



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

# NPHET COVID Update 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# Current situation



	01-Oct	26-Oct (2 <sup>nd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	01-Dec	01-Jan	14-Jan (3 <sup>rd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	26-Feb	02-Mar	06-Mar	10-Mar
14-day incidence	96.08	306.20	86.90	320.67	1494.81	222.85	201.01	175.27	162.52
5-day average cases	407.0	919.4	261.0	1477.2	4460.4	643.6	631.8	485.2	488.0
Total weekly cases	2607	7000	1893	9420	35379	4880	4344	3719	3412

	01-Oct	26-Oct (2 <sup>nd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	01-Dec	01-Jan	14-Jan (3 <sup>rd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	26-Feb	02-Mar	06-Mar	10-Mar
No. Hospital (8.A.M)	122	344	224	508	1792	574	498	414	370
No. in ICU (6.30 P.M)	22	40	30	42	176	141	117	100	93

	01-Oct	26-Oct (2 <sup>nd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	01-Dec	01-Jan	14-Jan (3 <sup>rd</sup> wave peak 14 day inc.)	26-Feb	02-Mar	06-Mar	10-Mar
Positivity rate (7 day average)	3.0%	6.1%	2.7%	12.5%	17.0%	4.8%	4.3%	4.1%	3.7%

	November	December	January	February	March
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Deaths associated with Nursing Home outbreaks</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Deaths associated with Hospital outbreaks</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>9</b>

# Cases, numbers in hospital and intensive care

There is progress against all indicators of disease, though cases and number of people requiring hospital care remain high. The number of people in hospital and ICU continues to decrease. The number of deaths per day remains high but is decreasing



	Apr 2020	Summer 2020	Oct 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	10 Feb	17 Feb	24 Feb	3 Mar	10 Mar	Daily count 10 Mar
Cases confirmed per day	859 18-04	8.7 25-06	1158 21-10	262 12-12	6520 10-01	943	816	737	620	487	631
14-day incidence <i>per 100,000 population</i>	212 19-04	3.0 04-07	306 26-10	79 09-12	1532 15-01	312	261	231	199	163	
Hospital in-patients	862 17-04	9 02-08	333 01-11	198 16-12	1949 24-01	1188	907	723	542	415	370
<i>Hospital admissions per day</i>	85 04-04	<1 10-07	27 26-10	11 13-12	158 15-01	52	45	40	23	24	31
ICU confirmed cases	150 14-04	4 04-08	43 04-11	26 27-12	217 28-01	179	163	149	127	100	92
<i>ICU admissions per day</i>	14 31-03	<1 03-06	4 03-11	1 16-12	20 17-01	6	8	6	4	4	4
Deaths confirmed per day	46 22-04	<1 30-07	7 01-12	4 17-12	57 03-02	41	35	29	18	20	47

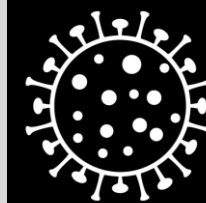
Data are 7-day averages (the indicated day and the preceding 6 days, rounded to the nearest whole number) with the exception of 14 day cumulative incidence, which is the total number of cases in the preceding 14 days per 100,000 population. The highest and lowest values of each indicator are given for each wave of the pandemic, along with the date on which that value was recorded, as well as the data for recent weeks. The historic incidence data may change due to denotification of cases.



# Cases, Incidence Rates & Testing

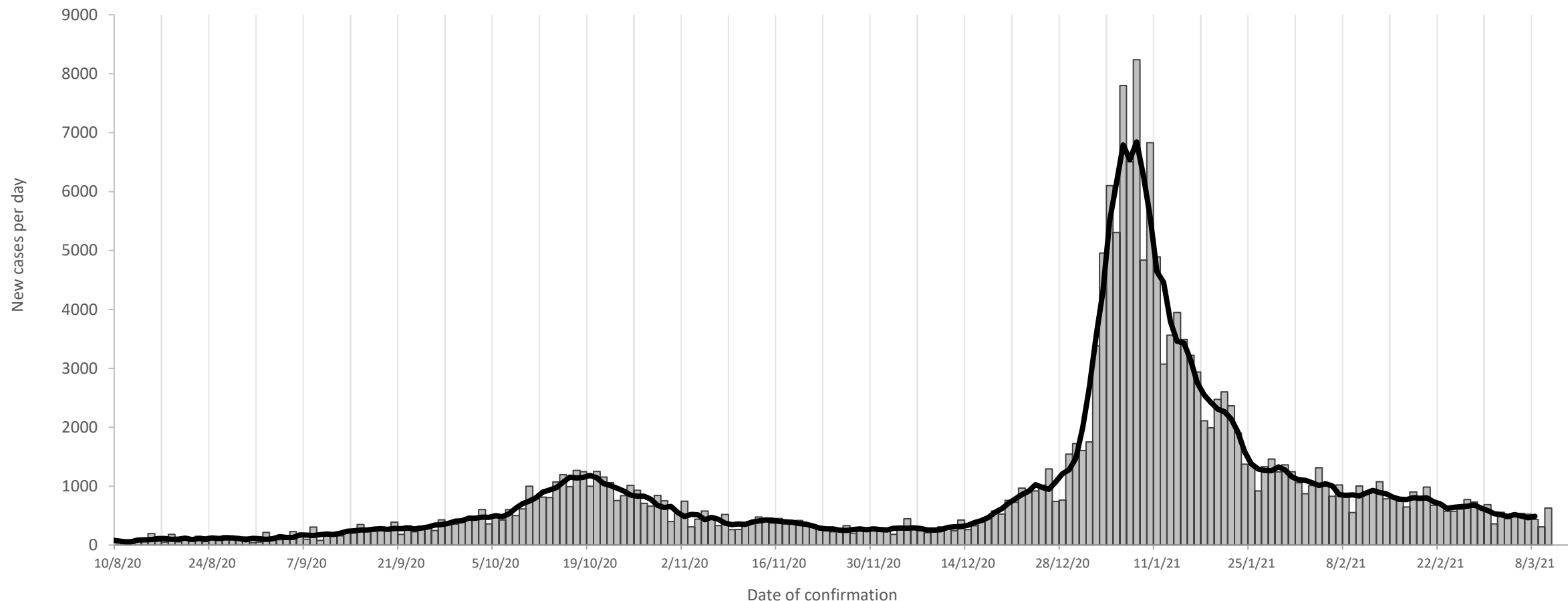
# Confirmed cases each day

Daily and weekly count and 5-day rolling average. The 5-day average peaked at 1186 on 21 October, reached a low of 251 on 28 November, peaked again at 6847 on 8 January and is now **488**



