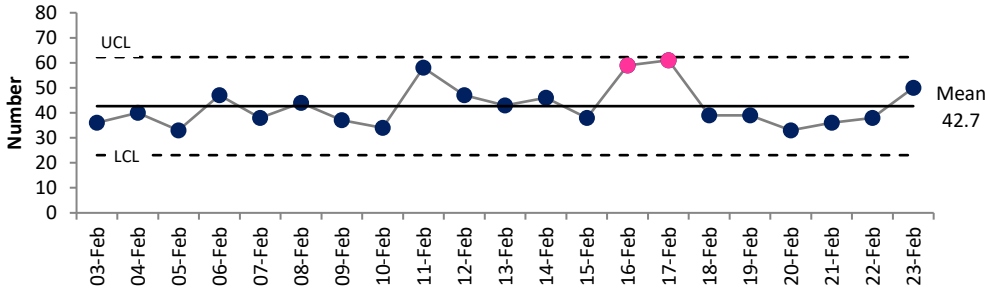


COVID-19 Data Summary, Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Introduction:

As the COVID restrictions are eased, we will continue to monitor the situation closely to predict future pressures on the hospital system and to assess effectiveness of control measures.

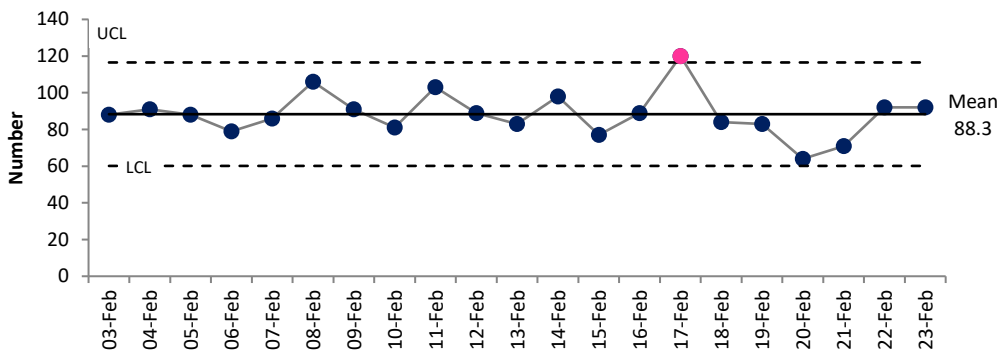
Number of hospital admissions of COVID positive patients during the previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 42.7 admissions per day of COVID positive patients since 3rd February. Admissions on 16th and 17th of February were higher than expected.

However, admissions continue to trend downwards. A total of 296 admissions over the past 7 days (an average of 42 per day), **down 9% on the previous week). 50 admissions today**

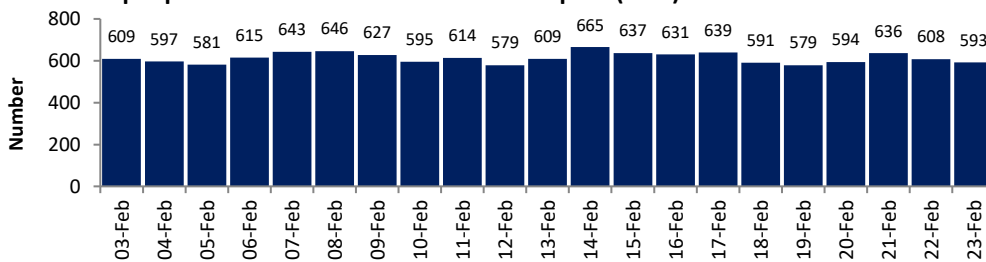
Number of new confirmed COVID cases in hospital, previous 24 hours



The SPC chart shows an average of 88.3 new confirmed COVID cases in hospital (includes admissions with known COVID & cases with COVID diagnosed after admission). New confirmed cases in hospital were higher than expected on 17th Feb.

