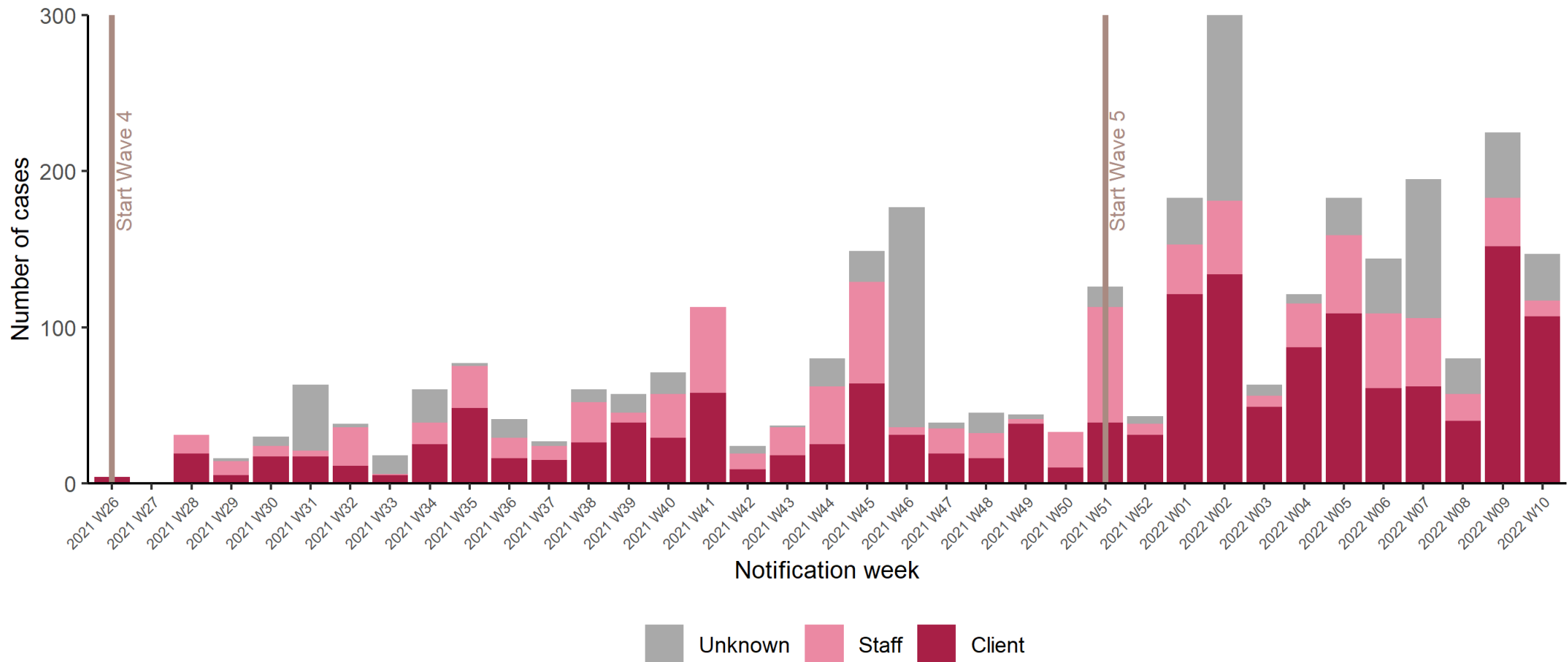


Figure 4: Epi-curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in hospitals by staff/client status and date of notification from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Institutions (please see footnote¹)

There were **1,074** COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions, with **6,468** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020. From 27/06/2021 to 12/03/2022, **631** outbreaks in residential institutions have been notified and **238** of these outbreaks remain open.

There were 49 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in residential institutions in Week 10 2022: 35 in centres for disabilities; seven in mental health facilities; two in a centre for older people; one in a children’s / TUSLA residential centre; one in a women/children’s refuge and; three in other/non-specified locations.