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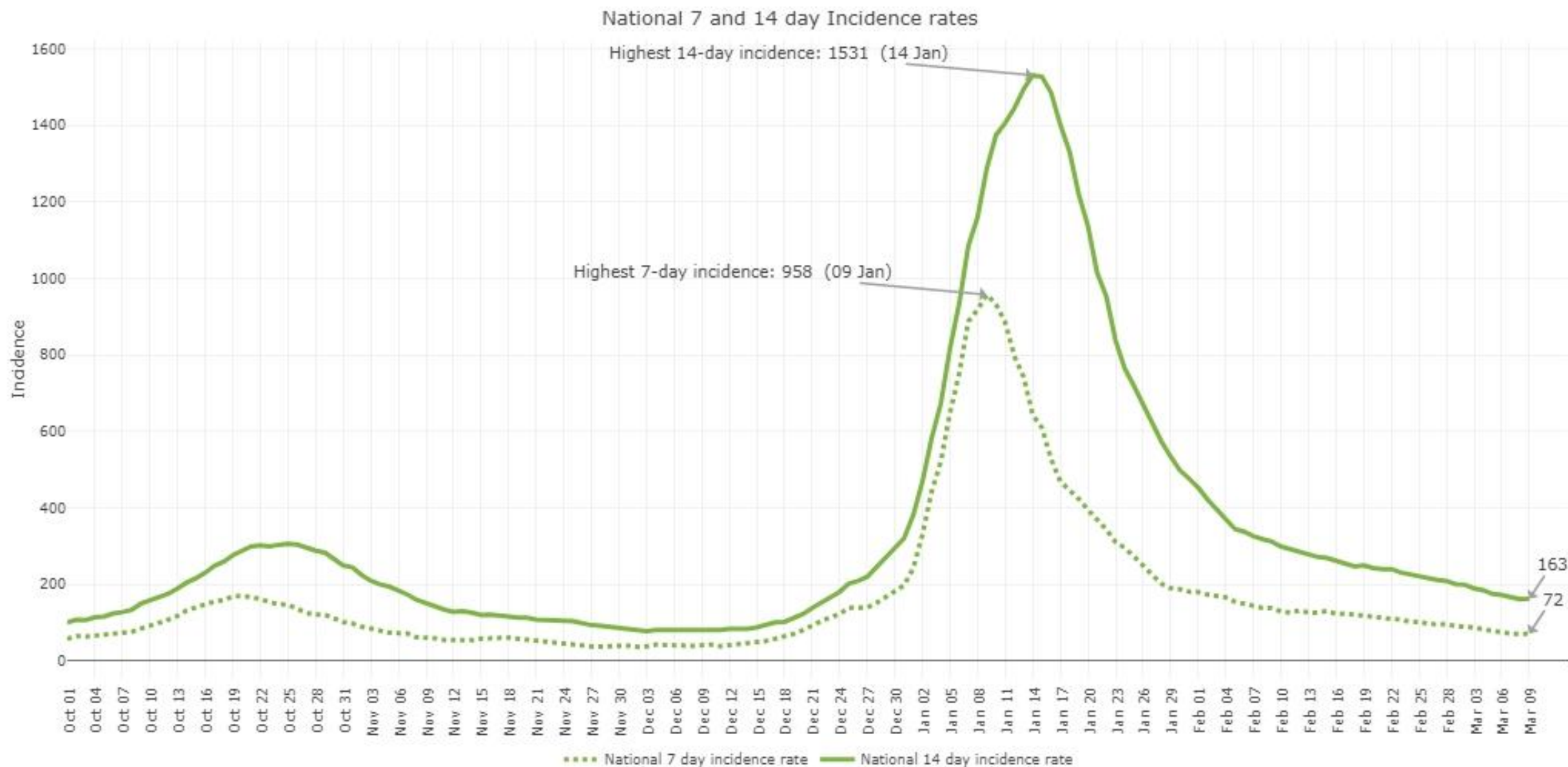
Cases per week	546	711	796	912	1303	1947	2059	3031	4457	7398	7073	4838	3424	2583	2580	1798	2028	1964	3368	6597	15729	45621	25123	14815	8931	7147	6031	5531	4556	3638
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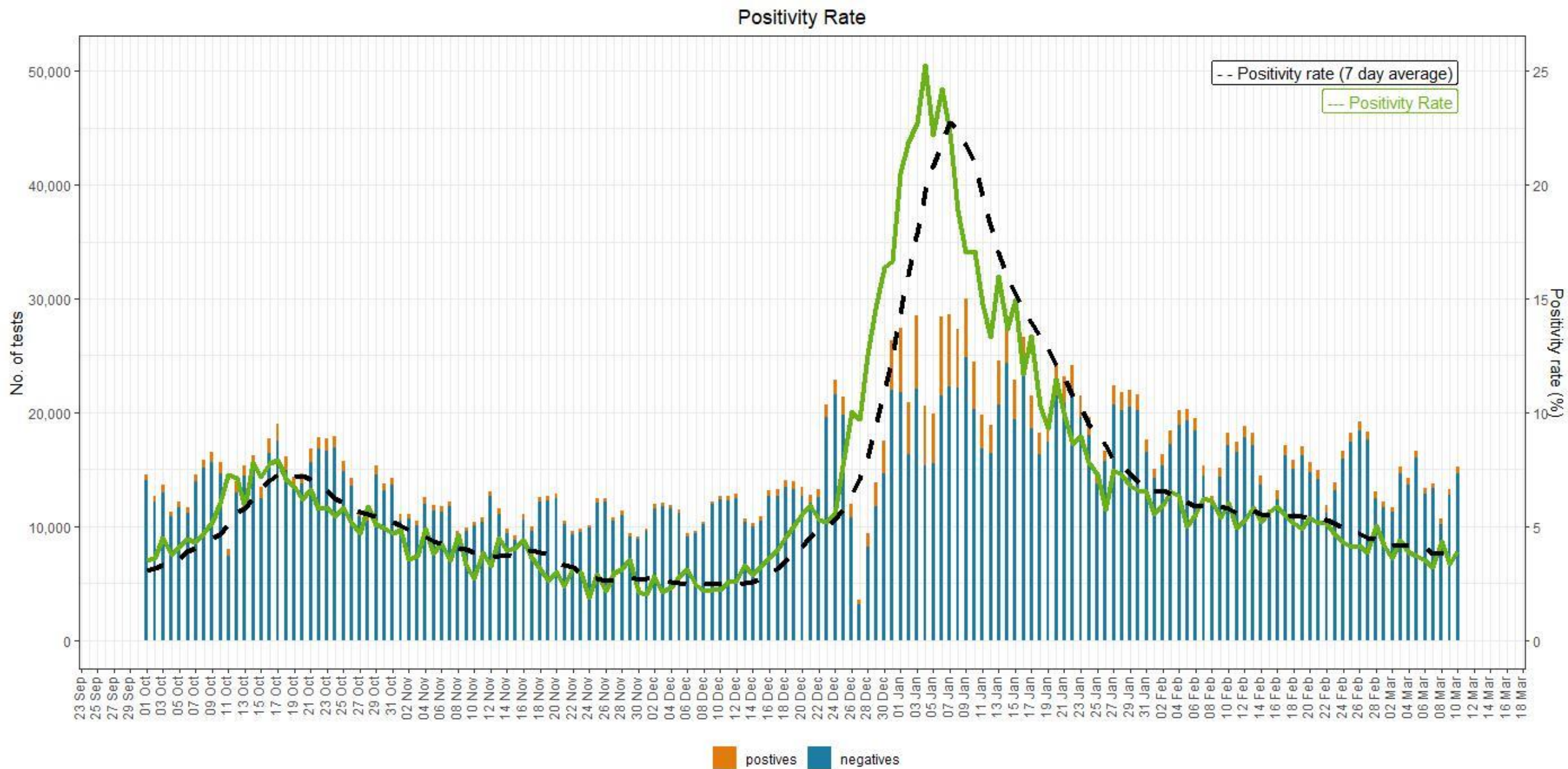
Daily count (bars) 5-day average (line) and weekly counts of the number of laboratory confirmed new cases by date on which they were confirmed by HPSC. Case counts may change due to denotification of cases. Weekly case counts are by notification (event) date and standard epidemiological week.