92 new cases in hospital today. A total of 606 new cases over the past 7 days (an average of 86.6 per day), **down 2% on the previous week.**

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital (8am)

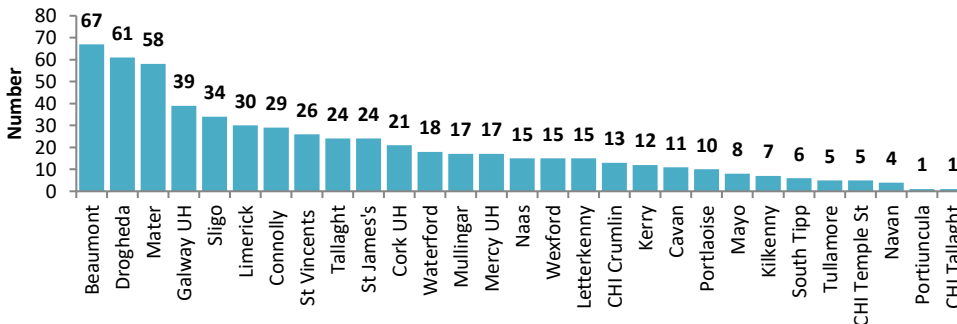


The number of people with COVID in hospital is **stable**.

593 in hospital at 8am today.

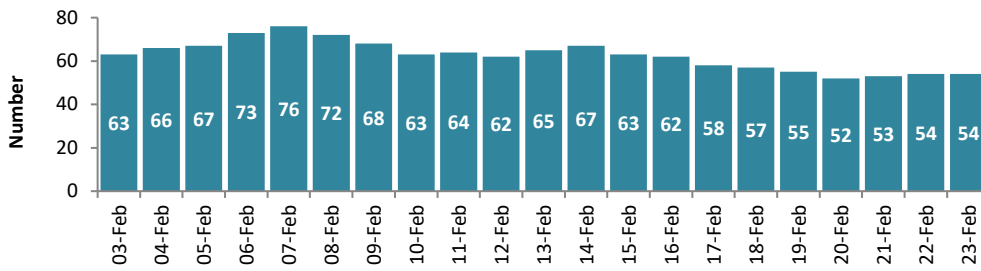
Down 6% on the same day last week and down 5.4% on the same day two weeks ago.

Number of people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, by hospital (8am on 23rd Feb)



Of the 593 people with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital, **Beaumont has the highest number (67 people)**, followed by Drogheda (61), The Mater (58), Galway UH (39), and Sligo (34).

Number of people with COVID-19 in critical care

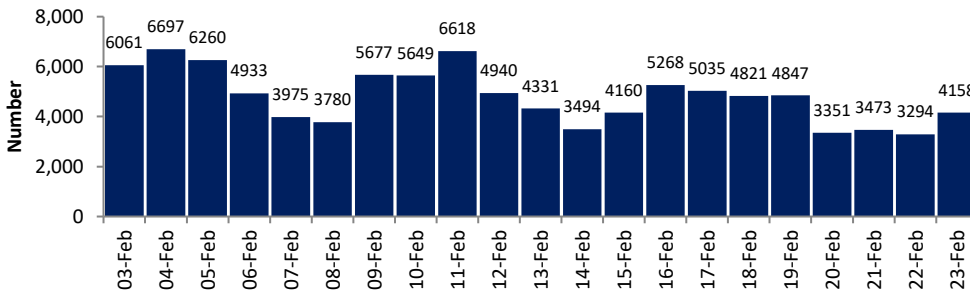


The number with COVID-19 in critical care appears to be trending downwards overall over last 3 weeks.

Down 13% on this day last week and **down 20.6%** on two weeks ago.

Currently 54 in ICU (**down 8** on the same day last week). **4 new admissions today.**

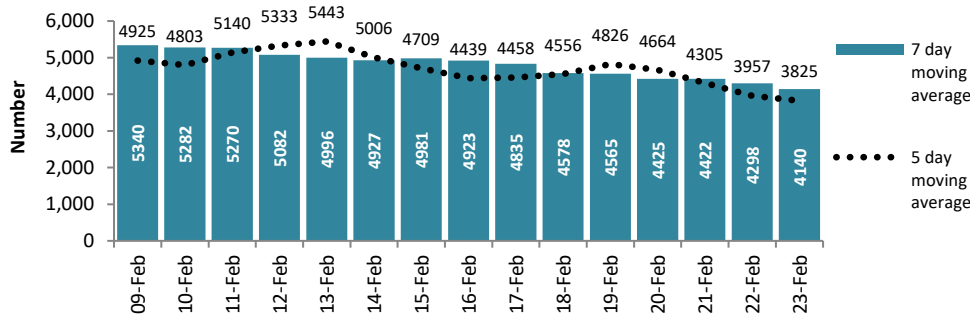
Number of new cases per day (last 3 weeks to 23rd Feb), based on PCRs only



The number of new cases (based on positive PCR results uploaded to the COVID Care Tracker) over the past 3 weeks is trending downward, despite daily variation. **Down 16%** on total cases in last 7 days compared to week before.

