



## Weekly Report on Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI), Week 38 2022

SARI hospitalised cases that were admitted to St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH), Dublin, during the fourth COVID-19 pandemic wave (05/07/2021 and 18/12/2021) and fifth wave (19/12/2021 – 25/09/2022).

Please note that this report on SARI surveillance pertains to one hospital site only, data are not nationally representative. Therefore caution is advised when interpreting rates and trends as outlined in the report, which may fluctuate due to the low case numbers.

### Key points

- In week 38 2022 (week ending 25/09/2022):
  - There were 12 SARI cases reported in week 38 2022, a slight increase compared to 10 SARI cases reported during week 37 2022
  - The incidence rate per emergency hospitalisations was 44.1 per 1,000 emergency admissions, an increase compared to 36.8 per 1,000 during week 37 2022
  - The incidence rate per hospital catchment population was 3.9 per 100,000 population aged  $\geq 15$  years, an increase compared to the rate of 3.3 per 100,000 in week 37 2022
  - The highest proportion of SARI cases was among those aged 65 years and older, (n=7; 58.3%)
  - Among SARI cases admitted in week 38 2022, 11 cases (91.7%) were reported as having underlying medical conditions
  - SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing was carried out on all SARI cases, of which two (16.7%) were positive, compared to 10% positivity (n=1) in week 38 2022
  - Influenza PCR testing was carried out on all SARI cases, none of which were positive for influenza. There were no positive influenza cases in week 37 2022.
  - Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) PCR testing was carried out on all SARI cases, all of which tested negative. There were no positive RSV cases in week 37 2022.
- There were 484 SARI cases admitted to St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) between 19/12/2021 to 25/09/2022 (wave 5), compared to 230 SARI cases admitted between 05/07/2021 and 18/12/2021 (wave 4)
  - The median age of SARI cases admitted during wave 5, was 75 years (interquartile range: 62 - 83 years), compared to 64 years (interquartile range: 48-78 years) amongst those admitted during wave 4
  - Among SARI cases admitted during wave 5, 93% (n=450) reported having underlying medical conditions, compared to 81.3% (n=187) during wave 4
  - Among SARI cases for whom admission to ICU is known, 56.2% (223/397) were reported to have been admitted to ICU and/or required respiratory support during wave 5, compared to 62.4% (143/229) during wave 4
  - Among SARI cases admitted during the 5<sup>th</sup> wave (since 19/12/2021), who tested positive by PCR for SARS-CoV-2 with known COVID-19 vaccination status, 12.7% (21/166) were not vaccinated, and 34.9% (n=58) had not received a booster vaccine dose >7 days prior to their illness
  - Of those discharged, with known outcome, admitted during wave 5, 10.8% (n=39) died in hospital, compared to 10.1% (n=23) during wave 4

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## Background

Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) is of major relevance to public health worldwide. Surveillance of SARI is essential to monitor the (co-) circulation of respiratory pathogens and to assess disease severity. Data collected as part of SARI surveillance can provide important early warning information in the context of respiratory disease outbreaks and pandemics. SARI data can also be used as a platform to measure vaccine and antiviral effectiveness and impact.

The objectives of SARI surveillance are:

- To describe the number and incidence of SARI cases by aetiology, time, place and person
- To describe and monitor trends, intensity of activity and severity of SARI infections
- To identify groups at risk of severe disease
- To detect unusual and unexpected events
- To assess the SARI burden of disease in the participating hospital
- To assess and monitor vaccine and antiviral effectiveness

## Methods

SARI surveillance was implemented in one tertiary care adult hospital; St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin (SVUH). Surveillance commenced on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. SARI cases are identified from new admissions through the Emergency Department (E/D). The SARI surveillance system includes people who are aged 15 years or older.

### Case definition

SARI cases are identified from new admissions through the Emergency Department, based on clinical symptoms. Patients that develop SARI during their admission, or are admitted through alternate routes, are not included in the surveillance system.

#### Clinical SARI case:

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) clinical SARI case definition is currently used for the SARI surveillance project in Ireland:

- ECDC SARI definition: A hospitalised (defined as hospitalised for at least 24 hours) person with acute respiratory infection, with at least one of the following symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath OR sudden onset of anosmia, ageusia or dysgeusia with onset of symptoms within 14 days prior to hospital admission.

The ECDC clinical SARI case definition has been used for the SARI surveillance project since week 34 2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) clinical SARI case definition was used from week 27 to week 33 2021. The WHO SARI definition is defined as follows A hospitalised\* person with an acute respiratory infection, and history of fever or measured fever of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and cough, and onset within the last 10 days.

## Denominator data

Denominator data for hospital catchment area are based on population projections for 2021. Population projections are provided by the Health Intelligence Unit (HIU) of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and were extracted from Health Atlas Ireland on 31/08/2021.

Denominator data on all-cause hospital admissions, via the Emergency Department, were provided by the SVUH statistics department.

## Data collection and reporting

Clinical data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted at University College Dublin. Laboratory data is extracted from APEX, the laboratory information management system (LIMS), using IBM Cognos software hosted at SVUH.