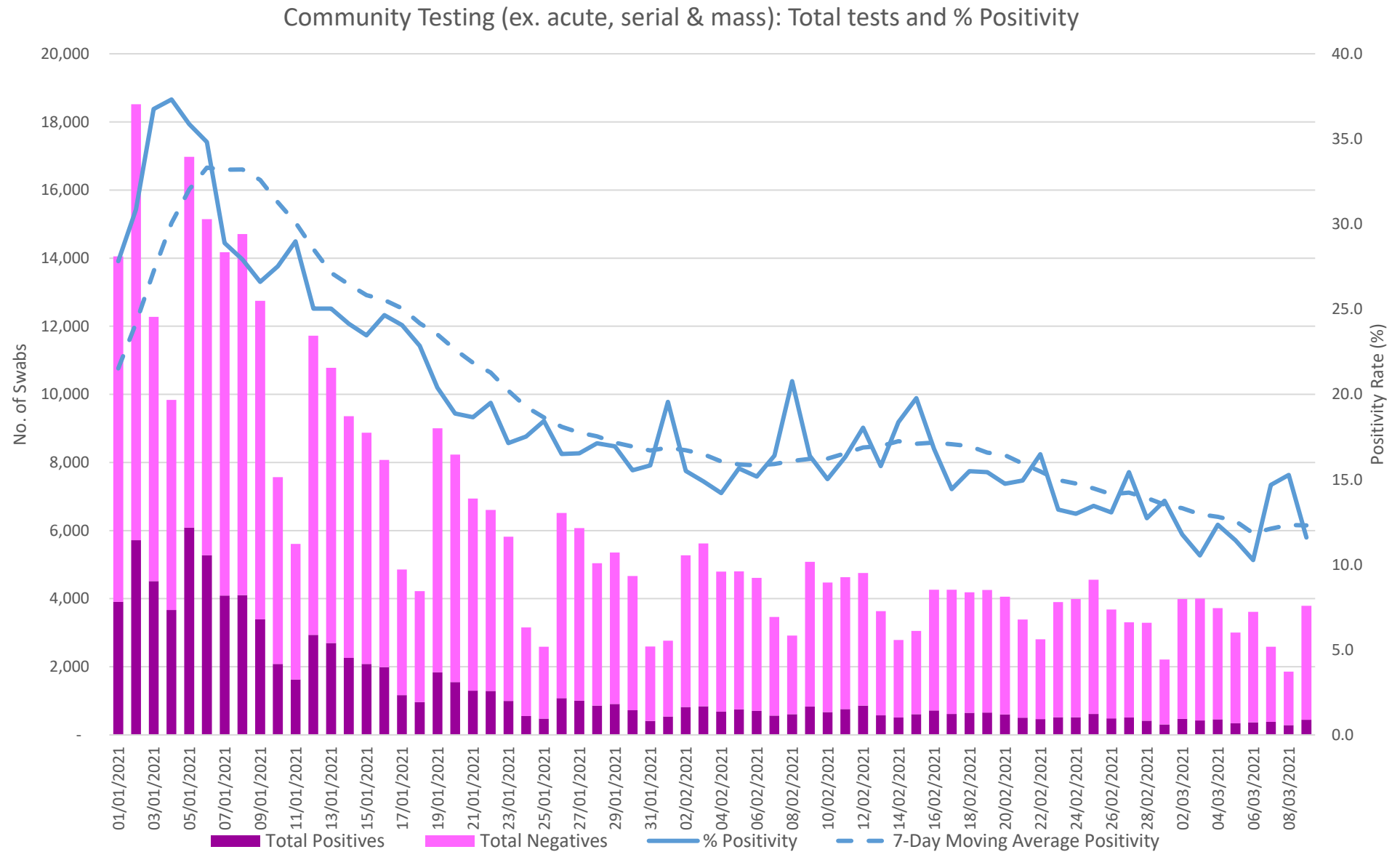


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# Recent trend in positivity rate





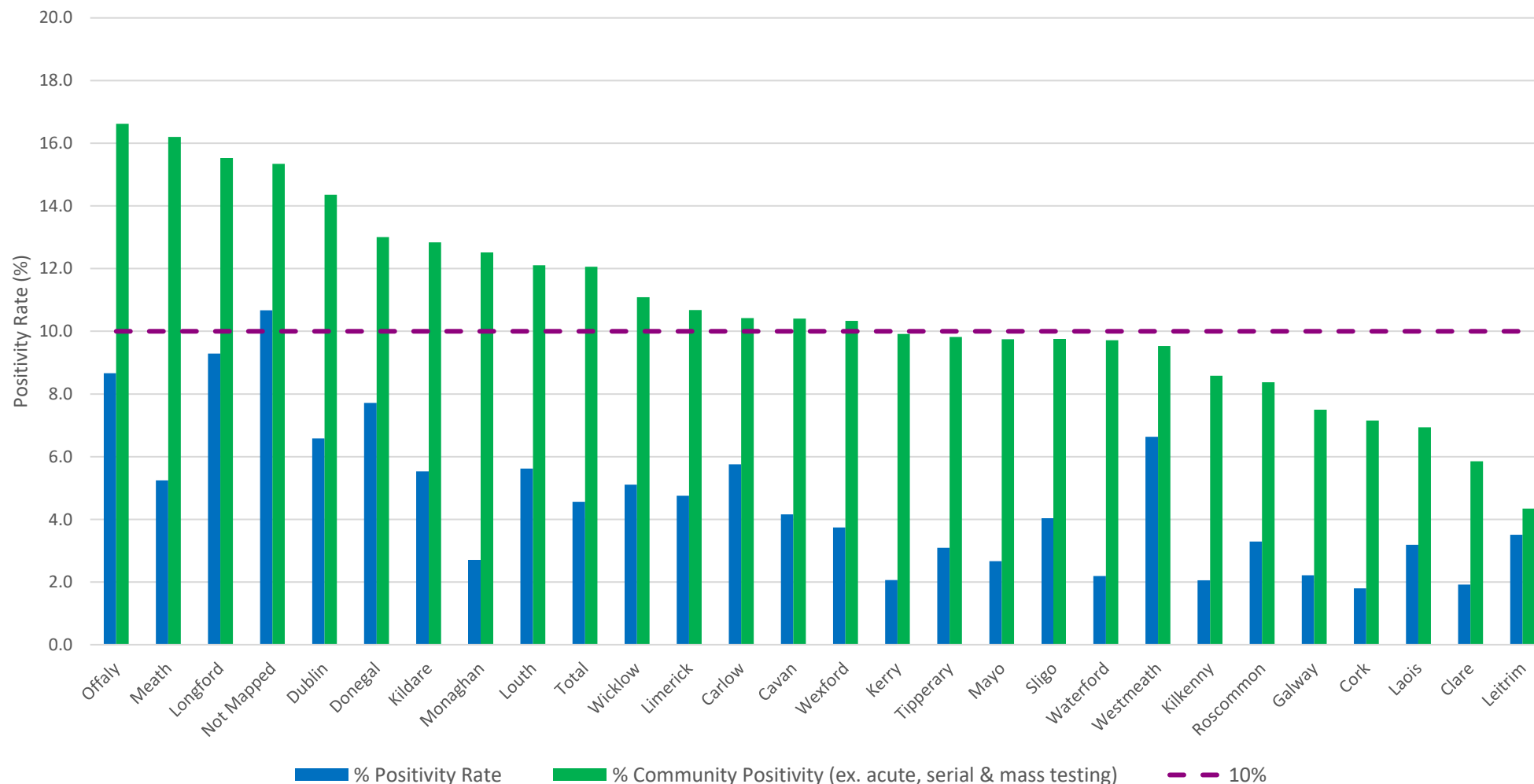
Updated 10/03/2021. Source: CRM data, HSE Contact and Tracing Team. Refers to positive lab results excluding private testing. Data may not be complete. Community=Swabs tested in Community labs for GP referrals (symptomatic, close contact etc), excluding acute, serial and mass testing.