It is important to note the change in testing policy from 14th January with confirmatory PCR tests no longer required for people aged 4-39 years with positive antigen tests.

5 and 7 day moving averages of new cases per day (14 days to 23rd February), PCRs only

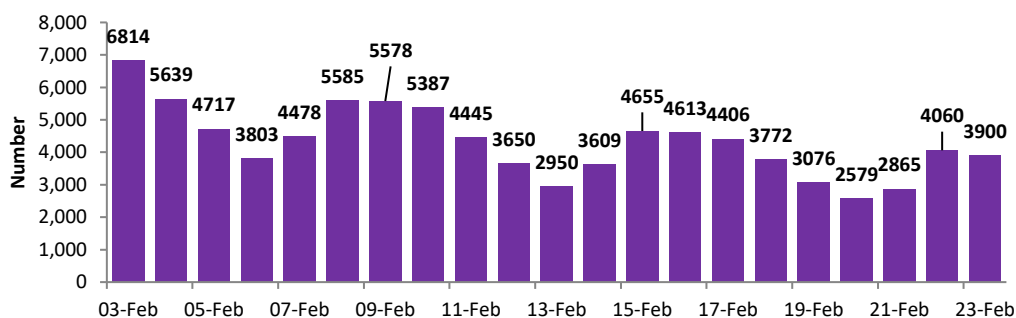


Compared to last week the 5 day moving average is down **14%** and the 7 day moving average is down **16%**.

Compared to previous 2 weeks, the 5 day average is down **22%** and the 7 day average is down **22%**.

Note change in testing policy from 14th January.

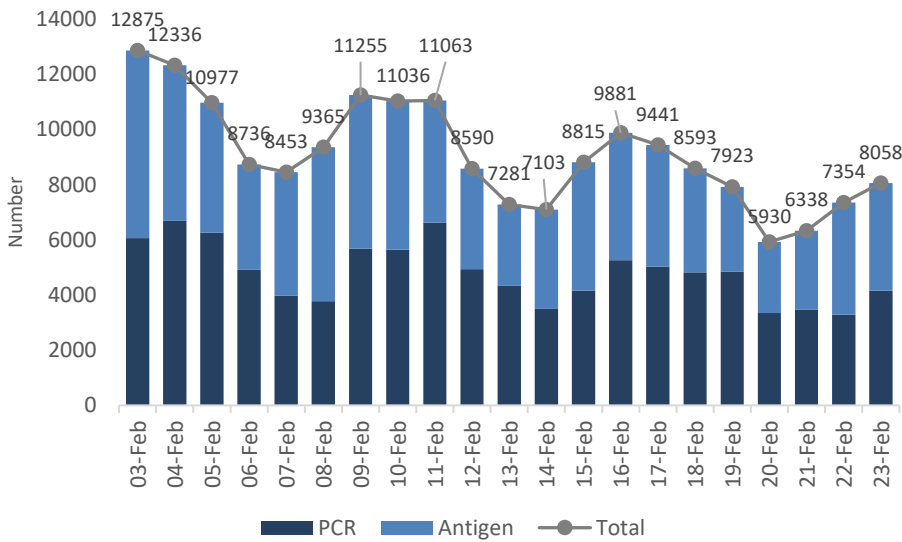
Number of people who registered positive antigen tests through the HSE portal



In addition to positive PCR results, 24,658 people have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE portal over the past 7 days (an average of 3,523 per day).

Note that the portal opened on 14th January. The figures reported refer to the number of people who registered a positive test on the portal during the previous day (i.e. data for 15-Jan refers to positive results reported on 14-Jan).

Total Estimated daily case number: PCR results and self-reported antigen test results

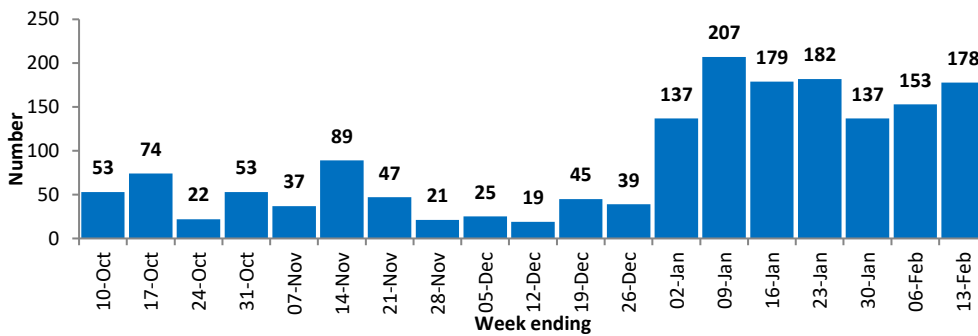


A daily case number can be estimated by combining total PCR results (uploaded to the HSE CovidCare Tracker) and Antigen test results (uploaded to the HSE Antigen portal).

