



# Weekly report on the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

## Week 38, 2023

- The epidemiological weeks in this report, run from Sunday to Saturday. Please refer to the [HPSC website](#) for a complete list of epidemiological weeks with start and end dates for 2020-2023.
- Data for this report are based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to midnight 23/09/2023. Data were extracted from CIDR system on 26/09/2023. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.
- Data should be interpreted in the context of the current testing policy. Testing policies can affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR. Information on the current testing policy in Ireland can be found [here](#)

## Key points

### Notified confirmed cases

- In week 38 (between September 17 and September 23 2023) there were 631 new confirmed COVID-19 cases reported on CIDR. This is a decrease of 8.6% compared to week 37 when there were 690 confirmed COVID-19 cases notified.
- The highest number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in week 38 was in the age group of 75-84 years with 23.5% of notified cases in week 38.

### Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

- In week 38, a total of 4,496 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 715 (15.9%) were positive. This is an increase compared to the previous week, 37, when 14.5% were positive.

### Deaths

- Since the start of the pandemic 9,249 COVID-19 deaths among notified COVID-19 cases have been reported on CIDR. Of these, 1 had a date of death in week 38.

**Table 1:** Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 38, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 38, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total number of confirmed cases	631		27,392	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	13.3		575.2	
<b>Severe cases</b>				
Number of cases hospitalised	296*	46.91	11,255*	41.09
Number of cases admitted to ICU	0*	0.00	109*	0.40
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	0*	0.00	584*	2.13

*\* The number of cases hospitalised, cases admitted to ICU and deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who were notified during this reporting period, and where the outcome is known at the time of reporting. It does not reflect all hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths related to COVID-19 which occurred during the period covered by the report. It also does not reflect the final number of cases hospitalised, admitted to ICU or deaths for these cases notified during this period as the outcome may not yet have occurred, or is yet to be notified*

## Confirmed cases of COVID-19

Since the start of 2023, a total of 27,392 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been notified on CIDR. In the past week, week 38 2023, 631 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported on CIDR. This is a decrease of 8.6% compared to week 37 when 690 confirmed COVID-19 cases were notified. Figure 1 shows the epidemiological curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland for the last one year to week 38 2023. Data since the start of the pandemic is available on the [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland infohub](#).

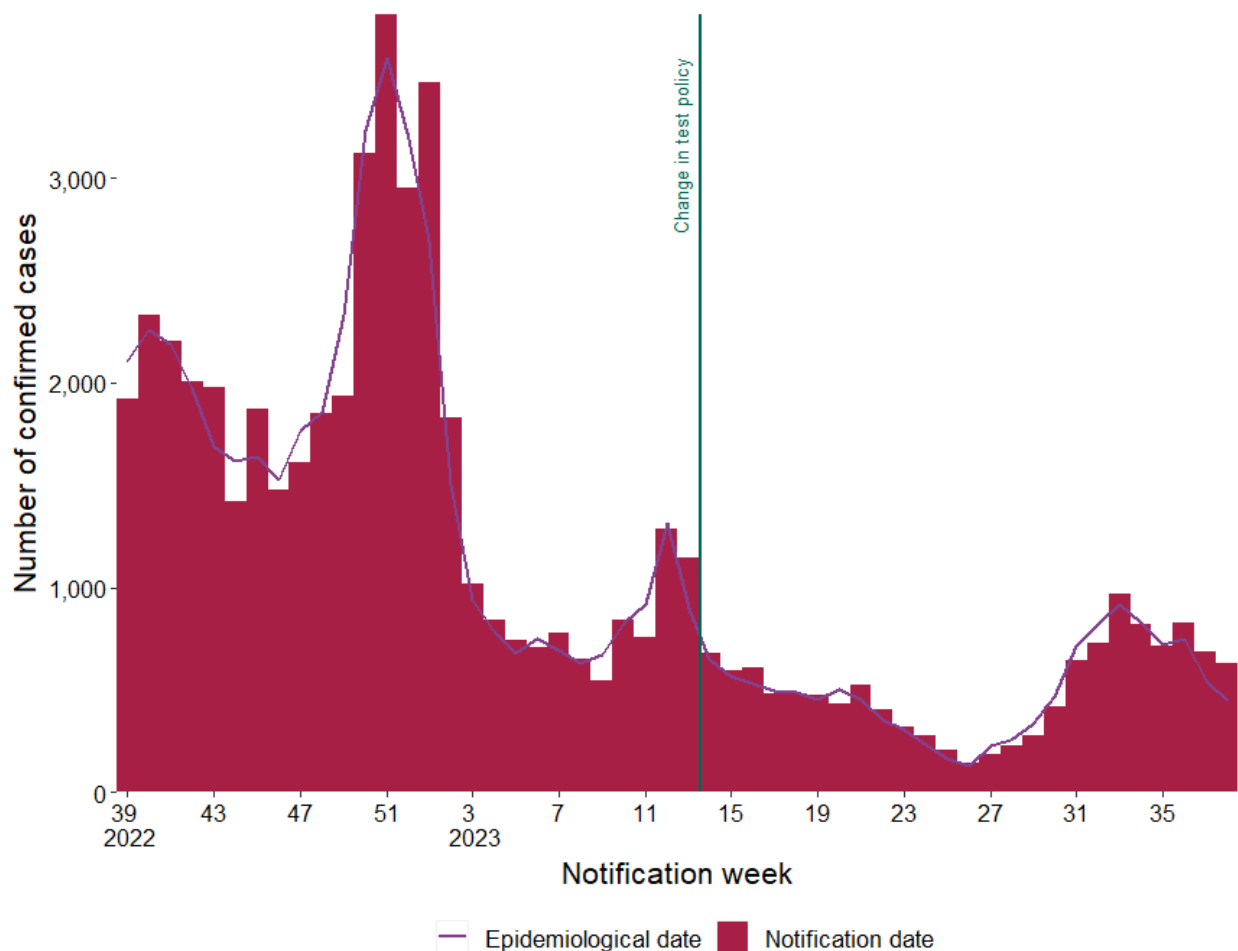


Figure 1a: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date. The dark blue horizontal lines indicate a change in test policy<sup>1 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Since 28/02/2022 (week 9, 2022), PCR testing was only needed for symptomatic people in the community within certain risk groups: those who have not had booster vaccination and are aged 55 years and older; those with a high-risk medical conditions; those who are immunocompromised; those who live in the same household as a person who is immunocompromised; those who provide care or support for person they know to be immunocompromised; those who are pregnant; Healthcare Workers.