## % Positivity Rate Past 7 Days: Total and in Community (ex. acute, serial & mass testing) by County as at

09/03/21

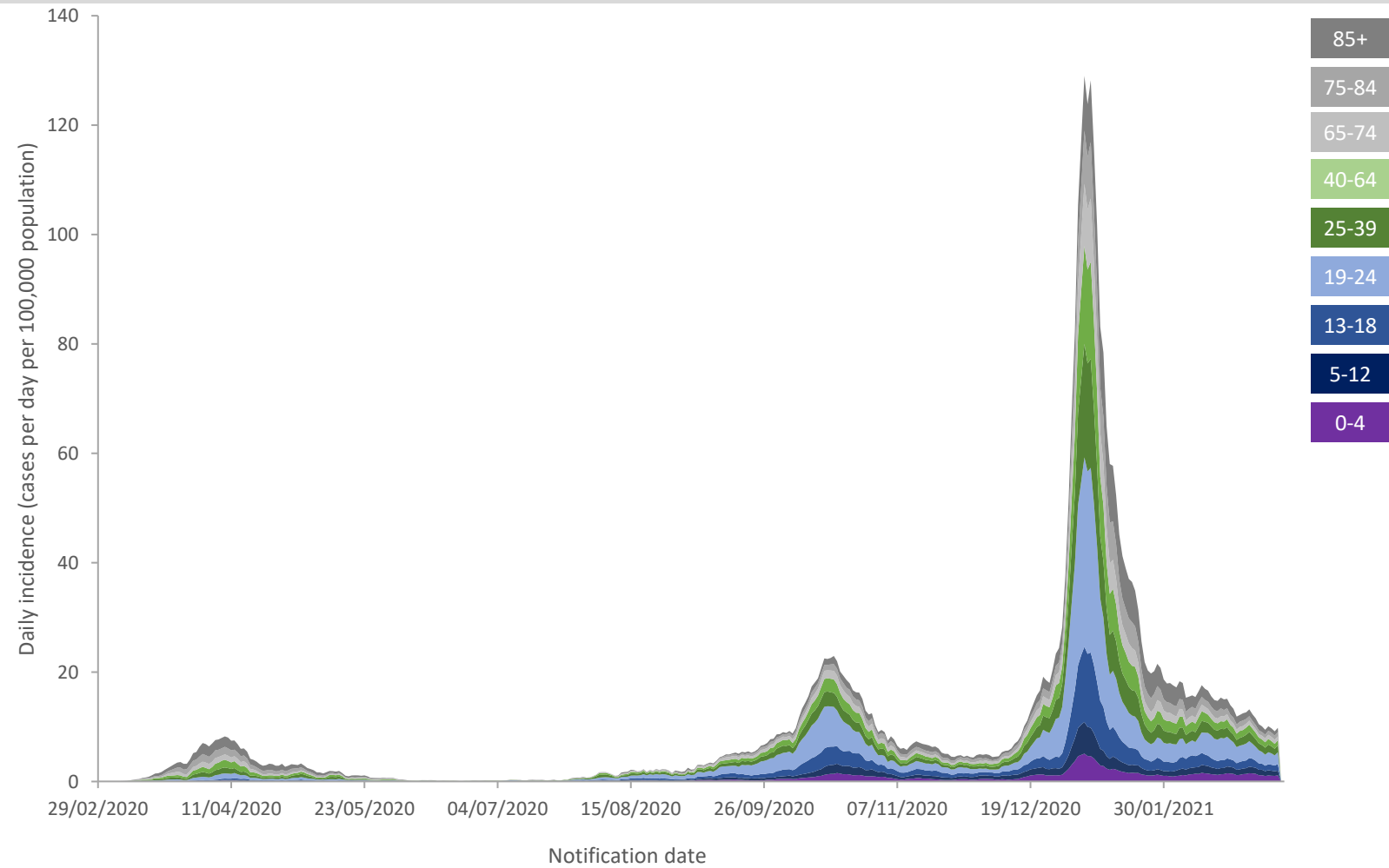
(Data provided by HSE Contact Tracing Team and may differ from daily positivity rate data from Cumulative Labs Report)



Updated 10/03/2021. Source: CRM data, HSE Contact and Tracing Team. Refers to positive lab results excluding private testing. Data may not be complete  
% Positivity Rate refers to total swabs – acute, community, serial and other mass testing  
% Community Positivity = Swabs tested in Community labs for GP referrals (symptomatic, close contact etc), excluding acute, serial and mass testing.  
**Location is based on location of Community Test Centre or Acute Hospital and not on patient's address**

# Incidence across different age groups (excluding HCW and LTRC)

Incidence has decreased across all age groups, and is relatively evenly spread across age groups

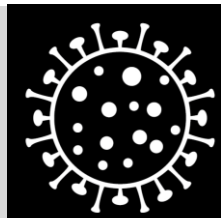


Week	Age band								
	0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-39	40-64	65-74	75-84	85+
9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.0
11	0.6	0.2	0.5	5.4	5.0	4.4	4.6	6.6	7.4
12	4.5	2.4	7.5	22.9	27.7	31.1	25.2	24.9	37.0
13	6.9	4.2	14.5	58.3	73.3	86.5	72.6	88.5	94.7
14	4.5	4.4	6.7	28.1	40.1	50.9	50.9	91.1	125.8
15	5.7	5.6	9.1	31.4	29.3	47.4	46.9	71.8	118.4
16	3.0	5.3	10.8	19.3	20.8	32.1	29.2	50.4	75.5
17	3.3	4.2	7.8	21.1	23.6	26.5	21.2	50.4	77.0
18	4.5	6.4	9.4	20.2	26.0	21.0	18.7	37.7	53.3
19	2.1	2.7	4.6	13.3	15.2	14.3	10.4	18.8	37.0
20	3.6	1.6	5.1	12.1	16.4	12.1	6.7	9.2	13.3
21	3.3	2.7	4.6	8.5	6.3	8.2	7.5	15.3	22.2
22	2.1	2.4	2.2	4.2	5.1	6.8	4.0	4.6	5.9
23	1.2	0.5	1.3	3.0	0.8	1.9	1.6	5.6	3.0
24	2.7	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.5
25	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.8	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.5	1.5
26	0.6	0.2	0.3	1.8	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.5	3.0
27	1.5	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.9	0.9	0.0	1.0	0.0
28	0.9	1.1	1.1	10.3	2.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	3.0
29	1.2	0.4	0.8	3.6	3.3	2.0	2.9	1.5	3.0
30	1.8	0.5	1.6	3.6	4.3	0.9	1.9	0.0	1.5
31	4.8	2.6	7.3	11.2	8.5	4.6	2.1	2.5	3.0
32	4.5	3.6	6.7	18.4	16.4	10.5	4.6	2.5	3.0
33	6.0	10.0	12.1	27.2	19.5	12.1	8.3	2.5	7.4
34	7.2	7.5	17.5	37.4	16.6	11.4	5.9	5.1	4.4
35	6.3	9.7	13.5	37.1	18.5	11.1	4.8	9.2	5.9
36	13.0	13.1	17.2	47.7	21.6	13.3	11.0	11.7	14.8
37	17.2	17.9	30.1	63.4	28.7	24.4	22.2	8.7	10.4
38	21.7	26.2	43.9	90.6	44.0	34.9	33.2	19.8	19.2
39	12.1	22.6	42.8	147.0	49.9	41.8	32.9	31.0	20.7
40	29.6	28.8	63.2	167.6	68.0	57.8	34.5	26.0	20.7
41	42.8	46.8	132.9	316.7	115.3	89.7	61.6	51.9	60.7
42	78.1	90.4	197.5	434.2	154.4	142.7	90.2	67.2	69.6
43	81.7	93.9	174.7	302.2	123.3	121.7	85.4	82.4	84.4
44	55.8	67.3	96.1	155.8	75.5	77.7	55.2	55.5	59.2
45	34.7	40.1	57.9	83.9	57.9	46.0	42.8	44.3	47.4
46	41.9	37.2	65.4	89.4	45.5	45.0	32.4	42.7	69.6
47	22.0	34.1	60.0	79.7	34.6	33.0	29.2	39.7	62.2
48	23.2	31.3	45.5	66.4	33.8	29.7	22.2	36.1	40.0
49	28.4	37.0	37.7	40.5	33.2	30.1	25.4	29.0	42.9
50	21.4	39.9	44.1	57.4	39.9	35.0	22.2	31.0	22.2
51	51.9	58.5	74.5	128.3	87.9	80.8	54.6	54.5	51.8
52	77.5	77.1	120.3	325.5	175.7	134.9	96.1	95.2	121.4
53	217.8	236.6	513.7	1402.7	761.7	636.5	424.6	350.1	361.2
1	183.7	208.9	569.2	1329.7	792.1	722.2	498.2	446.3	556.6
2	130.3	126.5	302.2	582.7	415.6	420.4	302.3	410.7	578.8
3	93.5	81.3	169.0	329.1	256.0	245.4	170.5	252.9	414.5
4	73.3	60.7	127.8	228.6	153.1	146.0	119.7	163.4	266.4
5	78.1	72.9	126.5	208.9	126.9	123.6	85.9	116.5	216.1
6	91.7	85.3	124.6	224.3	117.6	101.6	68.5	89.6	125.8
7	87.5	76.5	95.8	253.0	106.8	88.6	59.4	79.9	119.9
8	87.5	69.6	90.2	186.9	94.7	77.5	43.6	57.0	90.3
9	66.1	55.4	64.6	125.0	76.3	59.2	45.2	46.8	44.4

Chart shows 5-day rolling average of total incidence (cases per day per 100,000 population) with coloured bands showing the contribution of each age cohort to the total incidence, having adjusted for the number of people in that age cohort (CSO 2016 census data). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by notification date. A number of cases in those aged 65 and older will be linked in the coming days to outbreaks in LTRC.

# Incidence across different age groups (excluding HCW and LTRC)

Incidence has decreased across all age groups, and is relatively evenly spread across age groups with highest incidence in those aged 19-24 years.



