Statement from the National Public Health Emergency Team - Wednesday 23 December

From [Department of Health](#)

Published on 23 December 2020

Last updated on 24 December 2020

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has today been notified of 13 additional deaths related to COVID-19. Of the 13 deaths, 10 occurred in December.

There has been a total of 2,184 COVID-19 related deaths in Ireland.

As of midnight Tuesday 22 December, the HPSC has been notified of 938 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There has now been a total of 82,155* confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ireland.

(*Validation of data at the HPSC has resulted in the denotification of 11 confirmed cases. The figure of 82,155 confirmed cases reflects this.)

Of the cases notified today:

- 416 are men and 517 are women
- 65% are under 45 years of age
- the median age is 36 years old
- 300 in Dublin, 110 in Cork, 72 in Limerick, 68 in Donegal, 41 in Kildare and the remaining 347 cases are spread across 21 other counties

As of 2pm today, 251 COVID-19 patients are hospitalised, of which 25 are in ICU. There have been 24 additional hospitalisations in the past 24 hours.

Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health said:

"The NPHET met today and reviewed the current epidemiological situation and has made recommendations to Government. Every indicator of the disease is rising and rising rapidly.

Our level of concern continues to escalate. We must do all we can individually and collectively to change the course of this disease.

"Revise your Christmas plans to ensure social contacts are limited and that hand hygiene, physical distance, ventilation and face covering measures are in place if you must have visitors to your home."

Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health said:

"The epidemiological situation reviewed today is the most serious it has been since last March. People should act at all times as if they or those they come into contact with are infectious. The disease has spread across all parts of the country and all age groups. We must act now to protect each other.

"It is inevitable that people will get sick and die as a result of this escalation, but it is not too late for all of us to do all we can to minimise that impact and to protect as many people as possible."

Professor Philip Nolan, Chair of the NPHET Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group said:

"The situation has deteriorated further, even in the last two days. The reproduction number is higher than we have reported since March at 1.5 – 1.8. The day on day growth rate is estimated at 7 – 9%. These data emphasise the need for us to be exceptionally careful over Christmas and to adhere strictly to public health guidance."

Dr Cillian De Gascun, Medical Virologist and Director of the National Virus Reference Laboratory said:

"Preliminary data would suggest, based on a selection of samples analysed from the weekend, that the novel variant from the UK is present in Ireland. However, given the timeline of the samples analysed, it would seem that the novel variant is not solely responsible for the recent increase in case numbers seen in Ireland."

The COVID-19 Dashboard provides up-to-date information on the key indicators of COVID-19 in the community.

ENDS

Today's cases, 14-day incidence rate per 100,000 population and new cases in last 14 days (as of midnight 22 December 2020) (incidence rate based on Census 2016 county population)

County	Today's Cases (to midnight 22/12/20)	14-Day incidence rate per 100,000 population (14 days to midnight 22/12/20)	New Cases during last 14 days (14 days to midnight 22/12/20)
Ireland	**938**	**153.2**	**7,297**
Donegal	68	317.9	506
Louth	38	291.7	376

Wexford	37	257.8	386
Monaghan	32	257.4	158
Kilkenny	16	239.8	238
Limerick	72	217.5	424
Carlow	<5	200.2	114
Laois	10	194.8	165
Cavan	13	191.7	146
Dublin	300	180.4	2,430
Kerry	35	163.2	241
Meath	38	151.2	295
Longford	<5	144.3	59
Waterford	10	130	151
Kildare	41	125.8	280
Sligo	9	123.6	81
Mayo	20	123.4	161
Cork	110	86.9	472
Wicklow	14	82.1	117
Galway	38	74.8	193
Offaly	<5	68	53
Tipperary	<5	66.4	106
Westmeath	9	56.3	50
Roscommon	<5	54.2	35
Clare	9	41.2	49
Leitrim	<5	34.3	11

Note:

The 7 day incidence is 104.7.

The 5 day moving average is 785.

Hospital statistics

Total number of cases	81,217
Total number hospitalised	5,687
Total number admitted to ICU	660
Total number of deaths	1,924
Total number of healthcare workers	13,055
Number clusters notified	10,471
Cases associated with clusters	43,979
Median age	38

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.

Gender of patients

Gender	Number of cases
Male	38,428
Female	42,745
Unknown	44
Total	81,217

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.

Age range affected

Age range	Number of cases
0 - 4	2,239
5 - 14	5,569
15 - 24	14,022
25 - 34	13,666
35 - 44	12,790
45 - 54	12,213
55 - 64	8,668
65 - 74	4,608
75 - 84	3,990
85+	3,423
Unknown	29

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.

How COVID-19 is spreading

Transmission classification	%
Community transmission	29.9
Close contact with confirmed case	67
Travel abroad	1.3
Unknown	1.7

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.

Note:

When a person tests positive for COVID-19 but hasn't been abroad or had a known contact with another confirmed case in Ireland, that's known as community transmission.

In the event that a person who tests positive for COVID-19 can be linked to another confirmed case in Ireland, that's known as close contact.

Hospitalised cases by age group

Age range	Number of cases
0 - 4	58
5 - 14	56
15 - 24	195
25 - 34	352
35 - 44	445
45 - 54	706
55 - 64	817
65 - 74	1,025
75 - 84	1,264
85+	767
Unknown	2

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.

Cases by county

County	Number of cases	Change since the day before
Carlow	794	+10
Cavan	2,358	+7
Clare	1,559	+4
Cork	6,835	+59
Donegal	3,636	+50
Dublin	30,000	+348
Galway	2,913	+39
Kerry	1,558	+27
Kildare	4,407	+53
Kilkenny	1,374	+26
Laois	1,169	+12
Leitrim	278	No change
Limerick	3,290	+60
Longford	728	+2
Louth	2,610	+55
Mayo	1,654	+9
Meath	3,717	+36
Monaghan	1,429	+41
Offaly	1,250	+8

Roscommon	997	+2
Sligo	826	+4
Tipperary	1,694	+8
Waterford	1,226	+27
Westmeath	1,581	-2
Wexford	1,576	+59
Wicklow	1,758	+15

*All statistics measured at midnight on Monday 21 December.