<sup>2</sup> Since 30/03/2023 (week 13, 2023), community test centres closed and PCR testing was only performed based on clinical assessment.

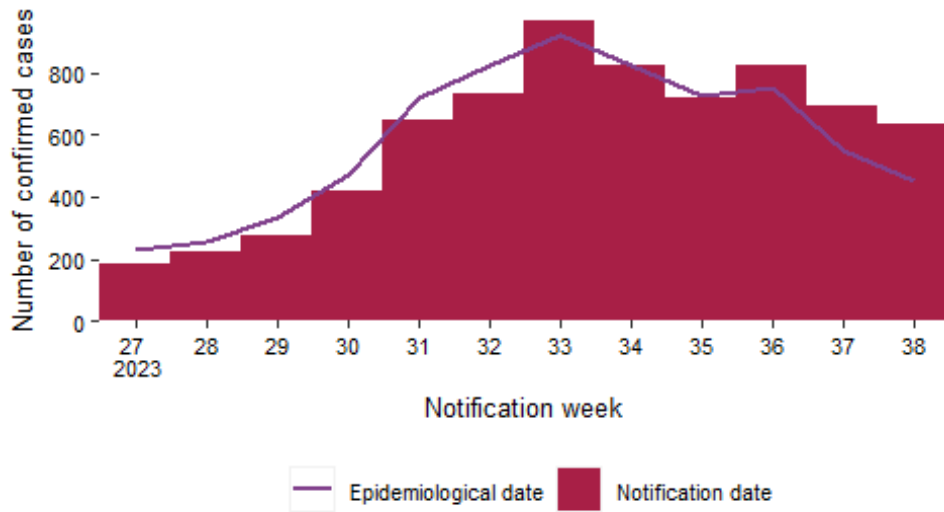
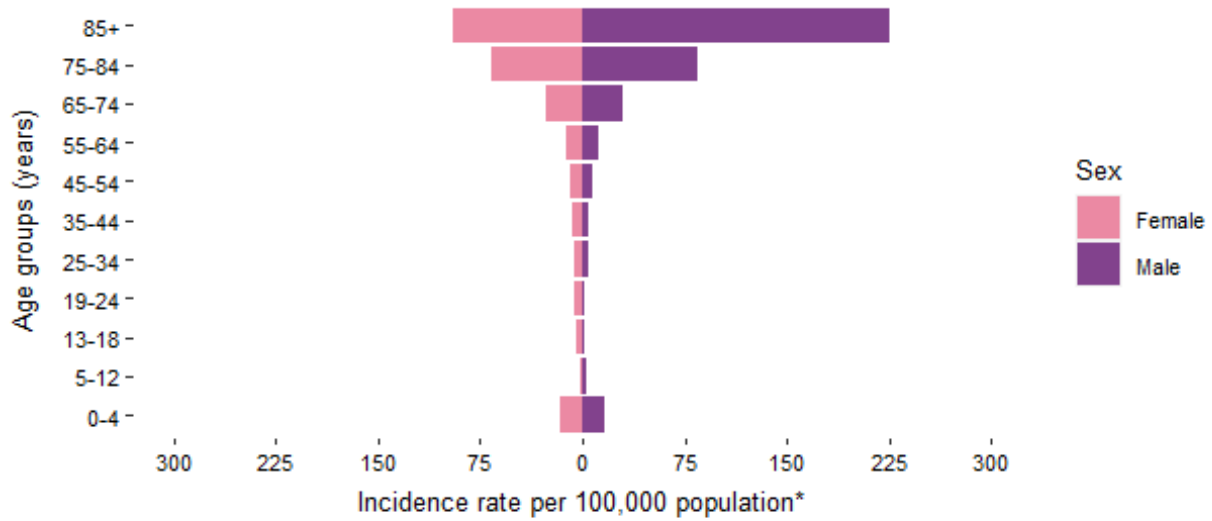


Figure 1b: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland in the last 12 weeks. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date.

## Confirmed COVID-19 cases by age and sex

**Table 2:** Summary characteristics by age and sex of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 38, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 38, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>				
Males	307	48.7	11,746	42.9
Females	322	51.0	15,635	57.1
M:F ratio	0.95		0.75	
<b>Age (years)</b>				
Mean age	59		57	
Median age	67		60	
Age range	0 - 102		0 - 103	
<b>Age groups (years)</b>				
0-4	53	8.4	1,170	4.3
5-12	12	1.9	297	1.1
13-18	11	1.7	370	1.4
19-24	12	1.9	912	3.3
25-34	33	5.2	2,748	10.0
35-44	45	7.1	3,347	12.2
45-54	55	8.7	3,161	11.5
55-64	61	9.7	3,164	11.6
65-74	107	17.0	3,632	13.3
75-84	148	23.5	4,999	18.2
85+	94	14.9	3,588	13.1
Unknown	NA	0.0	4	0.0



\*Excluding 0 for whom age is unknown, 2 for whom sex is unknown and 0 for whom both are unknown

Figure 2: Age and sex specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population for current week 38, 2023