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Week	Age band								
	0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-39	40-64	65-74	75-84	85+
47	22.0	34.1	60.0	79.7	34.6	33.0	29.2	39.7	62.2
48	23.2	31.3	45.5	66.4	33.8	29.7	22.2	36.1	40.0
49	28.4	37.0	37.7	40.5	33.2	30.1	25.4	29.0	42.9
50	21.4	39.9	44.1	57.4	39.9	35.0	22.2	31.0	22.2
51	51.9	58.5	74.5	128.3	87.9	80.8	54.6	54.5	51.8
52	77.5	77.1	120.3	325.5	175.7	134.9	96.1	95.2	121.4
53	217.8	236.6	513.7	1402.7	761.7	636.5	424.6	350.1	361.2
1	183.7	208.9	569.2	1329.7	792.1	722.2	498.2	446.3	556.6
2	130.3	126.5	302.2	582.7	415.6	420.4	302.3	410.7	578.8
3	93.5	81.3	169.0	329.1	256.0	245.4	170.5	252.9	414.5
4	73.3	60.7	127.8	228.6	153.1	146.0	119.7	163.4	266.4
5	78.1	72.9	126.5	208.9	126.9	123.6	85.9	116.5	216.1
6	91.7	85.3	124.6	224.3	117.6	101.6	68.5	89.6	125.8
7	87.5	76.5	95.8	253.0	106.8	88.6	59.4	79.9	119.9
8	87.5	69.6	90.2	186.9	94.7	77.5	43.6	57.0	90.3
9	66.1	55.4	64.6	125.0	76.3	59.2	45.2	46.8	44.4

Heat map shows age-specific incidence (cases per week per 100,000 population). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by specimen collection date.

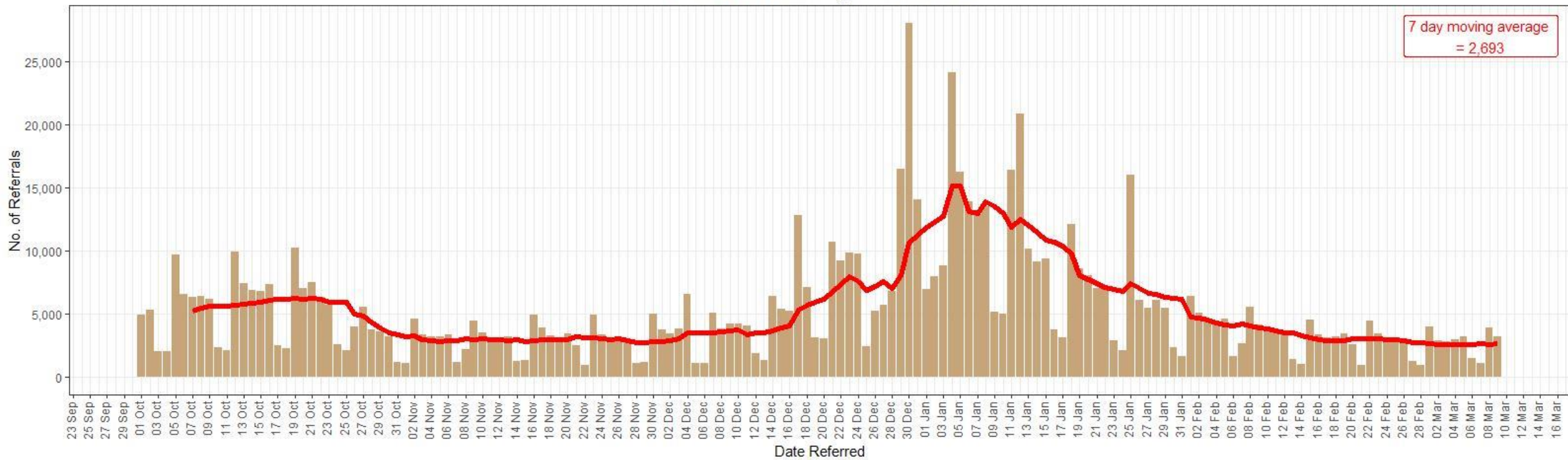


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# GP referrals

# GP Referrals excluding Close Contacts



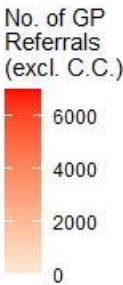
## Feb

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6,437 referrals (-60%)	5,094 referrals (-17%)	4,563 referrals (-17%)	4,408 referrals (-28%)	4,648 referrals (-16%)	1,680 referrals (-30%)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2,647 referrals (+60%)	5,543 referrals (-14%)	4,134 referrals (-19%)	3,740 referrals (-18%)	3,685 referrals (-16%)	3,402 referrals (-27%)	1,415 referrals (-16%)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1,048 referrals (-60%)	4,543 referrals (-18%)	3,385 referrals (-18%)	3,163 referrals (-15%)	3,268 referrals (-11%)	3,452 referrals (+1%)	2,577 referrals (+82%)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
990 referrals (-6%)	4,467 referrals (-2%)	3,433 referrals (+1%)	3,012 referrals (-5%)	2,939 referrals (-10%)	3,087 referrals (-11%)	1,255 referrals (-51%)
28						
969 referrals (-2%)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

## Mar

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4,022 referrals (-10%)	2,917 referrals (-15%)	2,818 referrals (-6%)	2,960 referrals (+1%)	3,234 referrals (+5%)	1,478 referrals (+18%)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1,164 referrals (+20%)	3,937 referrals (-2%)	3,263 referrals (+12%)				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

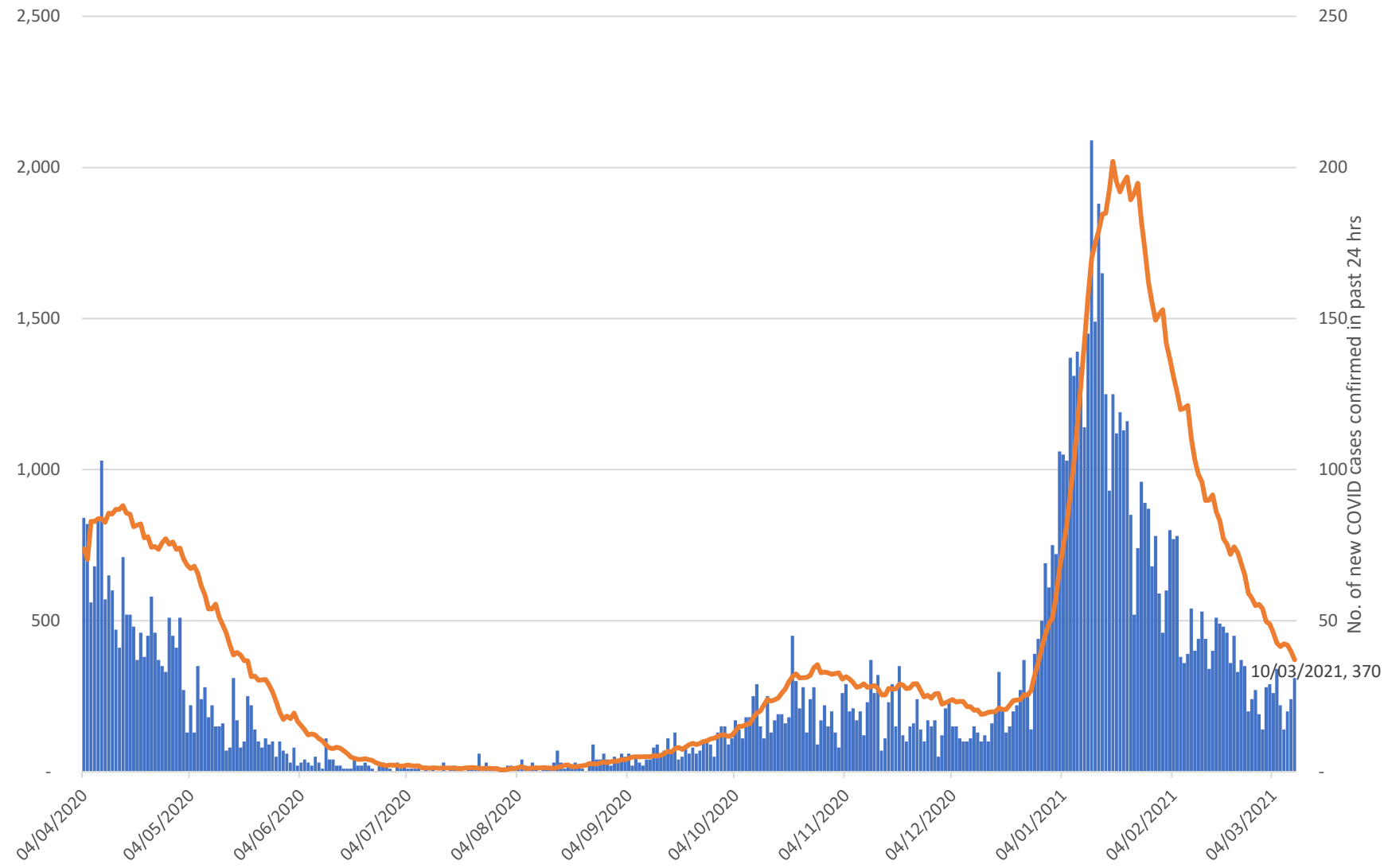
Percentages refer to week on week % change, i.e. this Monday vs last Monday, etc.