Table 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in residential institutions in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Centre for disabilities	35	1-6	457	174	0-26
Centre for older people	2	<5	16	8	0-18
Children’s / TUSLA residential centre	1	<5	61	12	1-8
Mental health facility	7	3-27	59	31	2-38
Women/children’s refuge	1	6	7	2	4-6
Other	3	3-10	26	10	0-20
Not Specified	0	n/a	5	1	<5
Total	49	0-27	631	238	0-38

[#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2). [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used. *No associated outbreak cases as yet.

¹ This section focuses on the following residential settings: Centres for disabilities, Centres for older people, Children’s/TUSLA residential centres and mental health facilities. Homeless services, addiction services, direct provision centres and prisons are reported in the Focus on Vulnerable Populations section.

Note: Data are provisional

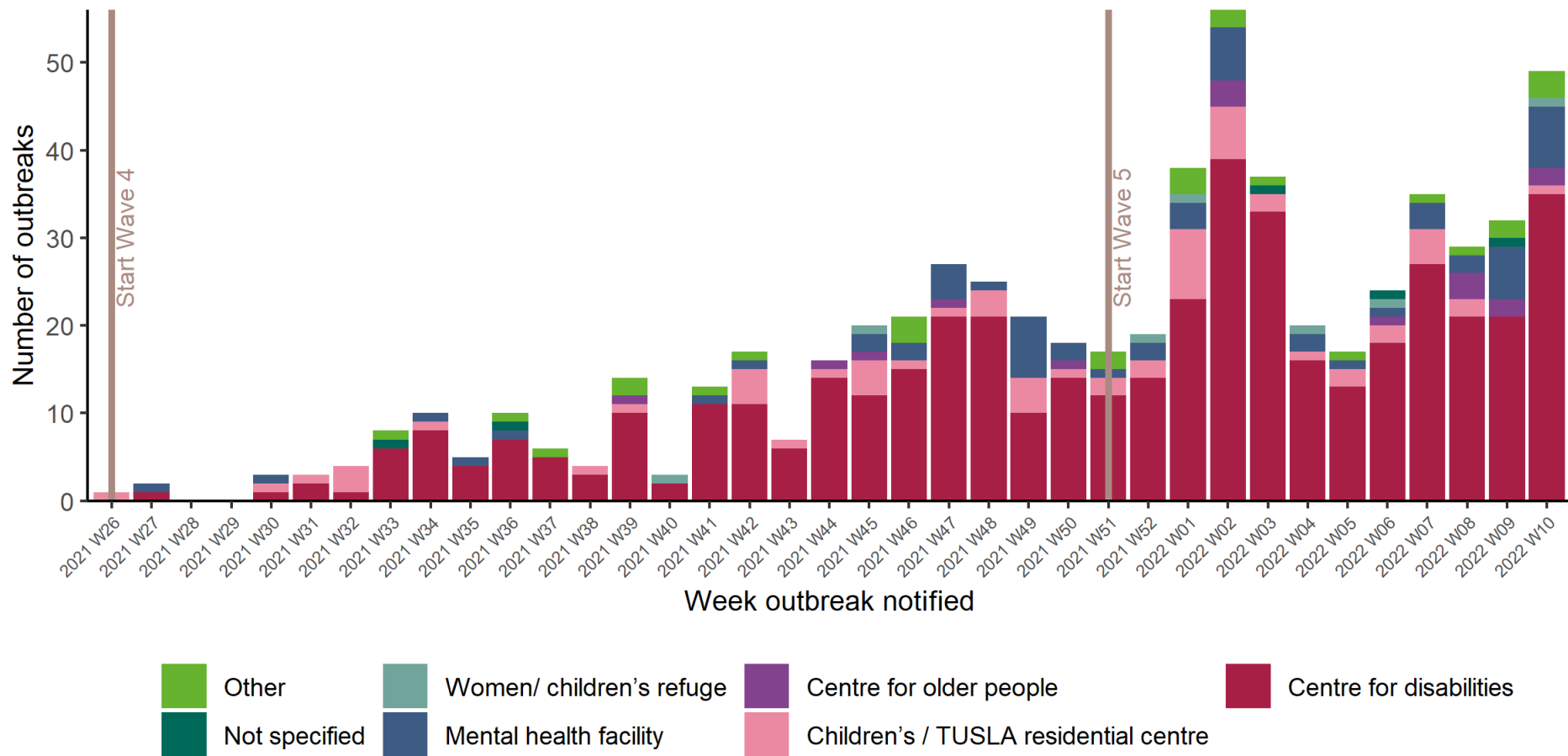


Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential institutions by type of residential institution in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with Other Healthcare Settings

There were **425** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other healthcare settings, with **1,697** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

This brief overview of COVID-19 outbreaks in other healthcare settings notified up to midnight on 12/03/2022 (Table 6). Since Week 26 2021 there have been **225** outbreaks associated with other healthcare services and **63** of these remain open.

There were 17 new COVID-19 outbreaks reported in other healthcare settings in Week 10 2022: three associated with home care services; nine in services for people with disabilities; one in mental health services and; four in other healthcare services.

Table 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] associated with other healthcare settings in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Clients of home care services	3	<5	53	10	1-5
People with disabilities	9	0-12	101	33	0-12
Clients of mental health facilities	1	<5	18	5	<5
All other healthcare service	4	0-6	53	15	0-9
Total	17	0-12	225	63	0-12

[#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2). [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used.