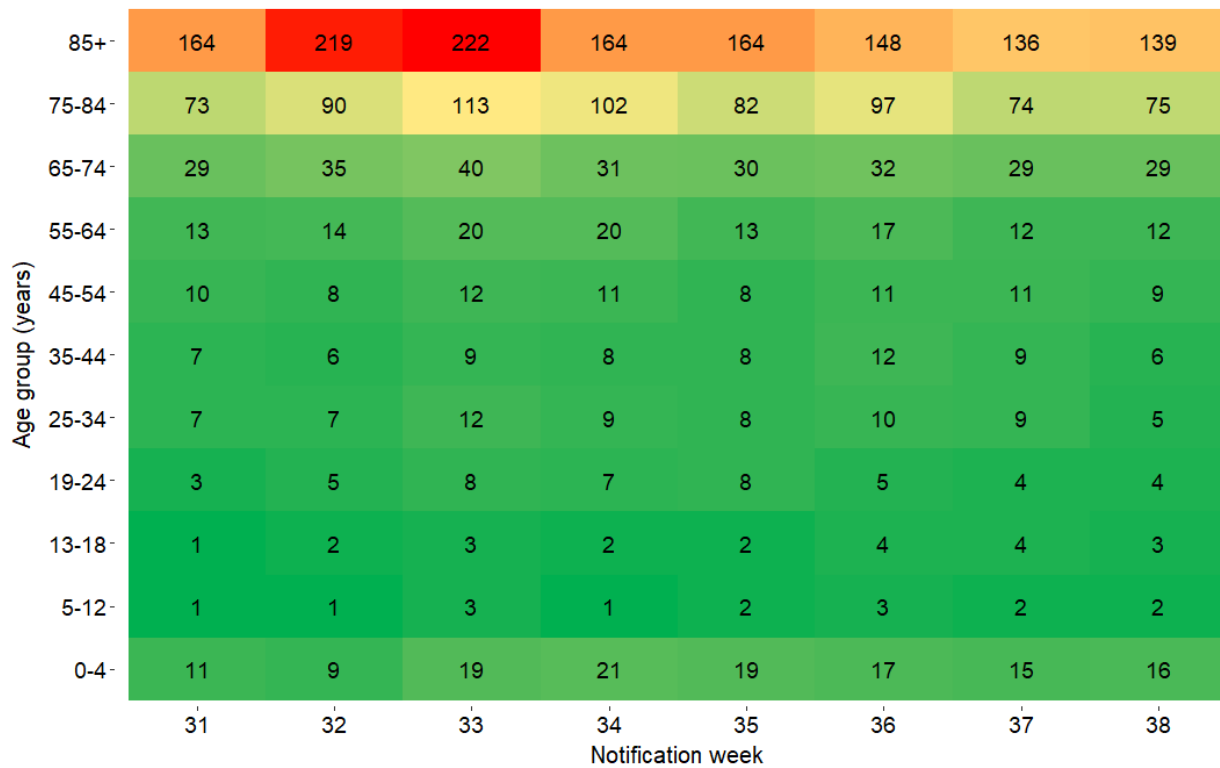


Figure 3: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the last 8 weeks

## Cases and incidence by county

**Table 3:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county and descending incidence rate per 100,000 notified in Ireland, during week 38, 2023\*

County	Number of cases	Percent	Incidence rate per 100,000
Sligo	30	4.8	45.8
Waterford	51	8.1	43.9
Leitrim	10	1.6	31.2
Cavan	20	3.2	26.3
Limerick	40	6.3	20.5
Wexford	30	4.8	20.0
Donegal	30	4.8	18.8
Kerry	24	3.8	16.2
Kilkenny	15	2.4	15.1
Cork	77	12.2	14.2
Laois	12	1.9	14.2
Offaly	11	1.7	14.1
Roscommon	8	1.3	12.4
Westmeath	11	1.7	12.4
Galway	27	4.3	10.5
Dublin	140	22.2	10.4
Clare	12	1.9	10.1
Kildare	20	3.2	9.0
Tipperary	14	2.2	8.8
Mayo	10	1.6	7.7
Wicklow	11	1.7	7.7
Carlow	4	0.6	7.0
Monaghan	4	0.6	6.5
Louth	8	1.3	6.2
Meath	11	1.7	5.6
Longford	1	0.2	2.4

\* County data may not be accurately reflected in the most recent week due to ongoing data validations