Case-based data are reported by SVUH to the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) on a weekly basis. Data are also reported by HPSC to ECDC via The European Surveillance System (TESSy) on weekly basis as part of European level SARI surveillance.

COVID-19 vaccination data were collected from the National COVID-19 Vaccination Management System (COVAX), and linked to SARI cases by the HSE-Integrated Information service, where data were available.

## Reference dates<sup>1</sup>

05/07/2021 (Week 27 2021) – Commencement of SARI surveillance project

27/06/2021 (Week 26 2021) – the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 pandemic wave

19/12/2021 (Week 51 2021) – the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 pandemic wave

Week number refers to the week of hospital admission. Weeks run from Monday to Sunday, as per the international ISO week<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to [Health Protection Surveillance Centre \(hpsc.ie\)](https://www.hpsc.ie) for further details on the COVID-19 pandemic waves in Ireland

<sup>2</sup> Monday to Sunday (ISO week) used as per ECDC/WHO/international reporting protocol

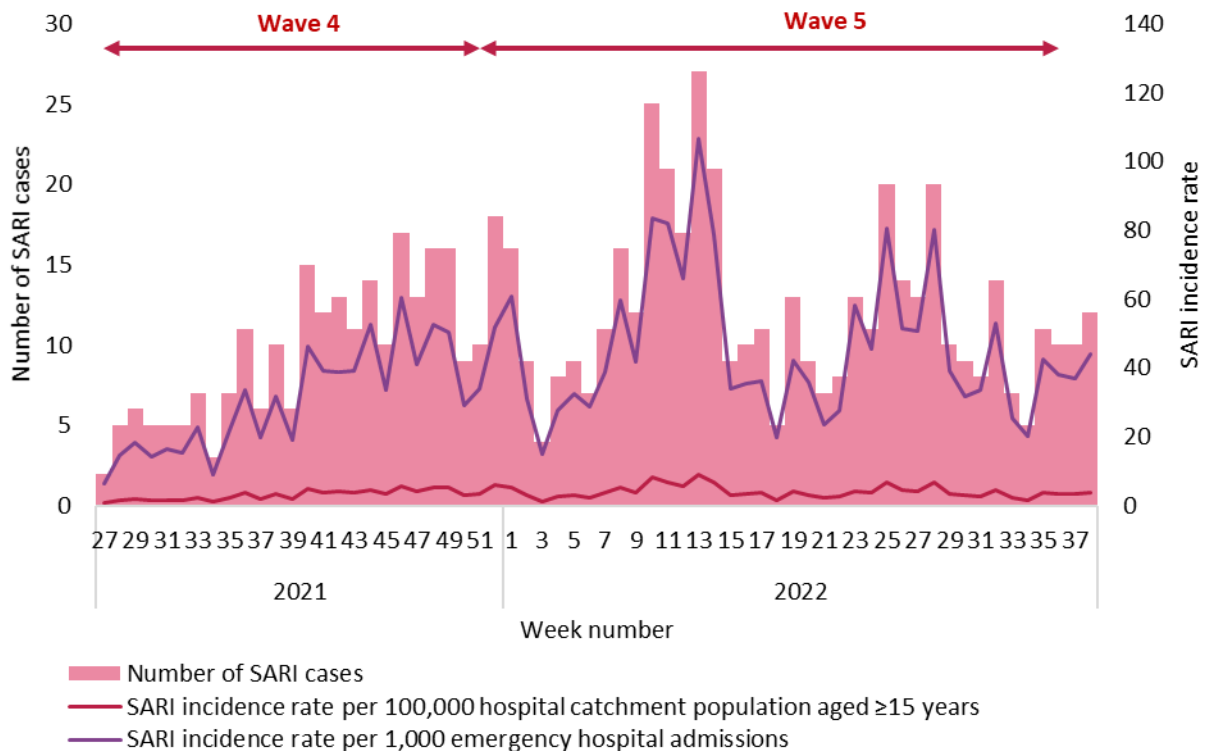
## Results

### SARI cases and incidence rates

In total, 484<sup>3</sup> SARI cases were admitted to St. Vincent’s University Hospital (SVUH) during the fifth pandemic wave (between 19/12/2021 and 25/09/2022); 230 SARI cases were admitted during the fourth pandemic wave (between 05/07/2021 to 18/12/2021).

In week 38 2022:

- Twelve SARI cases were reported in week 38 2022, compared to 10 SARI cases reported in week 37 2022 (Figure 1).
- The SARI incidence rate was 3.9 per 100,000 hospital catchment population aged ≥15 years, compared to the rate of 3.3 per 100,000 in week 37 2022.
- The SARI incidence rate per emergency hospitalisations was 44.1 per 1,000, an increase from the rate of 36.8 per 1,000 in week 37 2022.



**Figure 1** Number and incidence of SARI hospitalised cases (emergency admission) by week of hospital admission, week 27 2021 to week 38 2022 (n=714).

