



# Weekly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland

Report produced by Health Protection Surveillance Centre on 22/09/2021

This report includes data for COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR up to and including midnight on 21/09/2021 who have been notified as COVID-19 deaths

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 22/09/2021 and are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously reported figures.

**Table 1: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths notified in Ireland with date of death during the latest epidemiological week, 15/09/2021 to 21/09/2021**

Characteristics		Number of deaths
Total number of deaths		14
Age	Mean age (Years)	74
	Median age (Years)	74

The number of deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who died within this time period and whose death has been reported to CIDR up to 22/09/2021. It does not include deaths of COVID-19 cases reported to CIDR in the last week but with an earlier date of death. It also does not reflect the final number of deaths occurring for this period as the outcome may not yet have occurred, or is yet to be reported to CIDR.

**Table 2: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021**

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage
<b>Total number of deaths</b>		5,209	
<b>Sex</b>	Female	2,470	47.42
	Male	2,739	52.58
	Unknown	0	0
	M:F ratio	1.11	
<b>Case classification*</b>	Possible	177	3.4
	Probable	96	1.84
	Confirmed	4,936	94.76
<b>Healthcare Worker</b>	Yes	18	0.35
	No	4,476	85.93
	Unknown	715	13.73
<b>Underlying Conditions</b>	Yes	4,524	86.85
	No	382	7.33
	Unknown	303	5.82
<b>ICU Admission</b>	Yes	548	10.52
	No	4,661	89.48

\* [Case definition](#)

**Table 3: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by age group, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021**

Characteristics		Number of Deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
<b>Age</b>	Median Age (Years)	83		
	Mean Age (Years)	80		
	Age range (Years)	0-105		
<b>Age group</b>	<25 yrs	7	0.13	0.44
	25-34 yrs	13	0.25	1.97
	35-44 yrs	36	0.69	4.82
	45-54 yrs	102	1.96	16.29
	55-64 yrs	290	5.57	56.98
	65-74 yrs	823	15.8	220.34
	75-84 yrs	1,764	33.86	897.69
	85+ yrs	2,171	41.68	3,213.68
	Unknown	3	0.06	
	Total	5,209	100	109.39

Please note that due to the small number of persons who died due to COVID-19 in the age groups 0-25 years this information has been aggregated in order to protect patient confidentiality

**Table 4: Number and percentage of COVID-19 deaths and mortality rate per 100,000 in Ireland by county of notification, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021**

County	Number of deaths	Percentage	Mortality rate per 100,000
Carlow	72	1.38	126.47
Cavan	113	2.17	148.34
Clare	125	2.4	105.2
Cork	442	8.49	81.42
Donegal	189	3.63	118.72
Dublin	1,857	35.65	137.83
Galway	138	2.65	53.48
Kerry	61	1.17	41.3
Kildare	327	6.28	146.96
Kilkenny	80	1.54	80.62
Laois	86	1.65	101.54
Leitrim	17	0.33	53.05
Limerick	237	4.55	121.6
Longford	26	0.5	63.61
Louth	204	3.92	158.28
Mayo	210	4.03	160.91
Meath	162	3.11	83.06
Monaghan	103	1.98	167.79
Offaly	76	1.46	97.48
Roscommon	53	1.02	82.11
Sligo	30	0.58	45.78
Tipperary	105	2.02	65.81
Waterford	111	2.13	95.54
Westmeath	79	1.52	88.99
Wexford	152	2.92	101.52
Wicklow	154	2.96	108.13

**Table 5: Place of death for COVID-19 deaths in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021**

Place of death	Number of deaths	Percentage
Hospital	2,604	49.99
Residential Institution*	1,929	37.03
Hospice	53	1.02
Home	202	3.88
Other	74	1.42
Unknown	347	6.66

\*Residential institution includes: community hospital/long stay unit, homeless facility, mental health facility and nursing homes.

**Table 6: Summary of COVID-19 deaths linked to outbreaks in Ireland, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021**

		Number of Deaths	Percentage
<b>Deaths linked to outbreaks</b>		3,408	65.43
<b>Outbreaks by location</b>	Nursing homes	2,123	62.29
	Hospital	797	23.39
	Community Hospitals/Long-stay units	131	3.84
	Residential institutions	102	2.99
	Other locations*	255	7.48