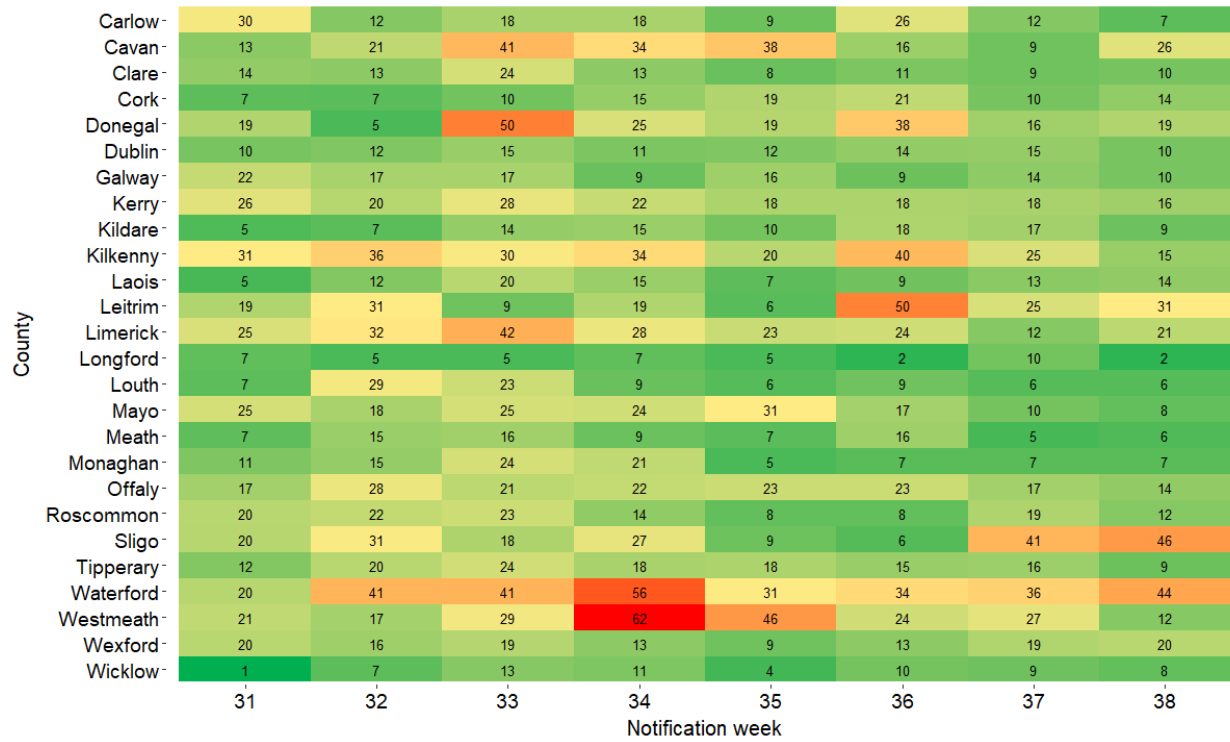


Figure 4: Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the last 8 weeks



## Hospitalisations

A total of 296 hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases were recorded in the latest epidemiological week, week 38 2023.

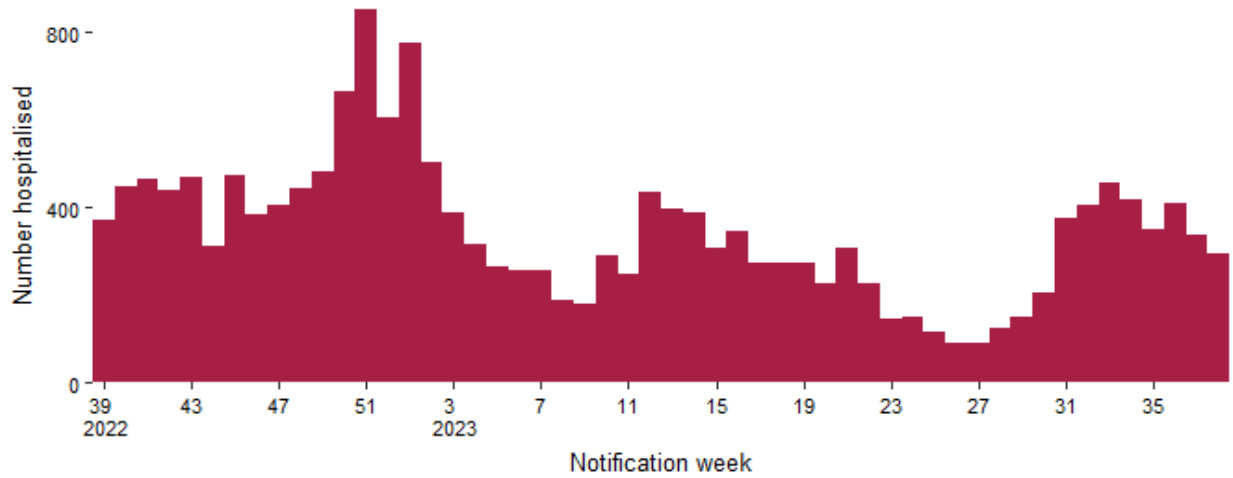


Figure 5: Hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023

**Table 4:** Number of COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions by age group in Ireland for week<sup>3</sup> 38, 2023 based on week of notification<sup>4</sup>

Age group	Week 38, 2023			Total 2023		
	Total cases	Hospitalised cases		Total cases	Hospitalised cases	
	Number of cases	Number of cases	Percentage	Number of cases	Number of cases	Percentage
0-4	53	31	58.5	1,170	672	57.4
5-12	12	6	50.0	297	125	42.1
13-18	11	2	18.2	370	102	27.6
19-24	12	3	25.0	912	173	19.0
25-34	33	7	21.2	2,748	447	16.3
35-44	45	18	40.0	3,347	540	16.1
45-54	55	14	25.5	3,161	640	20.2
55-64	61	24	39.3	3,164	1,078	34.1
65-74	107	52	48.6	3,632	2,102	57.9
75-84	148	89	60.1	4,999	3,209	64.2
85+	94	50	53.2	3,588	2,166	60.4
Unknown	0	0	0.0	4	1	25.0

<sup>3</sup> Hospitalisations may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR

<sup>4</sup> Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospital admission