NOTE: Data were extracted from the SARI surveillance database at HPSC on 28/09/2022, and are subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

<sup>3</sup> One SARI case admitted during week 37, was notified to the HPSC during week 38

## Demographics

In week 38 2022, of the 12 SARI cases reported:

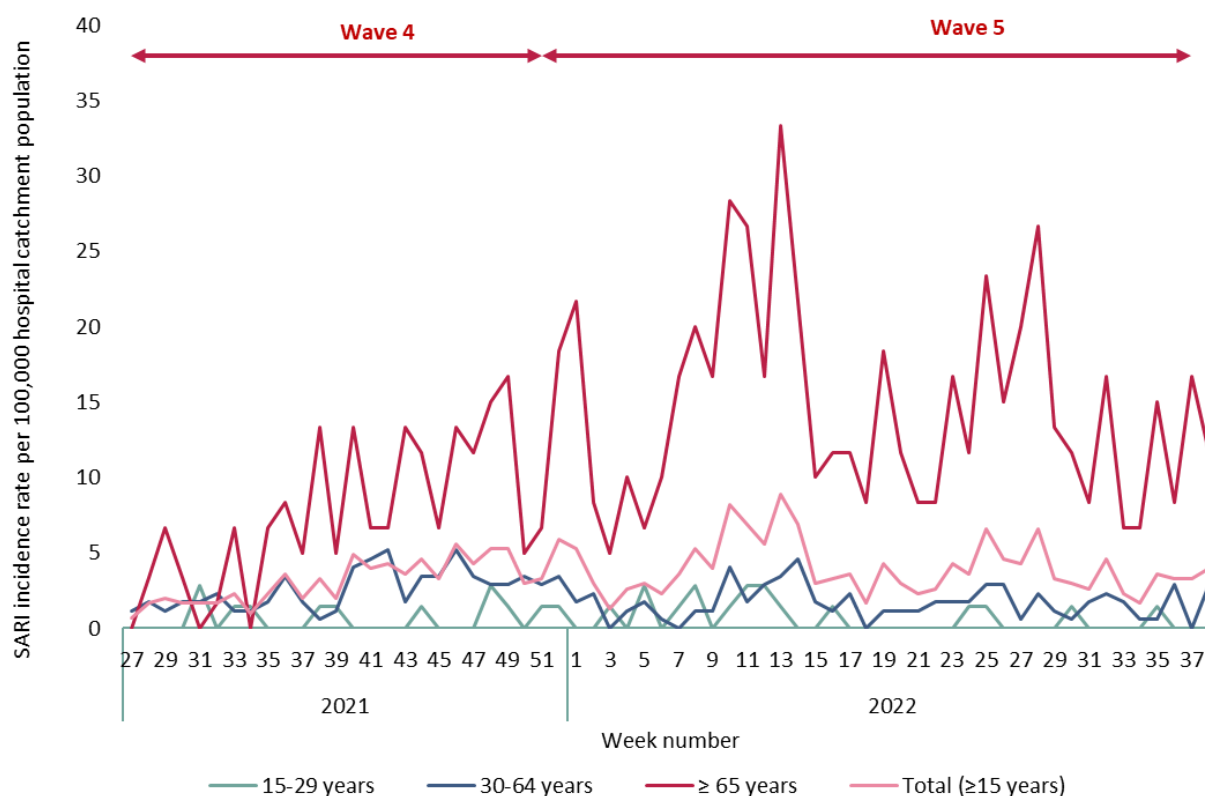
- Females accounted for a higher proportion of SARI cases (n=8, 66.7%), (Table 1)
- The median age of SARI cases admitted was 66 years (interquartile range: 55 - 80 years)
- The incidence rate amongst those aged 65 years and older was 11.7 per 100,000, compared to the rate of 16.7 per 100,000 in week 37 2022.

**Table 1** Number and proportion of SARI cases by sex and age, for week 38 2022 and by pandemic wave.

		Week 38, 2022		Wave 5		Wave 4	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Total number of SARI cases		12		484		230	
Sex	Male	4	33.3	256	52.9	120	52.2
	Female	8	66.7	228	47.1	110	47.8
Age (years)	Mean	67		71		63	
	Median	66		75		64	
	Interquartile range	55 - 80		62 - 83		48 - 78	
	Range	47 - 90		16 - 101		19 - 100	
Age group	15-24 years	0	0.0	13	2.7	5	2.2
	25-34 years	0	0.0	13	2.7	12	5.2
	35-44 years	0	0.0	14	2.9	27	11.7
	45-54 years	3	25.0	36	7.4	33	14.3
	55-64 years	2	16.7	63	13.0	40	17.4
	65-74 years	2	16.7	94	19.4	44	19.1
	75-84 years	3	25.0	147	30.4	39	17.0
85+ years	2	16.7	104	21.5	30	13.0	

\*Surveillance excludes children under 15 years of age

The incidence rate per 100,000 hospital catchment population by age group is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2** SARI incidence rate per 100,000 hospital catchment population by age group and week of hospital admission, week 27 2021 to week 38 2022 (n=714)

## Underlying medical conditions and risk factors

Information on underlying medical conditions was reported for 705 (98.7%) SARI cases. Of those admitted during wave 5, 93% (n=450) reported having underlying medical conditions, compared to 81.3% (n=187) during wave 4.

Table 2 displays the number and proportion of individual underlying medical conditions, where known, among those that reported having underlying medical conditions. The most common underlying medical conditions reported during wave 5 were heart disease (n=189, 42%) and hypertension (n=172, 38.2%); which were also observed during wave 4.