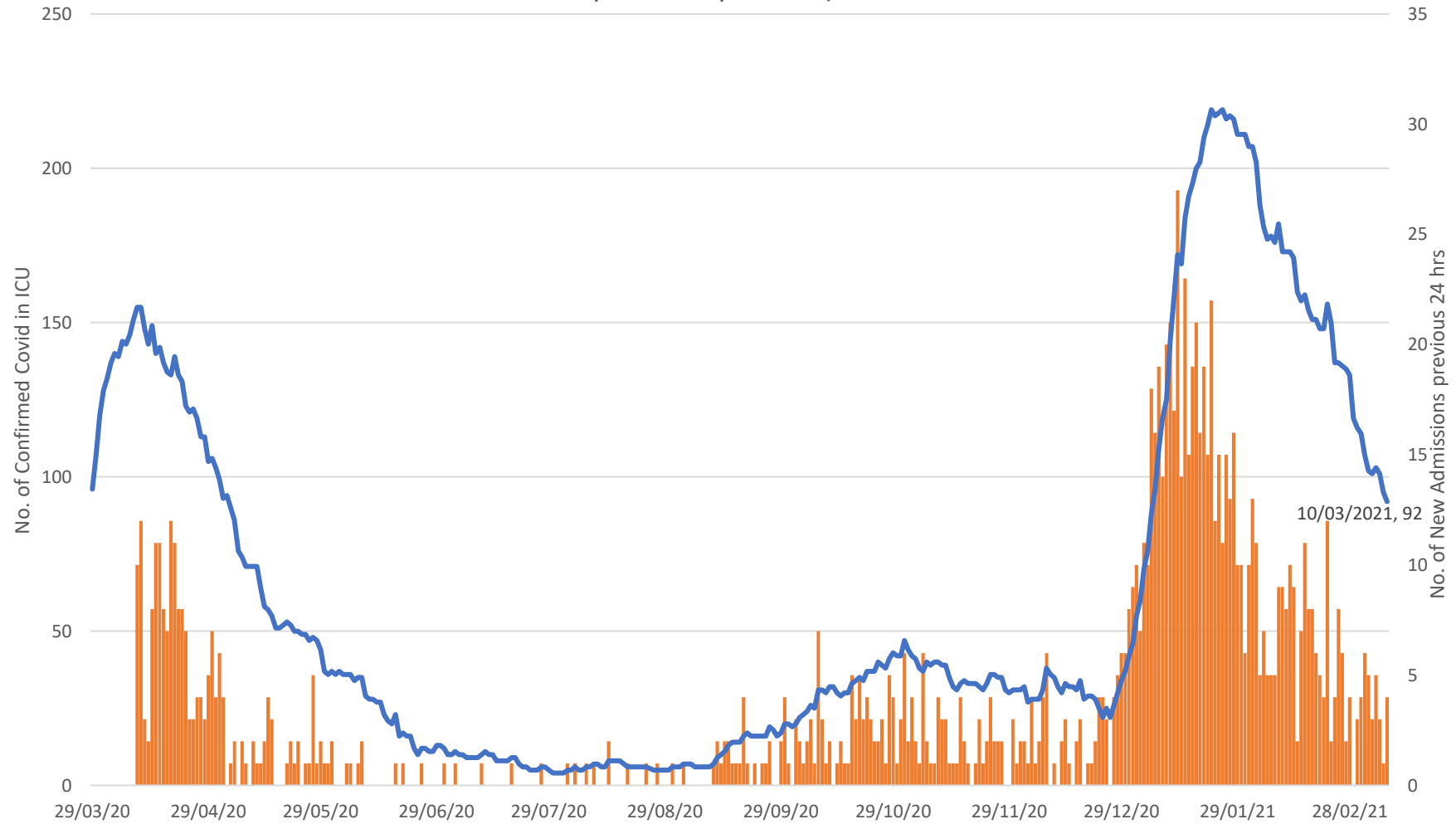


# Hospital & ICU Data

Total No. of Confirmed Covid Cases in Hospital at 8AM &  
No. of New Confirmed Covid Cases in Past 24 hrs



# Total No. of Confirmed Covid Cases in ICU at 11.30AM & No. of New Confirmed Covid Admissions to ICU in past 24 hrs *(includes all reporting public & private hospitals and may differ from no. reported by HSE in public hospital ICU)*

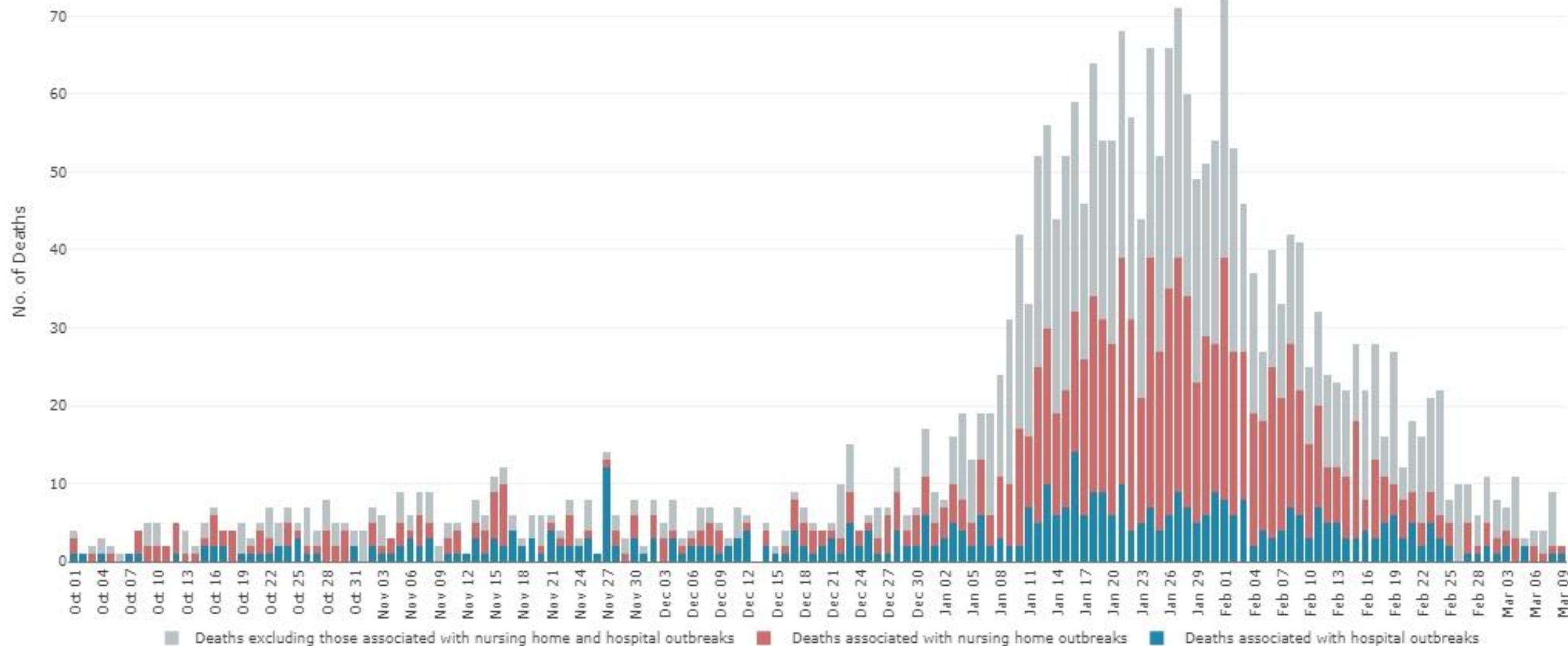






# Deaths

Deaths by Date of Death





# Outbreaks & Clusters

# COVID-19 outbreaks by key outbreak locations, week 9 2021 and overall, 2020-2021

## Ireland



- Since March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, 13,087 outbreaks have been notified to CIDR
- In week 9, 2021 431 outbreaks were notified. 141 of which were late notifications of outbreaks that occurred in October (n=2), December (n=44) and January (n=95)