8,058 estimated daily cases today, 4,158 PCR and 3,900 Antigen. This represents a decrease in estimated daily cases of 18% compared to this day last week (9,981 estimated cases on 16th February).

* These data are provisional, are subject to validation and do not represent notified cases. There may be some duplication due to people with positive antigens also getting positive PCRs as confirmation

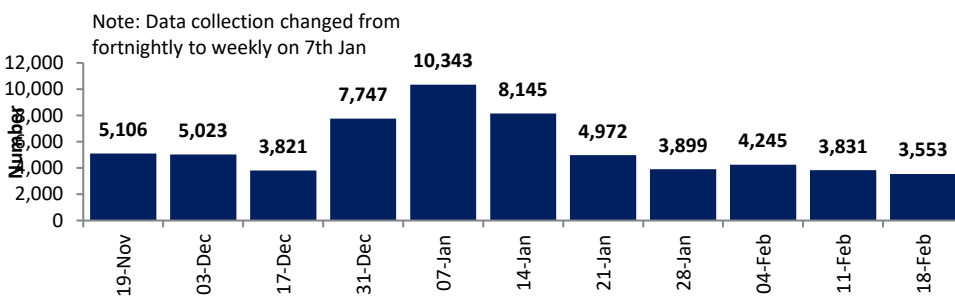
Number of hospital acquired cases of COVID-19 by week



The number of hospital acquired cases of COVID remains high relative to recent months. It has increased by 16% compared to week ending 6th Feb and increased by 30% compared to week ending 30th Jan.

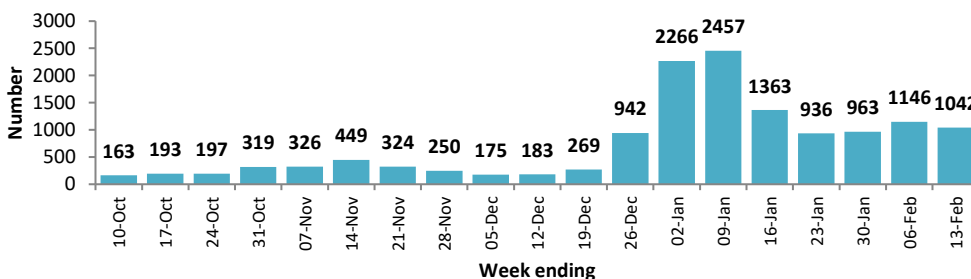
The number of hospital acquired cases during this wave has remained lower than the peak of 495 hospital acquired cases during the week ending 17th Jan 2021.

Number of health service staff absent due to COVID-19



The number of staff absent due to a diagnosis of COVID or self-reported remains high but has decreased from a peak of 10,343 to 3,553 over the past 2 weeks. For the 2 weeks ending 14th Feb staff were absent (down 39% on the previous week). This is a decrease of 7% compared to the week ending 11th of February. Overall COVID health service absenteeism rate of 3.3%.

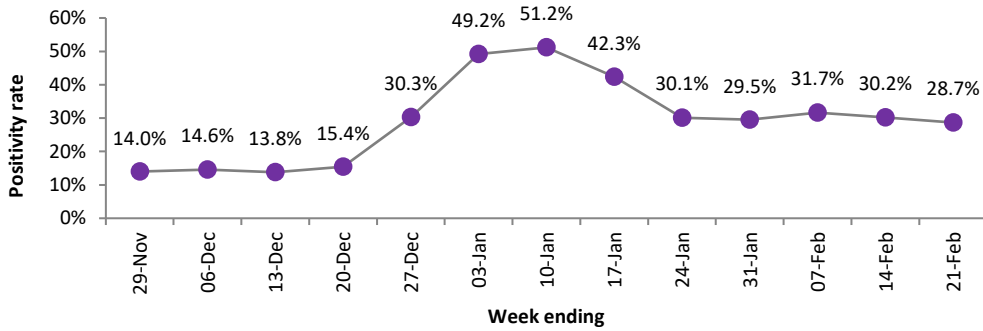
Number of new lab confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff, by week



The number of new laboratory confirmed cases of COVID in hospital staff is significantly higher over the past 8 weeks than in previous months but has decreased from this wave's peak of 2,457 (week ending 9th Jan). The latest reported week (ending 13th Feb) is down 9% on the previous seven days but up 8% on week ending 30th Jan.