Note: Data are provisional

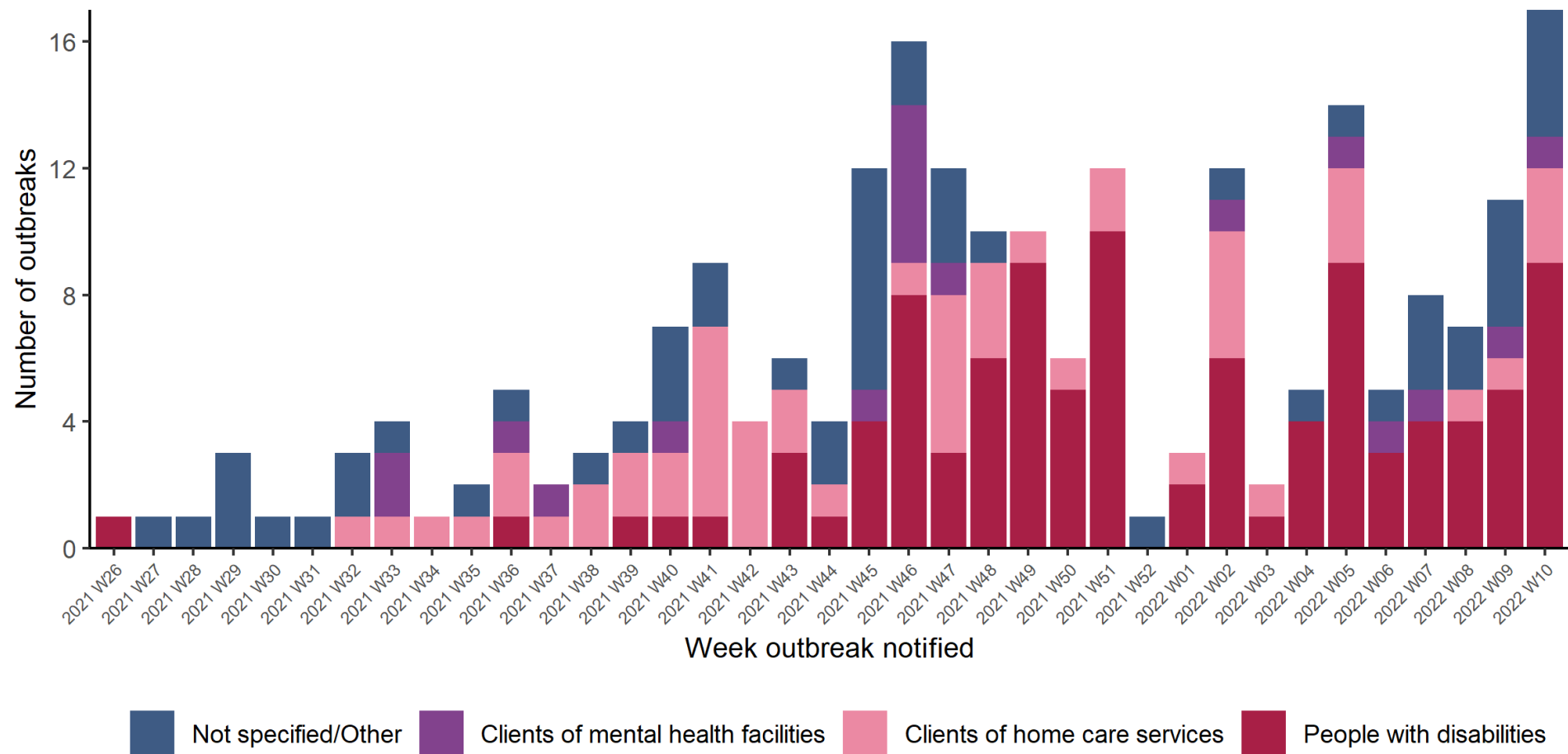


Figure 6: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in 'Other healthcare' settings by type of setting in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated Other Vulnerable Populations

There were **1,049** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with the below described vulnerable populations, with **10,208** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

This brief overview of COVID-19 outbreaks in vulnerable populations/settings only includes outbreaks involving Irish Travellers, the Roma community, outbreaks in direct provision centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified up to midnight on 12/03/2022 (Table 7). From 27/06/2021 to 12/03/2022, there have been **448** outbreaks in vulnerable populations, of which **140** remain open.

There were sixteen new outbreaks reported in vulnerable populations during Week 10 2022:

- ten outbreaks associated with Irish Travellers
- one outbreak associated with the homeless community
- three outbreaks associated with prison staff and prisoners
- two outbreaks associated with persons with addictions

Table 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] in settings involving vulnerable populations, including the Irish Traveller community, Roma community, direct provision centres, facilities for the homeless/those with addiction issues and prisons notified from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Vulnerable populations	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Irish Travellers	10	2-7	291	100	0-83
Roma community	0	n/a	42	10	0-9
Direct provision centres	0	n/a	44	7	3-61
Homeless [¥]	1	<5	34	6	3-33
Persons with addictions	2	20-21	16	6	2-21
Prisoners/Prison staff	3	4-23	21	11	4-174
Total	16	0-23	448	140	0-174

[¥]Homeless facilities include some facilities that provide long term supported accommodation. Also includes staff of homeless facilities. [#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2). [§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used.