Key outbreak locations	Week 9	Weeks 10-47	Weeks 48-9
Workplace	19	292	308
Direct Provision Centre	1	37	34
Vulnerable groups*	35	101	1
Prisons	1	9	5
Nursing Home/Community Hospital	3	380	250
Acute hospitals	5	178	198
Schools^	0	78	119
Childcare facility	10	200	141

\*Includes Irish Travellers, Roma, homeless and addiction service population

^These outbreaks are associated with school children +/- school staff. Transmission of COVID-19 within the school has not necessarily been established in these outbreaks

Data source: CIDR March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Weekly Summary



- **Total** number of outbreaks week 9, 2021 n=431 (including 141 late notifications) compared with week 8, 2021 n=372
- **Vulnerable groups**
  - Irish Travellers – wave 3 -187 outbreaks, 3023 cases
    - Week 8 – 30 new outbreak (9 late notifications, 275 linked cases)
    - In past 4 weeks Traveller cases > 4% all cases
  - 1 new outbreak in DPCs – 2 linked cases
  - 4 new outbreaks in homeless population – 49 linked cases
  - 1 new outbreak in Roma population – 1 linked case
- **Workplace outbreaks**
  - 31 open outbreaks in food industry with 740 linked cases
    - 4 new food industry outbreaks since last week's report – 21 linked cases
    - 33 cases linked to 10 previously notified food industry outbreaks
  - Other workplace outbreaks – 3 new this week with 35 linked cases (range 3-28)
- **Residential institution outbreaks**
  - 105 outbreaks are 'open' with 811 linked cases (range 0-46)
  - 3 new outbreak since last week's report with 9 linked cases
- **Home care Teams**
  - 40 open outbreaks – 138 linked cases
    - 10 deaths associated with these outbreaks
  - Ten new outbreaks with 25 linked cases notified since last report
- **Nursing Homes & Community Hospitals**
  - 124/630 outbreaks remain open with 4687 linked cases
  - 3 new outbreaks with 60 linked cases since last week's report
  - 66 additional cases this week occurring in 26 outbreaks notified in previous weeks
  - Since November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020, 925 deaths
- **Acute hospitals**
  - 101/376 outbreaks remain open involving 36 hospitals, 1644 linked cases (range 1-138)
  - 5 new outbreaks since last week's report with 17 linked cases (2-9).
  - Since November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020, 380 deaths have occurred in cases linked to acute hospitals outbreaks
- **Childcare facilities**
  - 10 new outbreaks since last week's report with 39 linked cases (range 0-9)
- **Third-level students/University/college**
  - 107 open outbreaks with 1,204 confirmed linked cases
  - 15 new outbreaks since last report with 45 linked cases

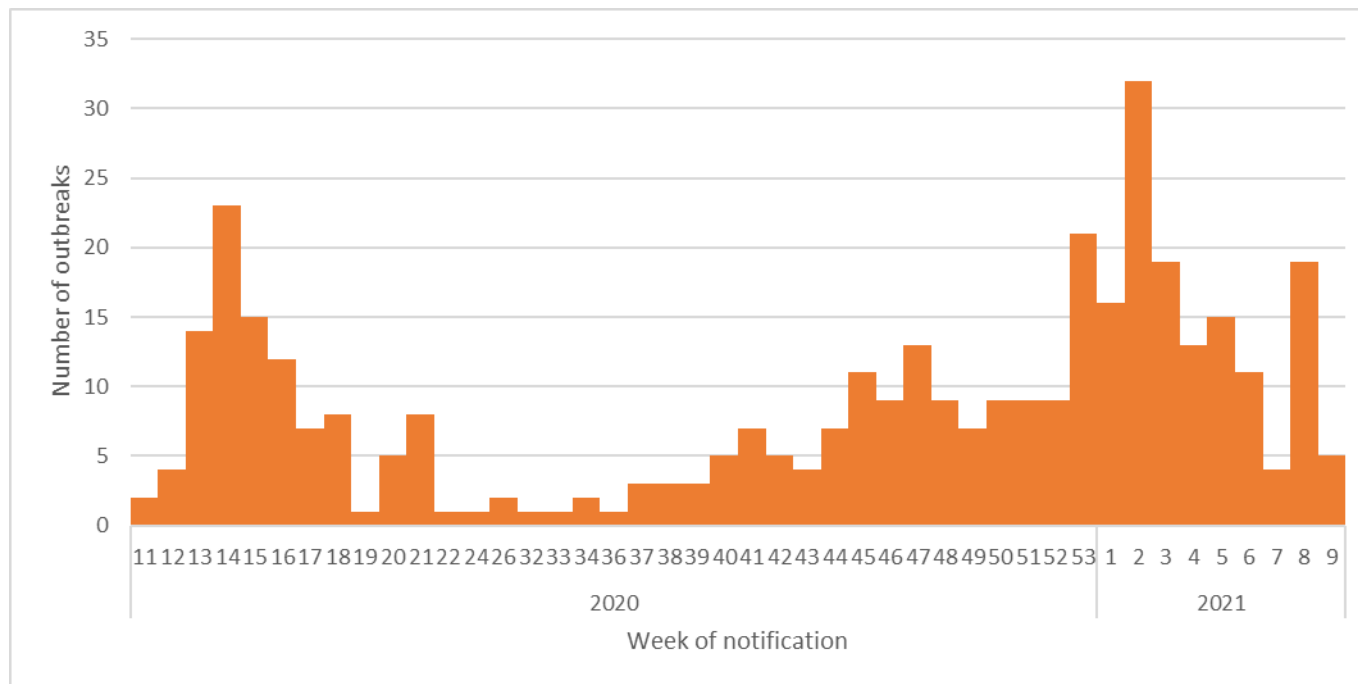
## **Focus on 124 Nursing Homes and Community Hospital/Long Stay Units notified since November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 and 'OPEN' as of midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021**



- 4,687 associated cases (1,920 HCW/staff cases, 2,370 client cases, 397 cases HCW status unknown)
- 3 outbreaks include only HCW/staff cases, 114 include both HCW/staff cases and client cases, 1 outbreak includes client cases only, for 6 outbreaks the mix of cases is unclear
  - 3 new outbreaks since last week's report – 60 linked cases
  - 26 previously notified 'open' outbreaks – 66 additional cases since last week's report
  - 95 previously notified 'open' outbreaks– no additional cases since last week's report

Data source: CIDR March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Acute Hospital outbreaks to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 (n=376)



## Overview

- 376 outbreaks in acute hospitals
- 101 'open' acute hospital outbreaks
- 1,644 confirmed cases linked to the open outbreaks (range 1-149)
- The 101 open outbreaks correspond to outbreaks in 36 Acute Hospitals