Among female SARI cases admitted during wave 5, four (1.8%) were reported as being pregnant at the time of admission, compared to 1.8% (n=2) female SARI cases during wave 4.

Healthcare workers accounted for 2.7% (n=13) of SARI cases admitted during wave 5, compared to 4.8% (n=11) during wave 4.

**Table 2** Number and proportion of SARI cases with pre-existing conditions, reported on hospital admission, for week 38 2022 and by pandemic wave.

Underlying medical condition*	Week 38 2022 (n=11)		Wave 5 (n=450)		Wave 4 (n=187)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Heart disease	3	25.0	189	<b>42.0</b>	57	<b>30.5</b>
Hypertension	3	25.0	172	<b>38.2</b>	75	<b>40.1</b>
Lung disease	3	25.0	149	33.1	55	29.4
Cancer	0	0.0	93	20.7	38	20.3
Neurological disease	2	16.7	81	18.0	34	18.2
Asthma	1	8.3	62	13.8	28	15.0
Diabetes	2	16.7	72	16.0	37	19.8
Kidney disease	1	8.3	35	7.8	20	10.7
Intellectual disability	0	0.0	24	5.3	14	7.5
Immunocompromised	0	0.0	15	3.3	7	3.7
Obesity	0	0.0	11	2.4	20	10.7
Cystic fibrosis	0	0.0	3	0.7	2	1.1
Other chronic conditions**	3	25.0	218	48.4	120	64.2

\*SARI cases could be reported with one or more underlying medical condition

\*\* Data reported on other chronic conditions may include some of the chronic conditions listed above; these data are under review and may change over time.

## Symptoms

Information on clinical symptoms, either at or prior to hospital admission, was reported for all SARI cases. The most common symptoms during both waves 4 and 5, were cough and shortness of breath (Table 3).

**Table 3** Number and proportion of SARI cases with clinical symptoms, either at or prior to hospital admission, for week 38 2022 and by pandemic wave.

Clinical symptom*	Week 38 2022 (n=12)		Wave 5 (n=484)		Wave 4 (n=230)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cough	9	75.0	373	<b>77.1</b>	206	<b>89.6</b>
Shortness of breath	6	50.0	355	<b>73.3</b>	190	<b>82.6</b>
Fever	8	66.7	222	45.9	117	50.9
General deterioration	2	16.7	183	37.8	88	38.3
Malaise	0	0	70	14.5	67	29.1
Headache	2	16.7	32	6.6	29	12.6
Muscular pain	0	0	34	7.0	21	9.1
Sore throat	3	25.0	38	7.9	12	5.2
Ageusia	0	0	4	0.8	16	7.0
Anosmia	0	0	4	0.8	13	5.7
Dysgeusia	0	0	7	1.4	7	3.0

\*SARI cases could be reported with one or more clinical symptom



## Severe clinical course during hospitalisation

Information on the clinical course during hospitalisation is only available after discharge; information on ICU admission is available prior to discharge.

In summary, 74.6% (n=361) of SARI cases admitted during wave 5 have discharge information available, compared to 99.1% (n=228) during wave 4.

Among those for whom discharge information is available, and who were admitted during wave 5, 14.1% (n=51) were reported as having pneumonia, compared to 28.5% (n=65) during wave 4 (Table 4).

Information on ICU admission is available for 82% (n=397) of SARI cases admitted during wave 5 and 99.6% (n=229) of those admitted during wave 4. Among those, 56.2% (n=223) were admitted to ICU and/or required respiratory support during wave 5, compared to 62.4% (n=143) admitted during wave 4.

Data collection is ongoing for those not yet discharged from hospital.

**Table 4** Number and proportion of SARI cases by complication, respiratory support and ICU admission, for wave 4 and wave 5

Complications*	Wave 5 (n=361)		Wave 4 (n=228)	
	n	%	n	%
Pneumonia	51	14.1	65	28.5
Sepsis	11	3.0	5	2.2
ARDS	31	8.6	5	2.2
Myocarditis	0	0.0	2	0.9
Long COVID	1	0.3	1	0.4
Other complications**	88	24.4	44	19.3
No complications	200	55.4	128	56.1
Unknown	9	2.5	2	0.9
Respiratory support	Wave 5 (n=364)		Wave 4 (n=229)	
	n	%	n	%
High-flow oxygen therapy (non-invasive ventilation)	210	57.7	126	55.0
Invasive ventilation	13	3.6	17	7.4
Other respiratory support	0	0.0	0	0.0
No respiratory support given	141	38.7	86	37.6
Admitted to ICU	Wave 5 (n=397)		Wave 4 (n=229)	
	n	%	n	%
Yes	18	4.5	19	8.3
No	379	95.5	210	91.7

\*SARI cases could be reported with one or more complication

\*\*Data reported on "other complications" may include some of the complications listed above; these data are under review and may change over time.