Note: Data are provisional

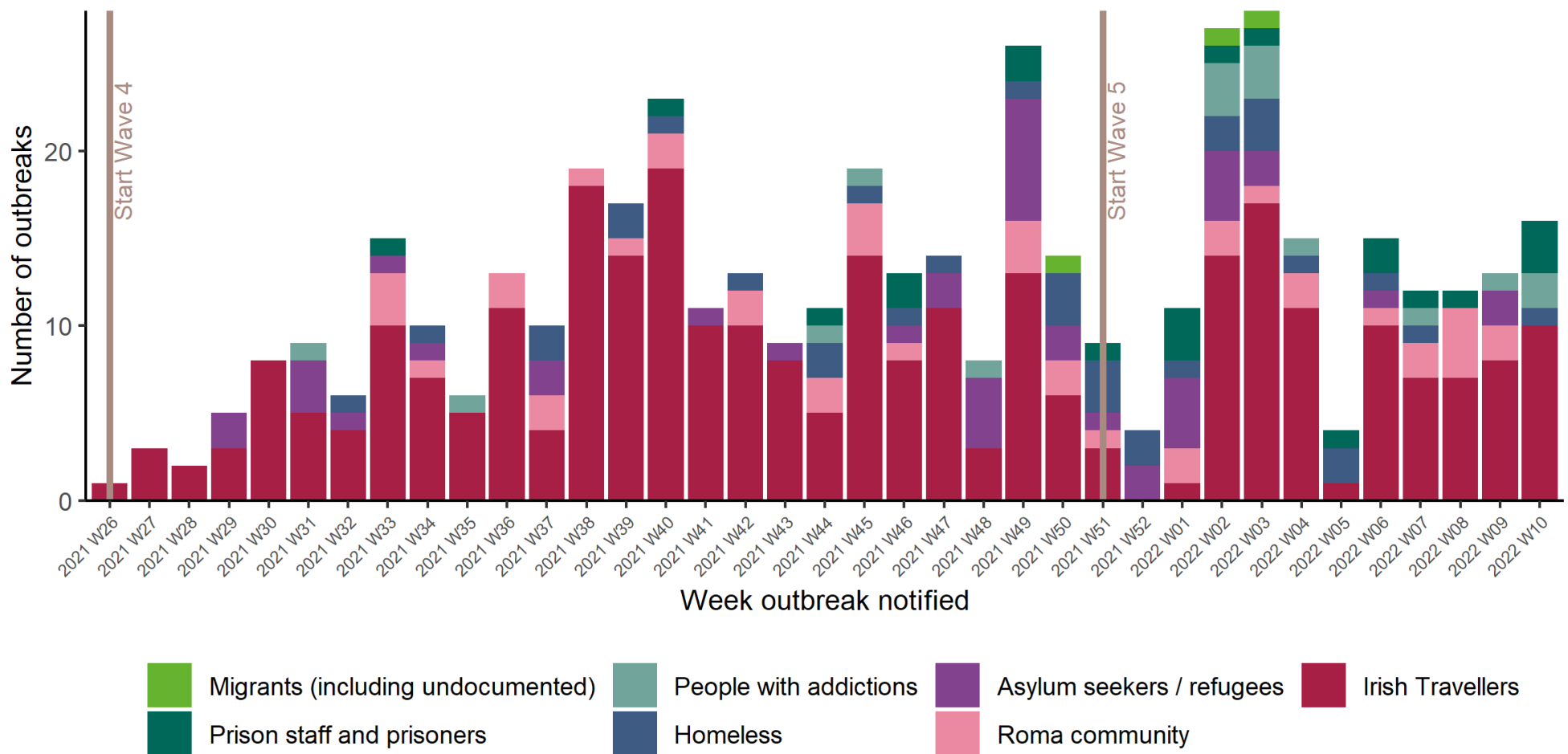


Figure 7: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with other vulnerable populations in Ireland, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. Note: to date, all migrant and asylum seeker associated outbreaks linked to direct provision centres. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Focus on COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), and childcare facilities

There were **1,378** COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, with **7,169** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§]; and **651** outbreaks in childcare facilities, with **3,472** laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases[§], notified in Ireland since 01/03/2020.

In total, **853** COVID-19 outbreaks associated with school children (+/- staff), and childcare facilities have been notified from 27/06/2021 up to midnight on 12/03/2022 (Table 8) and **130** of these outbreaks remain open.

During Week 10 2022, there were 15 COVID-19 outbreaks notified associated with school children +/- staff and one with a childcare facility.

Table 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks and laboratory confirmed cases[§] associated with school children (+/- staff) and childcare facilities notified to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak location	Number of outbreaks notified				
	Week 10	Week 10 outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]	Week 26 2021 – Week 10 2022	Number open	Open outbreaks: Range in no. of cases [#]
Special education	15	0-12	166	57	0-20
Other school type	0	n/a	433	55	0-18
Total School*	15	0-12	599	112	0-20
Childcare facility	1	<5	254	18	0-13
Total	16	0-12	853	130	0-20

*These outbreaks are outbreaks associated with school children +/- or school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks.