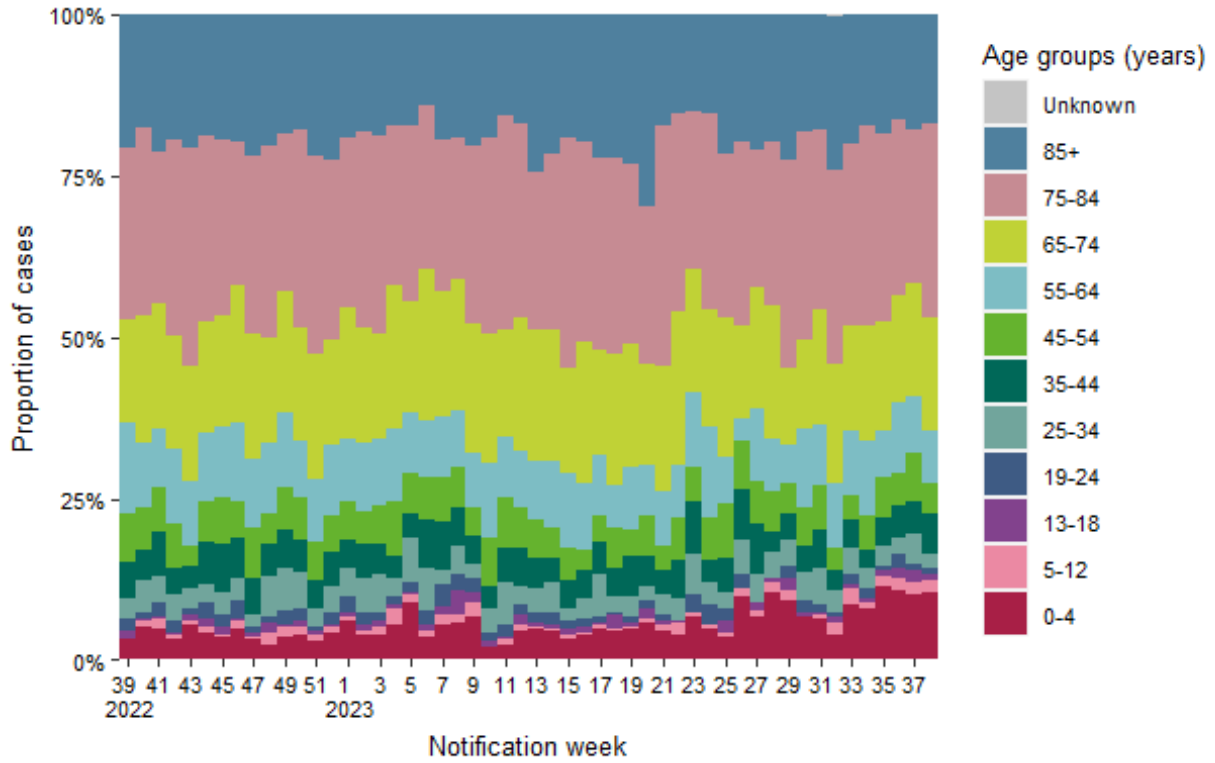


Figure 6: Age distribution of hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023

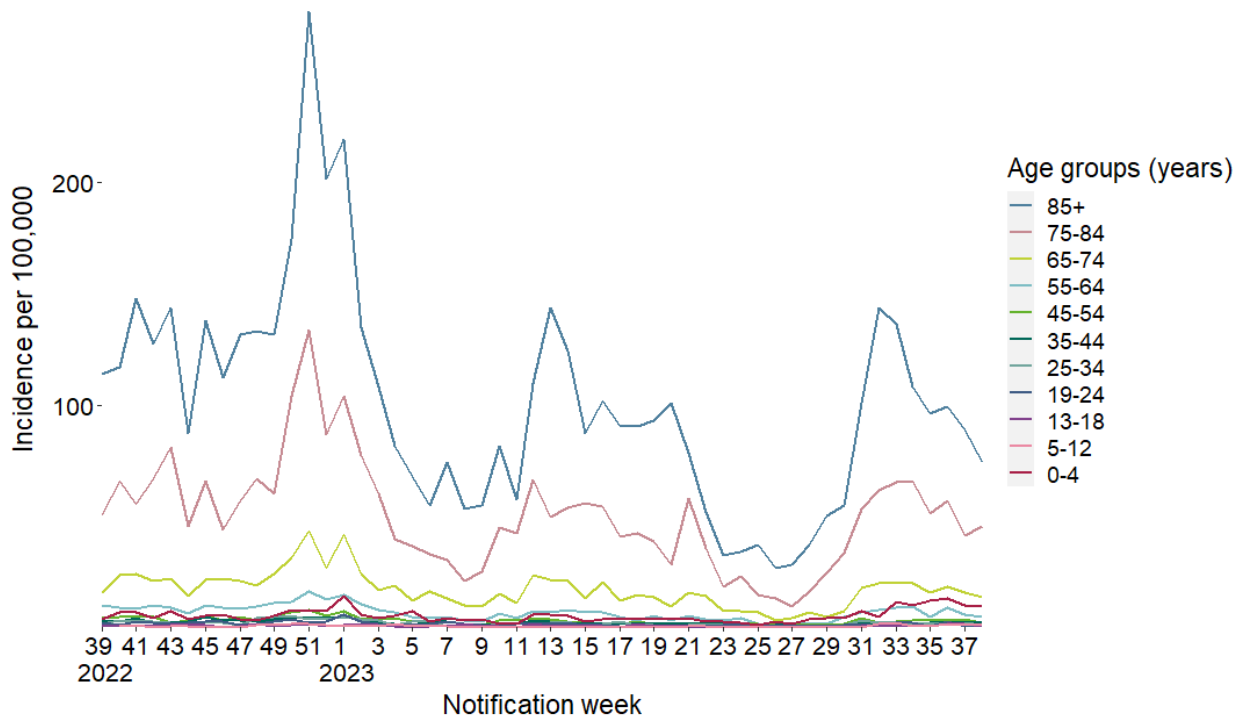


Figure 7: Incidence rate by age group of hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases on CIDR in Ireland between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023

## ICU admissions

A total of 0 COVID-19 cases were admitted to ICU in the latest epidemiological week<sup>3</sup>, week 38 2023.