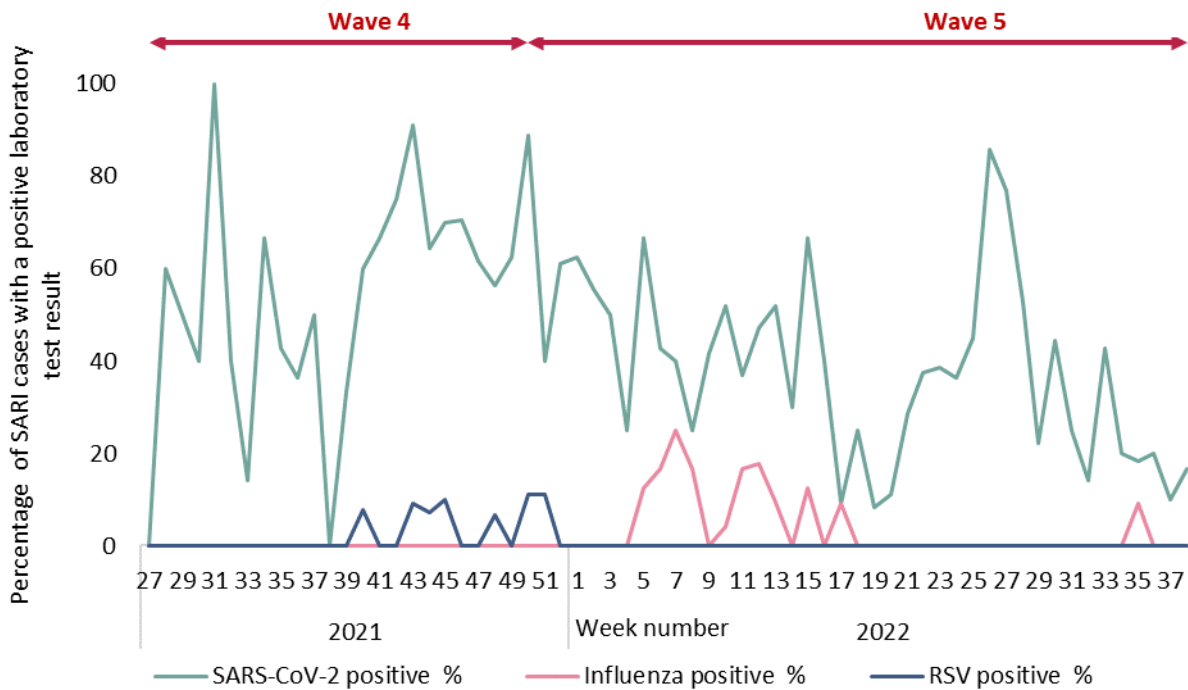
### Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2, influenza and RSV

**PCR testing:**

SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is carried out on admission. For a small proportion of SARI cases, there is a lag time with testing for influenza and RSV<sup>4</sup>.

In week 38 2022:

- SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing was carried out on all 12 SARI cases, two (16.7%) of which were positive, compared to 10% positivity (n=1) in week 37 2022 (Figure 3)
- Influenza PCR testing was carried out on all SARI cases, all of which were negative for influenza. There were no influenza positive cases in week 37 2022.
- RSV PCR testing was carried out on all SARI cases, all of which were negative. There were no RSV positive cases reported in week 37 2022.



**Figure 3** Percentage of SARI cases with a positive laboratory test result for SARS-CoV-2, influenza and RSV by week, weeks 27 2021 - 38 2022

Of those admitted to SVUH during wave 5, 40.3% (n=191) tested positive by PCR for SARS-CoV-2, compared to 57.2% (n=131) during wave 4 (Table 5).

During wave 5, 4.1% (n=18) of those admitted were positive for influenza A: 16 influenza A(H3) and 2 A (not subtyped), and two cases had a positive test result for both SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A, one of which was subtyped as influenza A(H3). No SARI cases admitted during wave 4 tested positive for influenza.

<sup>4</sup> Due to reagent supply issues, samples are occasionally sent to external laboratories for influenza and RSV testing.

During wave 5, 0.5% (n=2) of those admitted were positive for RSV, compared to 3.6% (n=6) during wave 4, one of which, had a positive test result for both RSV and SARS-CoV-2.

**Table 5** Number and proportion of SARI cases by laboratory test result, for week 38 2022 and by pandemic wave

Laboratory test	Laboratory test result	Week 38 2022		Wave 5		Wave 4	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Tested for SARS-CoV-2	Total tested	12		474		229	
	Positive	2	<b>16.7</b>	191	<b>40.3</b>	131	<b>57.2</b>
	Negative	10	83.3	260	54.9	90	39.3
	Indeterminate*	0	0.0	23	4.9	8	3.5
Tested for influenza A	Total tested	12		441		165	
	Positive	0	<b>0.0</b>	18	<b>4.1</b>	0	<b>0.0</b>
	Negative	12	100	423	95.9	165	100
Tested for influenza B	Total tested	12		441		165	
	Positive	0	<b>0.0</b>	0	<b>0.0</b>	0	<b>0.0</b>
	Negative	12	100	441	100	165	100
Tested for RSV	Total tested	12		441		165	
	Positive	0	<b>0.0</b>	2	<b>0.5</b>	6	<b>3.6</b>
	Negative	12	100	439	99.5	159	96.4