[#]n/a is used where there were no outbreaks in a category or where there are no confirmed cases currently linked to any outbreak in that category (see technical note 6, Appendix 2). ^{##}In Week 44 2021, 32 outbreaks associated with schools that occurred during May and June 2021 (2020/21 academic year) were retrospectively notified. Please note not all school outbreaks require public health prioritization and therefore may not be reported to CIDR. Therefore, school settings (primary, post-primary) other than special educational needs classes/schools are grouped under 'Other school type'.

[§]Due to delays in linkage of outbreak cases as a result of the surge, an interim measure has been applied whereby the higher number between aggregate and outbreak linked confirmed case numbers is used.

Note: Data are provisional

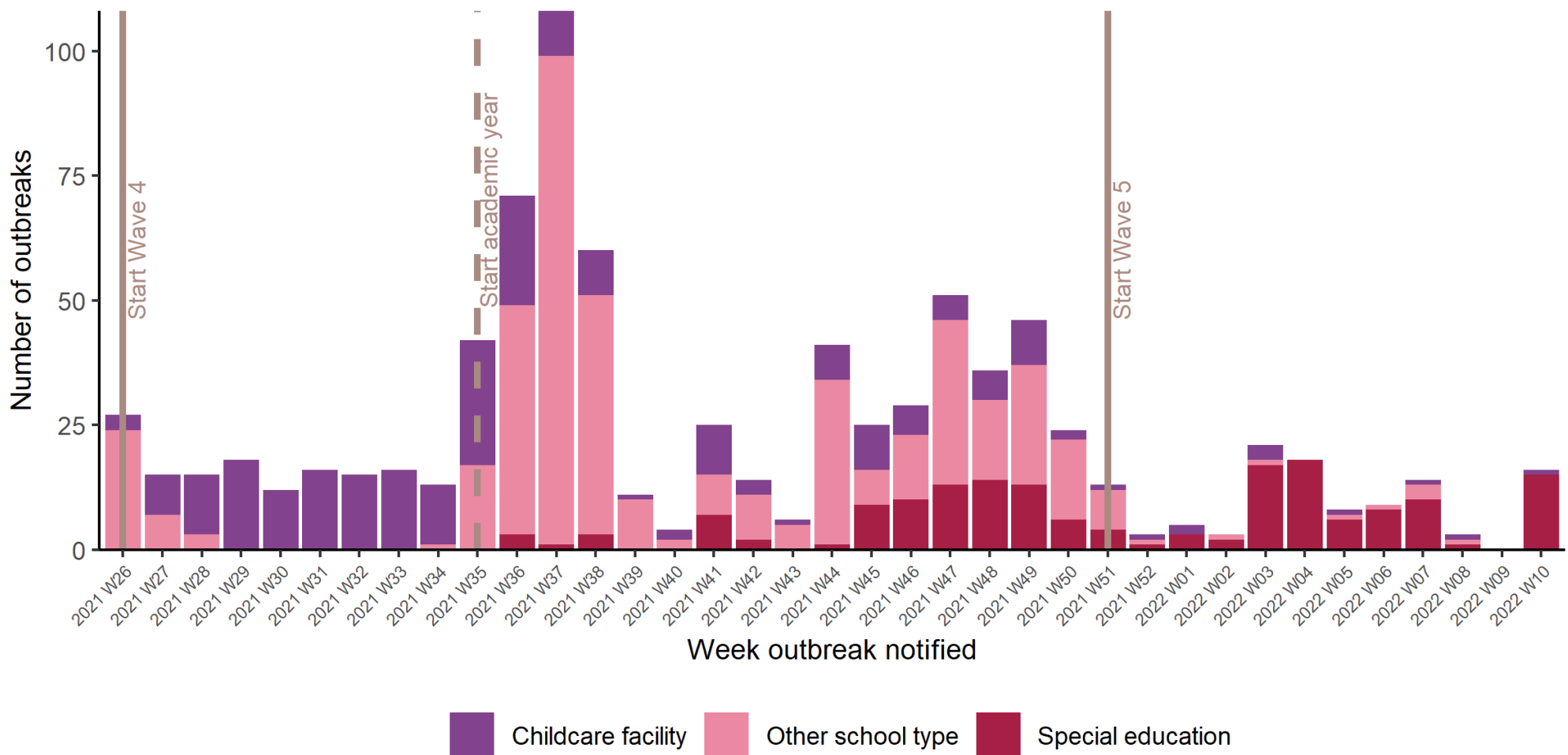


Figure 8: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in school and childcare facility settings, from 27/06/2021 to midnight on 12/03/2022. *Data source: CIDR*