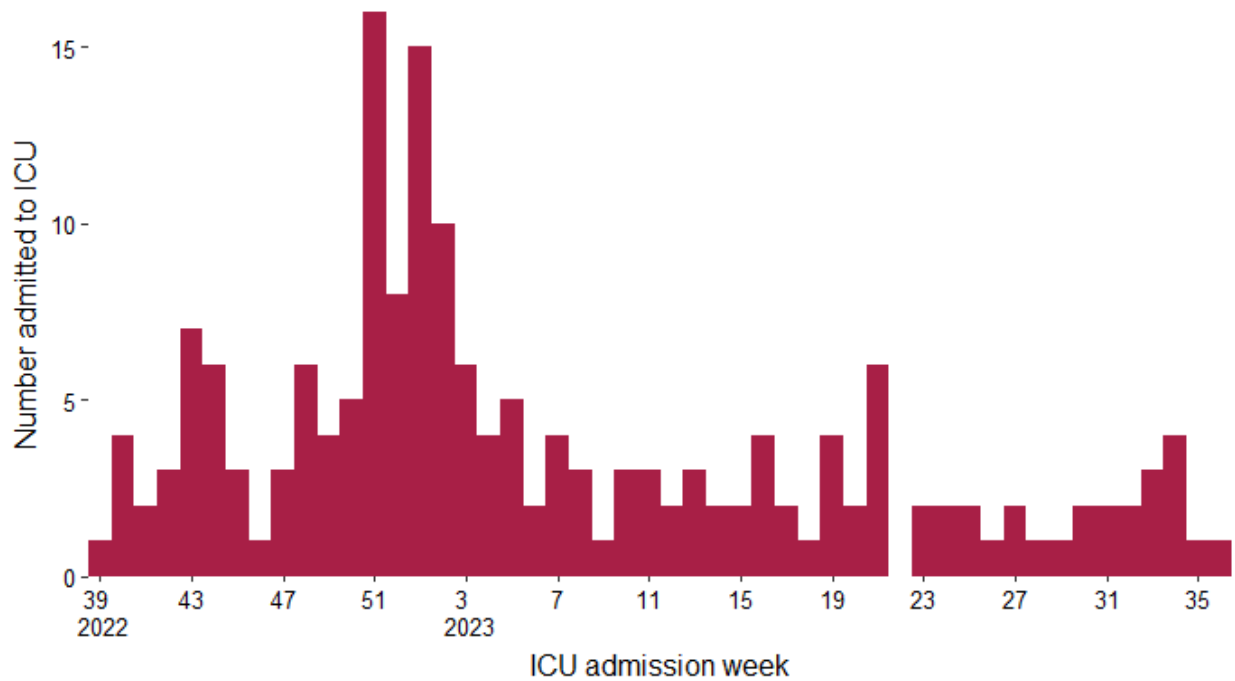


Figure 8: Number of COVID-19 ICU admissions in Ireland by week of ICU admission, between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023<sup>5</sup>

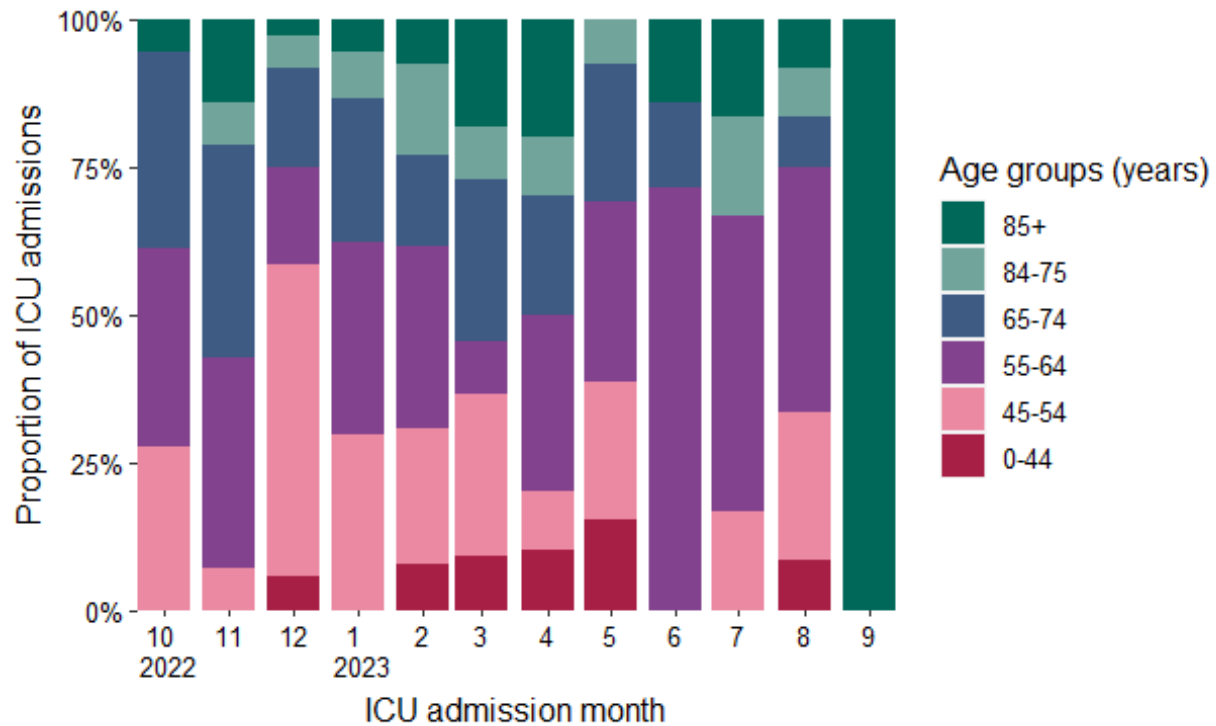


Figure 9: Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases admitted to ICU by month of admission between October, 2022 and September, 2023

<sup>5</sup> Please note that most recent weeks may not yet reflect all admissions

## Deaths

Please note the below figures and tables include all cases (confirmed, probable and possible) who have died.