\* Ct value (cycle threshold) >30

### Genomic analysis:

#### SARS-CoV-2:

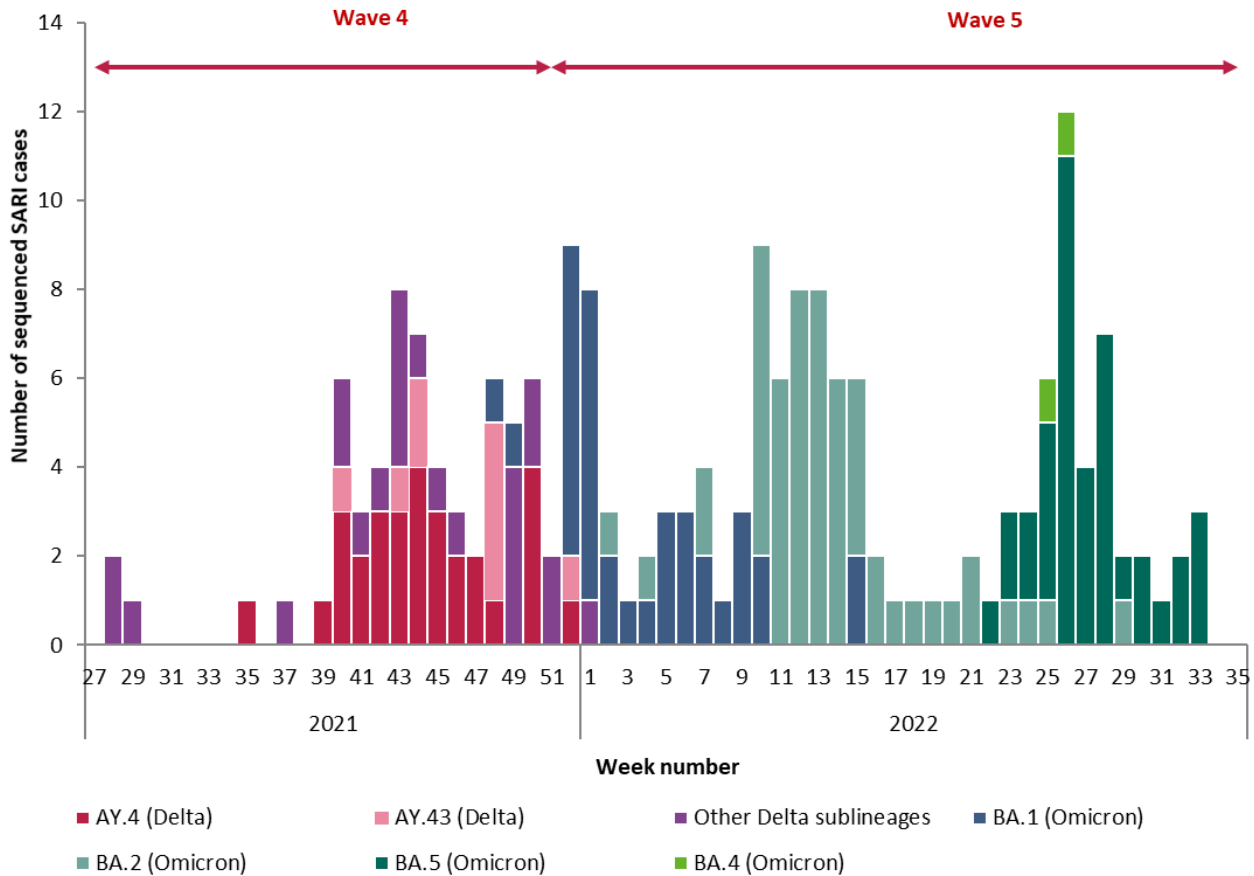
SARI samples that are positive for SARS-CoV-2 and that have a cycle threshold (Ct) value <25 are referred to the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) for whole genome sequencing (WGS). In total, for both waves 4 and 5, 245 (76.1%) SARS-CoV-2 positive SARI samples have met the Ct criteria for WGS; 217 (88.6%) have been sent for WGS, 1 (0.4%) sample is waiting to be sent and 27 (11%) SARI samples that met the Ct eligibility criteria were not sent for WGS, for reasons such as insufficient sample volume, or the sample could not be located.

Of the 217 samples sent to NVRL for WGS, results have been received for 199 (91.7%) samples, 12 (5.5%) samples could not be sequenced (due to insufficient sample volume or high Ct value), and 6 (2.8%) are currently being sequenced and results are pending.

All SARI cases that have undergone whole genome sequencing up to week 47 2021 were Delta (B.1.617.2) and Delta sublineages. In total, 31.7% (63 of 199) of all sequenced SARI cases reported since July 2021 (weeks 28 2021 to week 33 2022) were identified as Delta variant. The last Delta variant SARI case was detected in week 1 2022.

The first Omicron variant was identified in one SARI case admitted to SVUH in week 48 2021. Between weeks 2 and 33 2022 inclusive, all SARI cases sequenced and reported from the NVRL were Omicron variants, in total 68.3% (136 of 199) of sequenced SARI cases were identified as Omicron. Figure 4 shows sequenced SARI cases by week of hospitalisation and Pango Lineage, further information on Pango Lineage is available in the appendix (Table A1).