*Based on available unvalidated information from hospitals on confirmed cases among staff.

Positivity rate for COVID-19 PCR tests by week

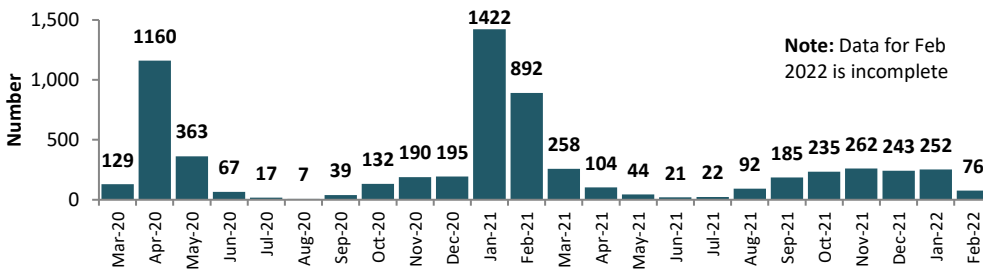


The positivity rate remains high but has stabilised around 30% over the last five weeks after a recent peak of 51.2% week ending 10th Jan.

Positivity rate for week ending 23rd Feb (28.7%) is a decrease on week ending 14th Feb (30.2%).

The positivity rate may be impacted by presentations post positive antigen test.

COVID-19 related deaths by month of death

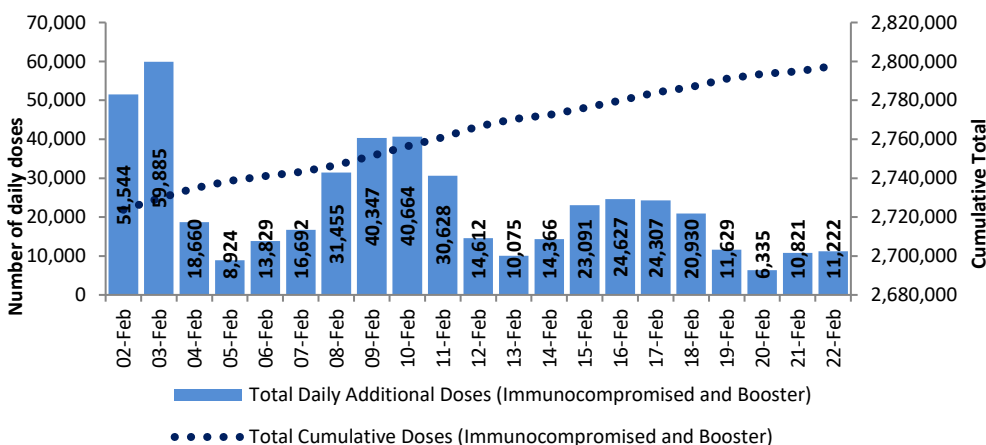


The deaths of 6,443 people with confirmed, probable or possible COVID-19 have been reported to date (up to 19th February).

The deaths of 76 people during the month of February 2022 have been reported to 19th February.

*Date of death reported for 6,407

Daily doses of COVID-19 Additional vaccinations, 2nd Feb – 22nd Feb

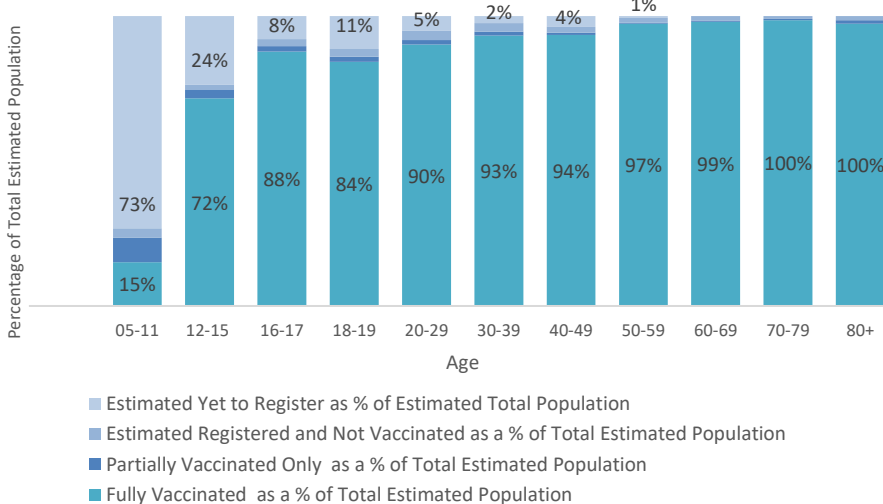


Up to 22nd February **2,797,635 additional dose vaccinations** have been administered, 130,637 (4.7%) of which were administered to the immunocompromised.