A total of 1 cases had a date of death in the latest epidemiological week, 38. The mean and median age of those who died in that week was 82 and 82 years respectively.

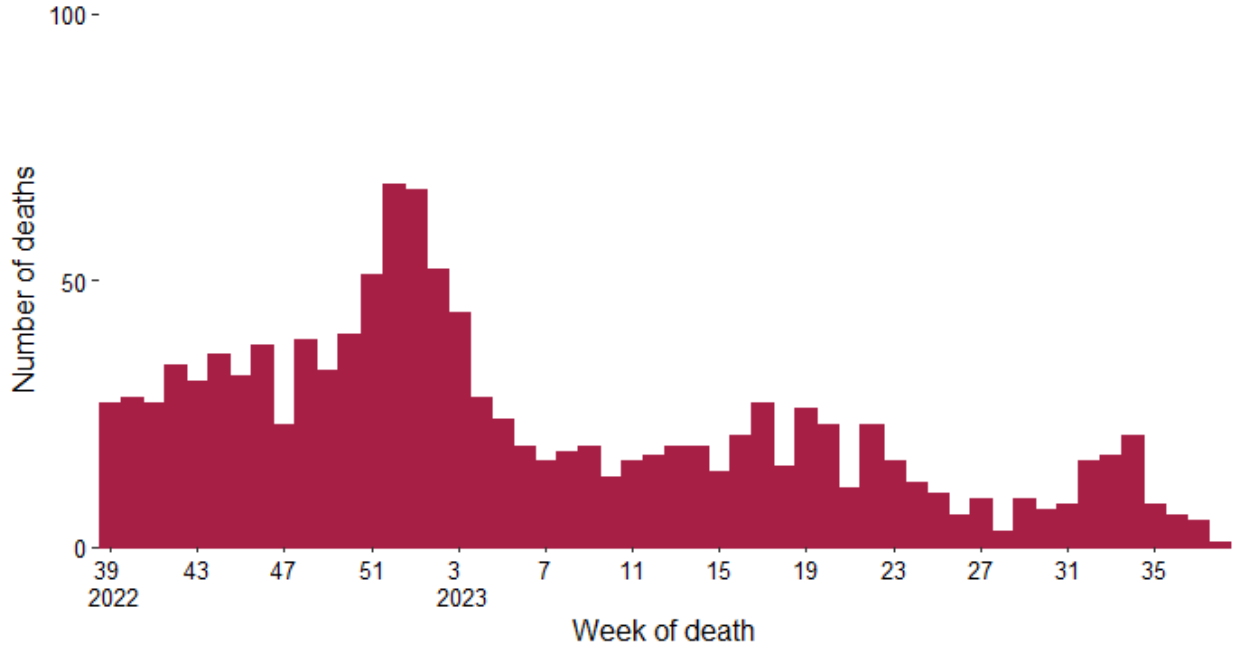


Figure 10: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified by week of death, cases with a date of notification from week 39, 2022 to 38, 2023<sup>6</sup>. Date of death missing for 0 of the reported deaths

<sup>6</sup> Please note that most recent weeks may not yet reflect all deaths

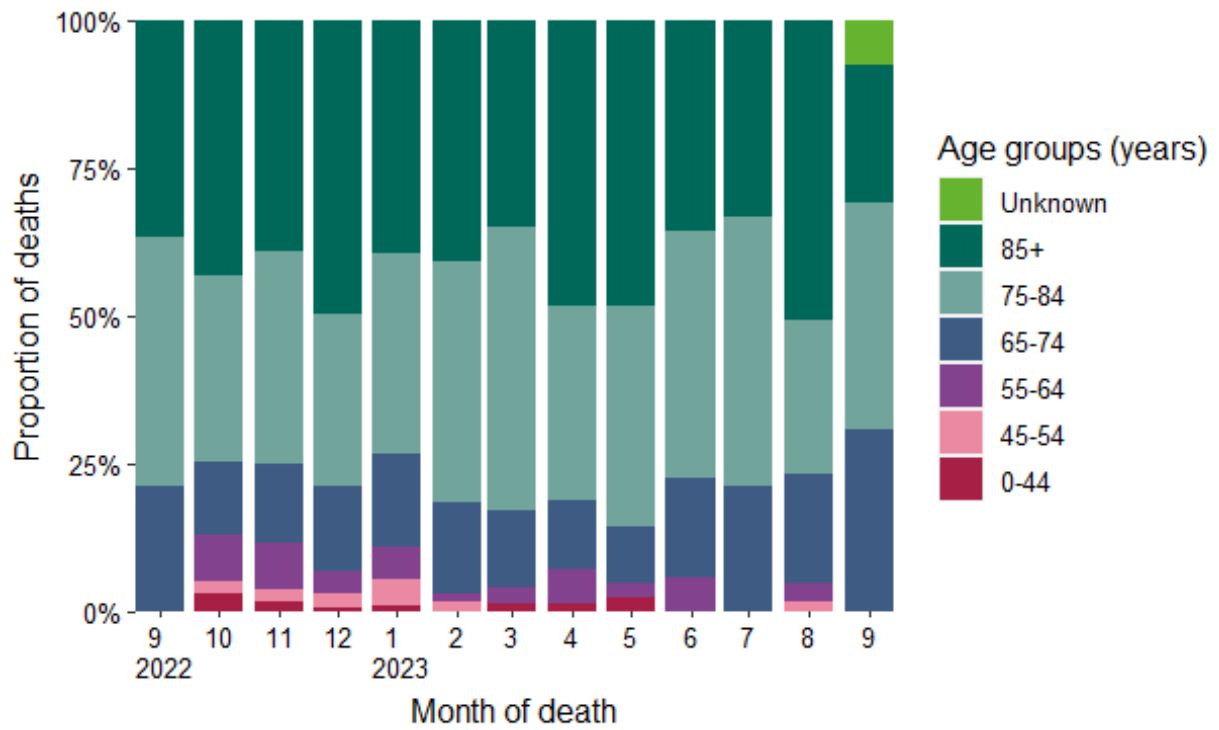


Figure 11: Age distribution of COVID-19 deaths notified on CIDR in Ireland between October, 2022 and September, 2023

## Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

In week 38, a total of 4,496 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 715 (15.9%) were positive.