Further sequencing data on cases admitted since week 33 2022, are not yet available.



**Figure 4** Number of SARI cases sequenced and reported by the National Virus Reference Laboratory, by week of hospitalisation, week 27 2021 to week 33 2022, (n=199)

### COVID-19 Vaccination status

Amongst the SARI cases, admitted during wave 5 (since 19/12/2021), who tested positive by PCR for SARS-CoV-2 with known COVID-19 vaccination status, 12.7% (21/166) were not vaccinated and 34.9% (n=58) had not received either a first or second booster vaccine dose >7 days prior to the epidemiological date of their episode of illness. (Table 6).

Vaccination data are available approximately one week after cases are notified, therefore the vaccination status for the current week’s SARI cases is recorded as unknown.

Refer to the technical notes for the full list of definitions regarding epidemiological date and COVID-19 vaccination status<sup>5</sup>.

NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) for further information on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

**Table 6** Number and proportion of SARI cases by COVID-19 vaccination status, SARS-CoV-2 PCR result and date of hospitalisation

SARS CoV-2 PCR positive	Admitted since rollout of second booster <sup>1</sup> (n=182)		Admitted since rollout of first booster <sup>2</sup> (n=528)		Admitted during wave 5 <sup>3</sup> (n=389)		Admitted during wave 4 <sup>4</sup> (n=204)	
	Vaccine status	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Not vaccinated	9	14.1	54	20.8	21	12.7	48	40.3
Primary series - Partial	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.6	2	1.7
Primary series - Complete	7	10.9	94	36.2	36	21.7	66	55.5
First booster	39	60.9	102	39.2	99	59.6	3	2.5
Second booster	9	14.1	9	3.5	9	5.4	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SARS CoV-2 PCR negative</b>								
Vaccine status	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not vaccinated	3	2.5	14	5.2	9	4.0	9	10.6
Primary series - Partial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2
Primary series - Complete	9	7.6	50	18.7	26	11.7	59	69.4
First booster	83	70.3	181	67.5	165	74.0	16	18.8
Second booster	23	19.5	23	8.6	23	10.3	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup>The second COVID-19 vaccination booster was rolled out on 22/04/2022

<sup>2</sup>The first COVID-19 vaccination booster was rolled out on 27/09/2021

<sup>3</sup>Wave 5 from 19/12/2021 to present; <sup>4</sup>Wave 4 from 05/07/2021 to 18/12/2021

Table 7 displays the clinical course and outcome of those admitted during wave 5 by SARS CoV-2 PCR result and vaccination status. Data collection for clinical course and outcome is on-going for those admitted during wave 5.

Further information on those admitted during wave 4 is available in the appendix (Table A2).

**Table 7** Number and proportion of SARI cases, admitted during wave 5 (19/12/2021 to 25/09/2022), by COVID-19 vaccination status, and SARS-CoV-2 PCR result (n=389)

SARS CoV-2 PCR positive	Required respiratory support		ICU admission		Died in hospital			
	Vaccination status	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Not vaccinated	21	12.7	11	13.9	1	20.0	1	7.1
Primary series - Partial	1	0.6	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary series - Complete	36	21.7	21	26.6	2	40.0	5	35.7
First booster	99	59.6	42	53.2	2	40.0	8	57.1
Second booster	9	5.4	4	5.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SARS CoV-2 PCR negative</b>								
Vaccination status	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not vaccinated	9	4.0	2	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary series - Partial	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary series - Complete	26	11.7	14	13.3	1	16.7	3	18.8
First booster	165	74.0	81	77.1	5	83.3	12	75.0
Second booster	23	10.3	8	7.6	0	0.0	1	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>

## Outcome

Of the 484 SARI cases admitted during wave 5, 74.6% (n=361) have been discharged (Table 8). During wave 4, 230 SARI cases were admitted to St Vincent's University Hospital, 99.1% (n=228) of these cases have been discharged.

Of the 39 cases admitted during wave 5, who died in hospital, 28 (71.8%) were male and 11 (28.2%) were female. The median age was 82 years (interquartile range 77 – 89 years).

Of the 23 cases admitted during wave 4, who died in hospital, 17 (73.9%) were male and six (26.1%) were female. The median age was 85 years (interquartile range 73 – 91 years).

**Table 8** Number and proportion of discharged SARI cases by outcome and hospital length of stay and by pandemic wave.

		Wave 5 (n=361)		Wave 4 (n=228)	
		n	%	n	%
Outcome	Discharged alive	313	86.7	200	87.7
	Transferred to another hospital	9	2.5	5	2.2
	Died in hospital	39	10.8	23	10.1
Hospital length of stay (number of days)	Mean	12		13	
	Median	7		6	
	Interquartile range	3 - 13		3 - 13	
	Range	1 - 123		1 - 203	

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## Technical notes

### 1. SARI case

A SARI case refers to an individual patient episode of care.

### 2. Epidemiological date

Epidemiological date is used to determine timing of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections. Epidemiological date is based on the earliest date available on the case, taken from date of onset of symptoms, laboratory specimen collection date, and date of hospitalisation.