In the latest week (16th-22th Feb) 42,113 total doses were administered (including first, second & additional doses).

To date, **69,344 children aged 5-9 years and 44,636 children aged 10-11 years have received their 1st dose.**

Vaccine uptake by age group



Vaccine uptake is extremely high in Ireland, exceeding an estimated 90% fully vaccinated for all those over 20.

Uptake among 12-15 year olds (72% fully vaccinated, 24% yet to register), 16-17 year olds (88% fully vaccinated, 8% yet to register) and 18-19 year olds (84% fully vaccinated, 11% yet to register) is also high.

Those aged 5-11 have lower uptake with just 15% fully vaccinated, 9% partially vaccinated, 3% registered and not yet vaccinated and 73% unregistered.

*Due to estimations of population (CSO 2021 April estimates) and potential duplication of registrations, data should be considered indicative only.

Key trends & recent changes:

- In the **7 days up to 23rd February** there were **28,979 new cases** reported (**based on positive PCR results uploaded to the COVID Care Tracker**); **down 16% on the previous week** (34,460 new cases in the 7 days up to 16th February). Compared to the previous week, the **5 day moving average is down 14% and compared to two weeks ago, down 22%**
- In addition, over the past 7 days 24,658 people reported a positive antigen test to the HSE portal (average of 3,523 per day).
- It is important to note the change in testing policy with people aged 4-39 referred for antigen self-testing rather than PCR testing, and no longer needing a confirmatory PCR following a positive antigen test since 14th January.

Hospital activity:

- The number of patients with confirmed COVID currently **in hospital is down 6% compared to last** 631 at 8am on 16th February, 593 at 8sm on 23rd February).
- Over the past 7 days there have been **296 admissions of COVID positive patients to hospital** (an average of 42 per day), **down 9% on the previous week** (325 new admissions in the 7 days up to 16th February).
- Data from the NOCA ICU Bed Information System shows that the number of **confirmed COVID cases in ICU is down 21% compared to last week** (62 on 16th February, 54 on 23rd February).
- **In addition to patients in ICU, on 22th February 178 patients were receiving non-invasive ventilation outside ICU (37 patients with COVID and 141 non-COVID patients), up from 170 on the same day last week.**

Outbreaks:

- For the most recent week (up 19th February), there were **22 new outbreaks in acute hospitals notified.**
- **There were 43 outbreaks in nursing homes notified**
- There was 1 new outbreak in community hospitals / long-term care facilities.
- **There were 37 outbreaks in residential institutions notified**
- There were 11 outbreaks associated with other healthcare services notified
- There were 12 outbreaks associated with schools
- There was 1 outbreak associated with childcare facilities
- In vulnerable populations, there were 5 outbreaks associated with the Irish Traveller Community and 1 outbreak associated with the Roma Community
- Note data on outbreaks are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validations and updating.

Deaths:

- **6,443** deaths with confirmed (6,163), probable (98) and possible cases (182) of COVID-19 were recorded from 01/03/2020 to 19/02/2022
 - **The median age was 82, range 4-105**
 - 2,990 (46.4%) were female and 3,452 (53.6%) Male
 - **5,298 (82.2%) had one or more underlying condition**, 633 (9.8%) did not and it is unknown for a further 512 (7.9%)
- **3,785 (58.7%)** were linked to outbreaks
 - **2,327 in nursing homes**
 - 915 in Hospital
 - 155 in Community Hospitals/Long stay units
 - 114 in Residential institution
 - 274 in other locations

* A death linked to an outbreak in a particular setting does not of itself indicate that transmission occurred within that setting. A case may be detected as part of an outbreak investigation, and associated with an outbreak, despite exposure and transmission having occurred elsewhere.

Conclusion:

We continue to see positive trends in the data, as cases trend downward over the last three weeks and hospital and ICU admissions also trend downwards. Hospital acquired COVID-19 cases remain high and there has been an **increase in outbreaks in hospitals and nursing homes this week. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in staff remain high** but are lower than the peak of January last year and trending downwards overall.