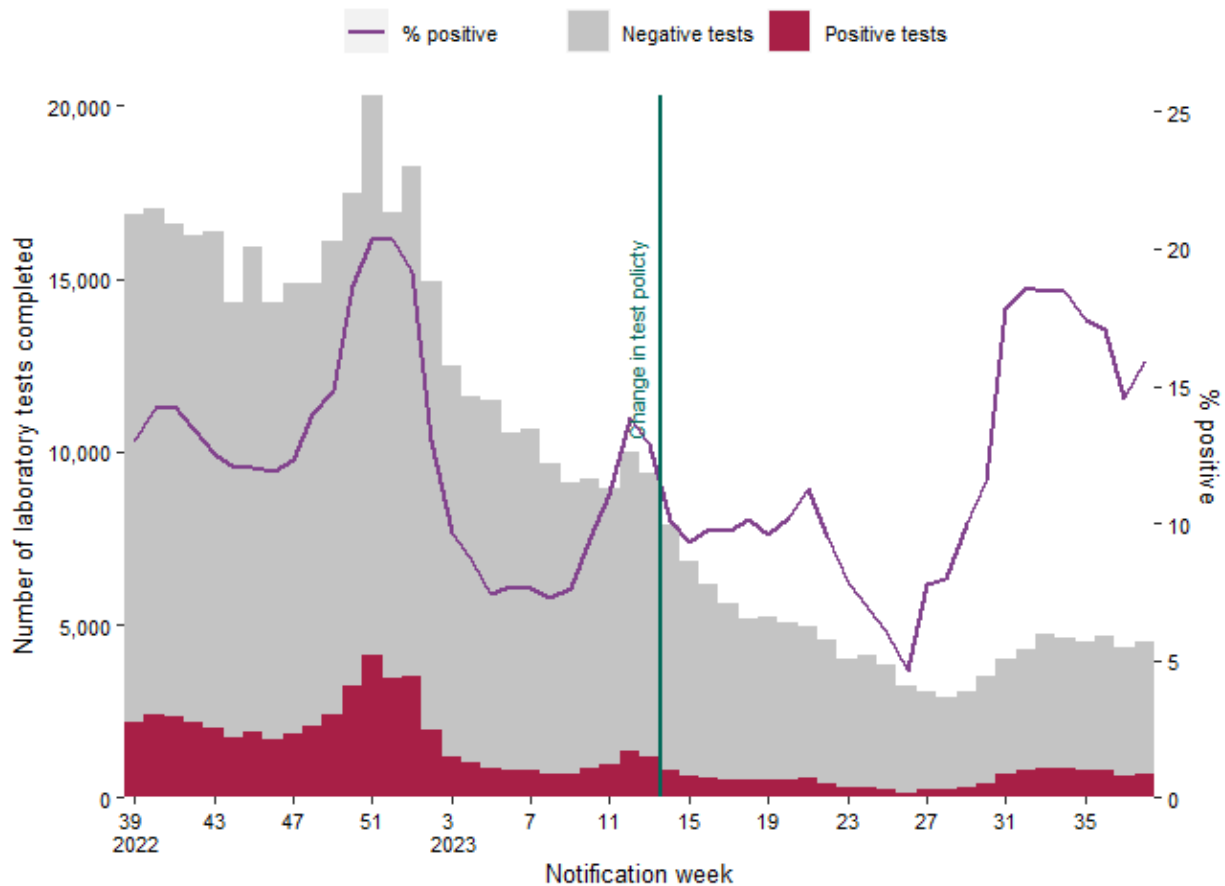


Figure 12: Number of completed laboratory tests by result and % positive tests<sup>7</sup> in Ireland between week 39, 2022 and week 38, 2023. Data source: Deloitte Ireland LLP<sup>8, 9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Positive tests refer to all positive specimens and includes duplicates and individuals who were retested.

<sup>8</sup> Since 28/02/2022 (week 9), PCR testing is only needed for symptomatic people in the community within certain risk groups: those who have not had booster vaccination and are aged 55 years and older; those with a high-risk medical conditions; those who are immunocompromised; those who live in the same household as a person who is immunocompromised; those who provide care or support for person they know to be immunocompromised; those who are pregnant; Healthcare Workers.

<sup>9</sup> Since 30/03/2023 (week 13, 2023), community test centres closed and PCR testing was only performed based on clinical assessment.

## Notes

### Technical Notes

#### 1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system and the HSE COVID care tracker. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures. Slide with Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 data provided by Deloitte Ireland LLP

#### 2. Epidemiological date

Epidemiological date is based on the earliest of dates available on the case and taken from date of onset of symptoms, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date or event creation date/notification date on CIDR. By using this date rather than event creation/ notification date, adjusts for any delays in testing/notification. Further information on epidemiological dates and weeks can be found on the [HPSC website](#).

#### 3. Population data

Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis: 0-4 years, 5-12 years, 13-18 years, 19-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and  $\geq 85$  years.

### Acknowledgements

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.

### Please refer to the Health Protection Surveillance (HPSC) website for

- [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland infohub](#)
- [Outbreaks/clusters in Ireland COVID-19 weekly report](#)
- [Monthly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance programme weekly reports](#)
- [Virus variants in Ireland COVID-19 summary report](#)
- [Epidemiology of intensive care admissions in cases of COVID-19 in Ireland](#)