Note: Data are provisional

Appendices
Appendix 1

Table A: Number of COVID-19 outbreaks notified in Ireland by outbreak location and closure status, to midnight 12/03/2022, N=22,807. *Data source: CIDR*

Outbreak Location	Outbreak closure status (all outbreak classifications)		
	Closed	Open	Total
Hospital	703	147	850
Nursing home	855	295	1150
Community Hospital/Long-stay unit	115	31	146
Residential institution	1088	269	1357
Other healthcare service	362	63	425
School**	1266	112	1378
Childcare facility	633	18	651
University/college***	63	4	67
Workplace	1242	23	1265
Retail outlet	384	5	389
Hotel	107	4	111
Guest house/ B&B	14	0	14
Public house	111	6	117
Restaurant / Cafe	219	3	222
Travel related	256	19	275
Transport	62	5	67
Private house*	6553	5641	12194
Extended family	757	180	937
Community outbreak	519	7	526
Social gathering	266	21	287
Religious/Other ceremony	130	12	142
Sporting activities/fitness	95	0	95
Other recreation activity	26	0	26
Personal grooming service	48	0	48
Other	55	4	59
Unknown	5	0	5
Not specified	4	0	4
Total	15938	6869	22807

*It is common practice not to close private house outbreaks on CIDR due to the large volume of these types of outbreaks on CIDR

**These outbreaks are outbreaks associated with school children +/- school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks.

***These outbreaks are associated with a university/college location and do not include outbreaks among third level students that occurred at other locations

Appendix 2 Technical Notes

1. Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from the National Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

2. For surveillance purposes, the following COVID-19 outbreak definition is used for notifying COVID-19 outbreaks/clusters:

Confirmed*

- **There is a cluster/outbreak, with two or more cases of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection regardless of symptom status. This includes cases with symptoms and cases who are asymptomatic.**

OR

- **There is a cluster/outbreak, with two or more cases of illness with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection (as per the COVID-19 case definition), and at least one person is a confirmed case of COVID-19.**

* From September 21st 2020, suspected COVID outbreaks should be reported with the disease category 'Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)'. If one or more cases linked to the outbreak are subsequently confirmed as COVID-19, the ARI outbreak should be reclassified to being a COVID-19 outbreak. Outbreaks of suspected COVID-19 which were notified before September 21st 2020, and met the previous COVID-19 outbreak definition should remain as COVID-19 outbreaks on CIDR.

The COVID-19 case definition is detailed on the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) website: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/>

3. This report includes confirmed and suspected COVID-19 outbreaks.

4. An "Open" or "Closed" outbreak is defined as an outbreak where the outbreak status is "Open" or "Closed" on CIDR. In order to declare an outbreak "Closed" the outbreak location should not have experienced any new cases of infection which meet the case definition for a period of 28 days (two incubation periods).

5. Outbreak type (family/general) indicates whether an outbreak is confined to a family (family outbreak) or affects members of more than one household (general outbreak).

6. The "range in number of cases" presented in Tables 3 to 8 is based on laboratory confirmed cases linked to an outbreak in CIDR. The priority is to notify outbreaks to CIDR in a timely fashion and, while every effort is made to link cases to outbreaks as quickly as possible, there can sometimes be a delay in linking cases to the outbreak. Ranges in number of cases that include "0" include outbreaks that currently have no linked cases. Data in CIDR are continuously reviewed and updated and this includes the identification and linking of outbreak-associated cases.