### 3. Vaccination status

For the purposes of SARI surveillance, vaccination status of cases is as follows:

- **Primary vaccination series – Partial completion, if:**
  - Received one dose of a recommended two-dose vaccine schedule and the epidemiological date is  $\geq 14$  days after receipt of dose one.
  - Date of receipt of dose two of a recommended two-dose vaccine schedule is  $< 14$  days before the epidemiological date.
  - No identifiable linked record on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system, of receiving dose two of a recommended two-dose COVID-19 vaccine schedule.
  
- **Primary vaccination series - Complete, if:**
  - Received one dose of a recommended one-dose vaccine schedule, and the epidemiological date is  $\geq 14$  days after receipt of the dose.
  - Received two doses of a recommended two-dose vaccine schedule, and the epidemiological date is  $\geq 14$  days after receipt of the second dose.
  - Received three doses of a recommended three-dose vaccine schedule, and the epidemiological date is  $> 7$  days after receipt of the third dose. The recommended primary series for immunocompromised individuals is three doses of a recommended vaccine.
  - Date of receipt of first booster dose is  $\leq 7$  days before the epidemiological date.
  - There is no identifiable linked record on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system of receiving a booster dose of a recommended COVID-19 vaccine schedule.
  
- **First booster dose, if:**
  - They had a first booster dose of a recommended vaccine schedule, and the epidemiological date is  $> 7$  days after receipt of the booster dose.
  - Date of receipt of second booster dose is  $\leq 7$  days before the epidemiological date.
  - There is no identifiable linked record on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system of receiving a second booster dose of a recommended COVID-19 vaccine schedule.
  
- **Second booster dose, if:**
  - They had a second booster dose of a recommended vaccine schedule, and the epidemiological date is  $> 7$  days after receipt of the booster dose.



- **Not vaccinated**, if the following applies:
  - Vaccination record on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system indicates the person was vaccinated after the epidemiological date.
  - The SARI patient was reported as not vaccinated on the SARI hospital clinical questionnaire, and there is no identifiable linked record of COVID-19 vaccination on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system.
  
- **Vaccine status unknown**, if:
  - The SARI patient is reported on the SARI hospital clinical questionnaire as vaccinated, however there is no identifiable linked record of COVID-19 vaccination on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system. Vaccination status is reported as unknown, until verified on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system.
  - The SARI patient is reported on the SARI hospital clinical questionnaire as vaccination status unknown, AND there is no identifiable linked record of COVID-19 vaccination on the National COVID-19 Immunisation system

## Appendix

**Table A1**

Number and proportion of SARI cases sequenced and reported by the National Virus Reference Laboratory, by Pango lineage, SARI cases week 27 2021 to week 33, 2022, (n=199)

Virus variant	Number of cases	% sequenced cases
<b>Total sequenced</b>	<b>199</b>	
<b>Delta and Delta sublineages:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31.7</b>
AY.4	30	15.1
AY.43	9	4.5
B.1.617.2	5	2.5
AY.122	4	2.0
AY.5	4	2.0
AY.4.5	2	1.0
AY.4.6	2	1.0
AY.4.2.2	1	0.5
AY.6	1	0.5
AY.4.10	1	0.5
AY.46.6	1	0.5
AY.98	1	0.5
AY.4.2*	2	1.0
<b>Omicron sublineages</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>68.3</b>
<b>BA.1 lineages:</b>		
BA.1	22	11.1
BA.1.1	14	7.0
<b>BA.2 lineages:</b>		
BA.2	40	20.1
BA.2.9	6	3.0
BA.2.3	5	2.5
BA.2.1	1	0.5
BA.2.12.1	1	0.5
BA.2.18	1	0.5
BA.2.40.1	1	0.5
<b>BA.4 lineages:</b>		
BA.4	3	1.5
BA.4.1	1	0.5
BA.4.4	1	0.5
<b>BA.5 lineages:</b>		
BA.5.1	18	9.0
BA.5.2.1	6	3.0
BA.5	5	2.5
BA.5.2	5	2.5
BE.1	4	2.0
BA.5.3	1	0.5
BF.1	1	0.5

\* Variant of interest

**Table A2**

Number and proportion of SARI cases, admitted during wave 4 (05/07/2021 to 18/12/2021), by COVID-19 vaccination status, and SARS-CoV-2 PCR result (n=204)

<b>SARS CoV-2 PCR positive</b>			<b>Required respiratory support</b>		<b>ICU admission</b>		<b>Died in hospital</b>	
<b>Vaccination status</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Not vaccinated	48	40.3	38	48.1	7	43.8	4	26.7
Primary series - Partial	2	1.7	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary series - Complete	66	55.5	37	46.8	8	50.0	10	66.7
First booster	3	2.5	3	3.8	1	6.3	1	6.7
Second booster	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SARS CoV-2 PCR negative</b>								
<b>Vaccination status</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Not vaccinated	9	10.6	6	13.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary series - Partial	1	1.2	1	2.2	1	33.3	0	0.0
Primary series - Complete	59	69.4	32	69.6	1	33.3	5	71.4
First booster	16	18.8	7	15.2	1	33.3	2	28.6
Second booster	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>