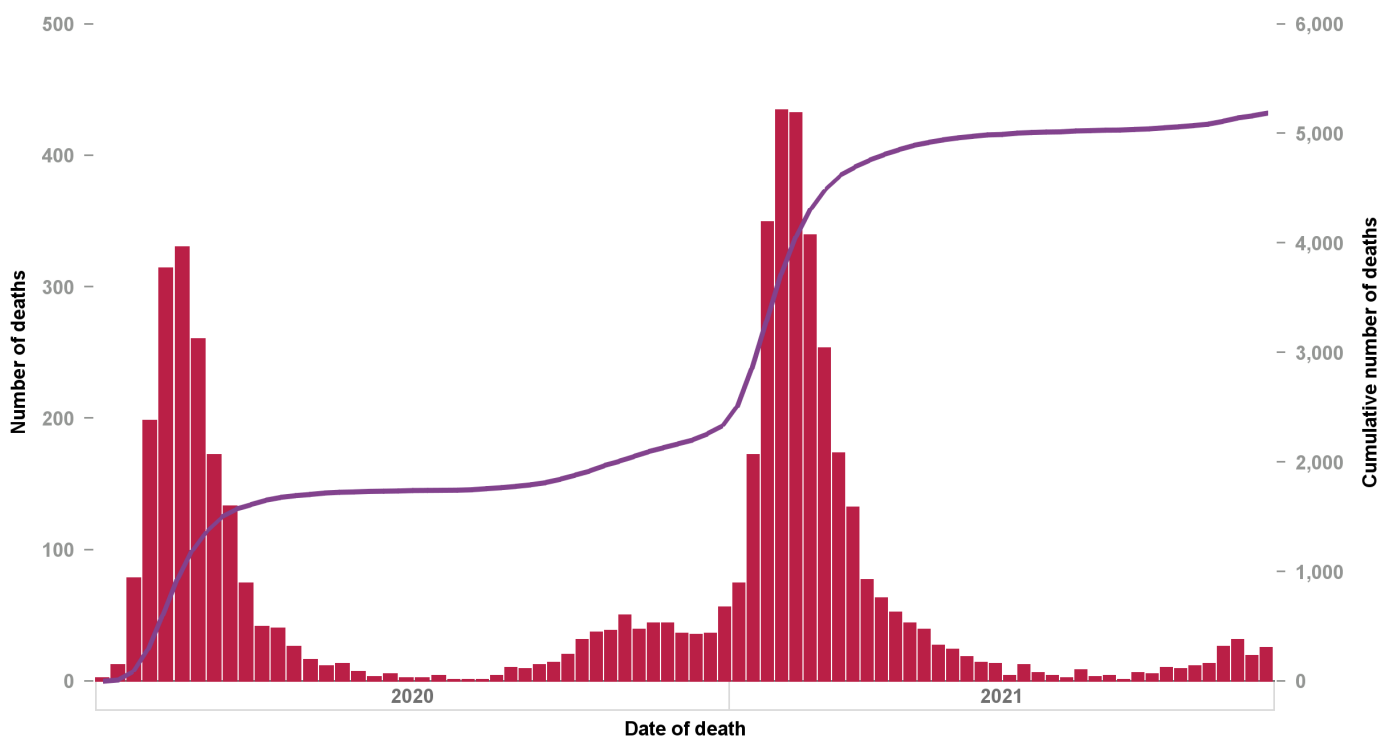
\* Other locations include community outbreak, extended family, hotel, other, other healthcare service, private house, public house, religious/other ceremony, workplace

Regarding deaths associated with COVID-19 hospital outbreaks notified to the HPSC, it cannot be automatically assumed that all of these cases acquired their infection in hospital as this information is not always reported to the surveillance system.

**Table 7: Number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland by month of death, cases with a date of notification from March 2020 to September 2021**

Year	Month	Number of deaths *
2020	March	128
2020	April	1,162
2020	May	364
2020	June	68
2020	July	17
2020	August	7
2020	September	39
2020	October	132
2020	November	189
2020	December	195
2021	January	1,421
2021	February	897
2021	March	258
2021	April	97
2021	May	39
2021	June	18
2021	July	20
2021	August	68
2021	September	70

\* Date of death reported for 5,189 of the deaths.  
 Number of deaths for September 2021 is incomplete.



**Figure 1: Total number of COVID-19 deaths in Ireland and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 21/09/2021. Date of death reported for 5,189 of deaths.**

## **Acknowledgments**

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.

**Report prepared by COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, HPSC**

## Technical Notes

### 1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 08:06 on 22/09/2021. 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. Population Data

Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths for the entire pandemic: 0-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and  $\geq 85$  years. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis of deaths with date of death in the past 7 days: 0-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and  $\geq 85$  years.

### 3. Definition of a COVID-19 death used by HPSC

For surveillance purposes, COVID-19 deaths include deaths in all possible, probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases (as per the COVID-19 case definition) and all should be notified, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID-19 infection (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery\* from COVID-19 between the illness and death. All COVID-19 deaths are notified regardless of the setting, including home, community and hospital settings. HPSC reports all deaths among these COVID-19 cases as outlined above and does not just confine the death reporting to those who die within 28 days of a positive test. This is in line with how COVID-19 cases are reported by the majority of European countries and follows WHO guidance for COVID-19 death surveillance.

\*Please note that discharge from ICU or hospital is not in itself evidence of recovery. To determine if the case had recovered, it should be based on clinical assessment or alternatively a period of  $\geq 3$  months must have elapsed since the case was initially diagnosed with COVID-19 and the case must have no evidence of COVID-19 infection prior to death as assessed by a clinician.

Deaths not reported as COVID-19 deaths:

1. Persons with COVID-19 may die directly due to accidents. Such deaths are not due to COVID-19 and should not be certified as such. This decision not to certify as COVID-19 death will be based on clinical judgement.
2. In some instances, a death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and would be counted as a COVID-19 death independently of pre-existing conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

More resources:

[COVID-19 interim case definition](#)

[Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland Frequently Asked Questions](#)