## Update

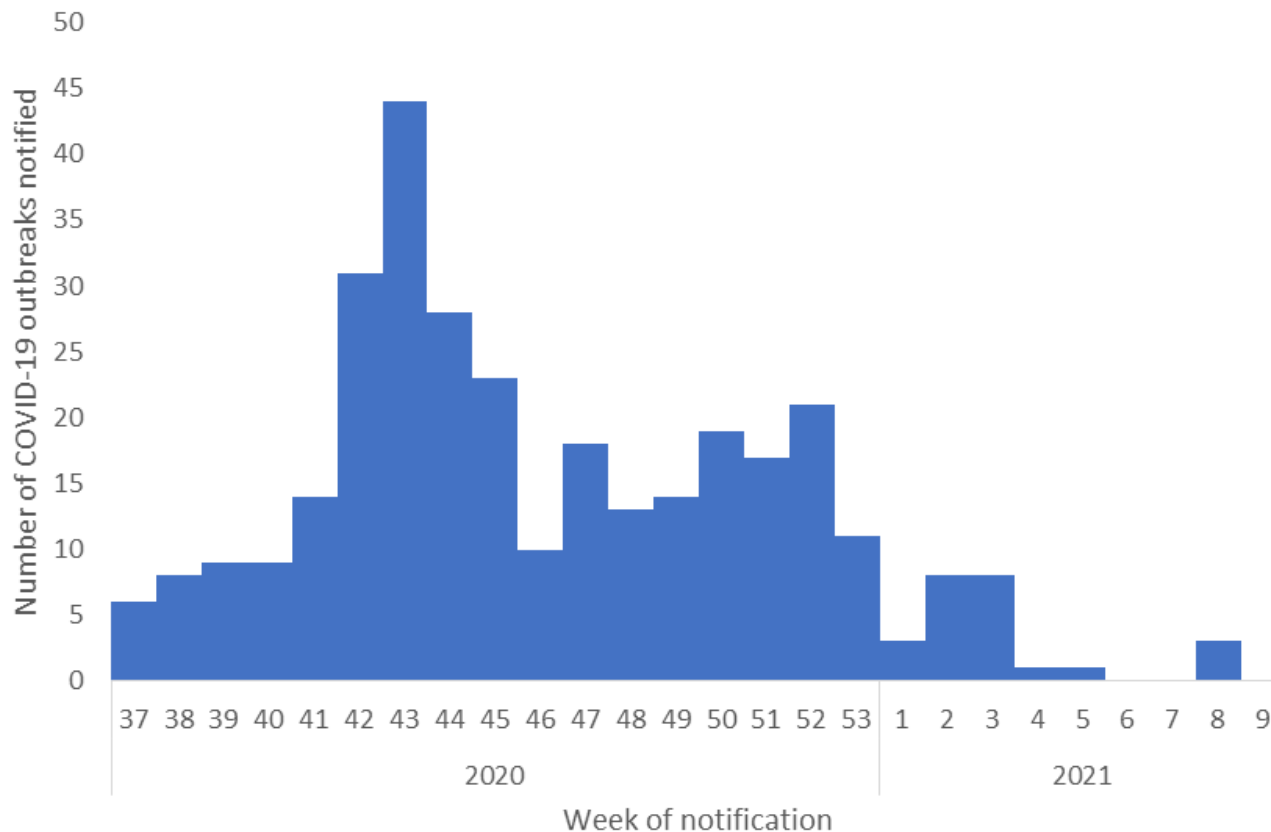
- Five new outbreaks in week 9 2021
- 17 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks (range 2-9)
- A total of 68 additional cases were linked to 15 previously reported open hospital outbreaks
- 26 outbreaks were closed since last week

Outbreak status	Number of outbreaks	Confirmed linked cases	Number admitted to ICU	Number Died	Number HCWs
All	376	4820	115	560	2178
Open	101	1644	44	205	640

Data source: CIDR March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Outbreaks associated with school children and staff to midnight 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (n=319)

Number of COVID-19 Outbreaks associated with school children and staff (n=319)



## Overview

- 319 outbreaks associated with school children and staff notified
- 1,397 linked confirmed cases in total
- 288 outbreaks have  $\geq 2$  linked cases (range 2-54 cases)
- 280 outbreaks have been closed; 39 remain open

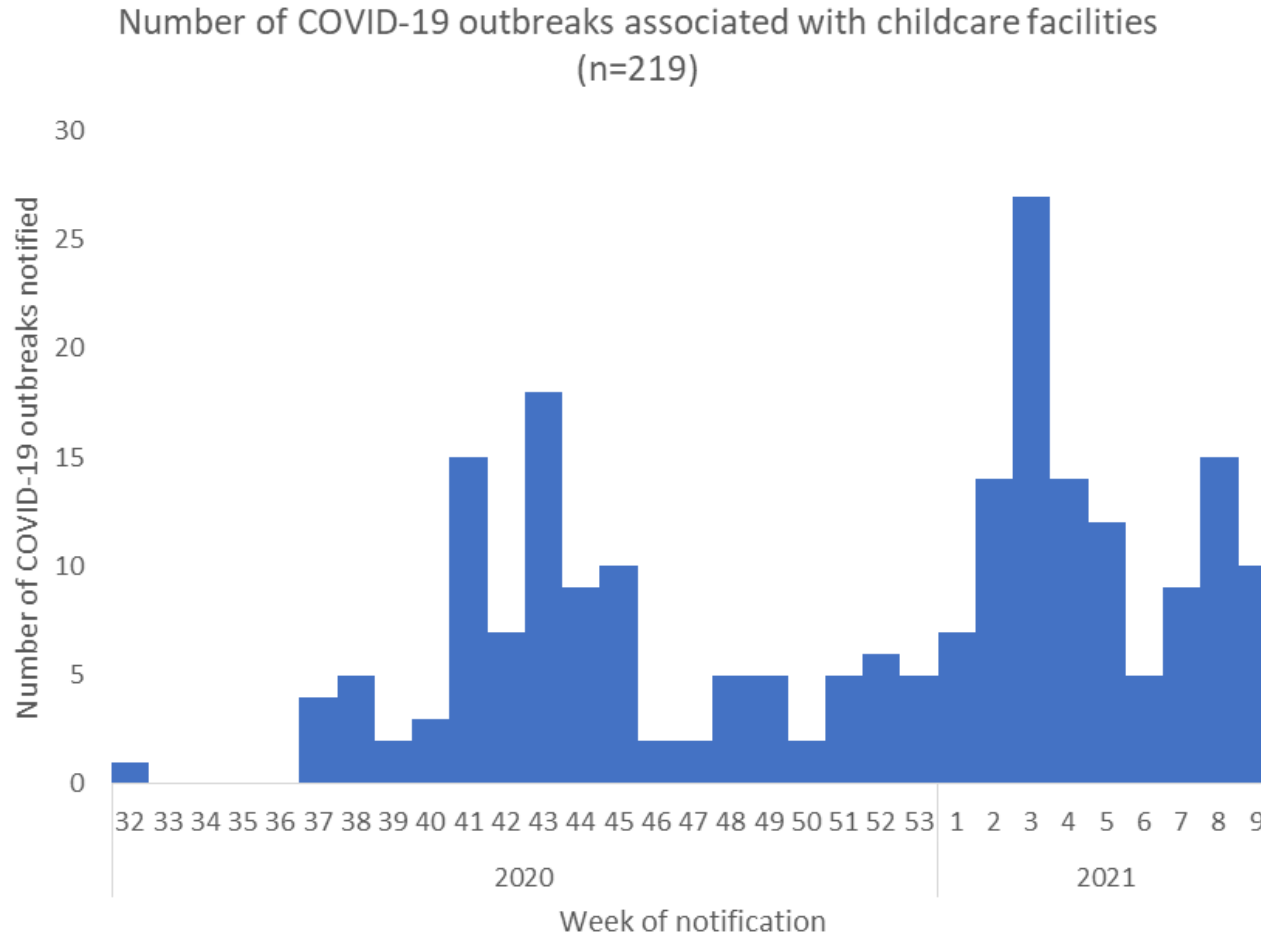
## Update

- No new school outbreaks were reported since last week
- No additional cases were linked to previously reported outbreaks
- Two outbreaks were closed since last week

Data source: CIDR March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021



# Outbreaks associated with childcare facilities to midnight 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (n=219)



## Overview

- 219 outbreaks associated with children and staff in childcare facilities notified
- 1,153 linked events in total
- 208 outbreaks have  $\geq 2$  linked confirmed cases (range 2-39)
- 143 outbreaks have been closed; 76 remain open

## Update

- Ten new outbreaks reported since last week
- 39 confirmed cases linked to these outbreaks (range 0-9)
- 28 additional cases were linked to 9 previously reported childcare facility outbreaks
- Nine outbreaks were closed since last week and one outbreak previously reported as a childcare facility outbreak was re-classified

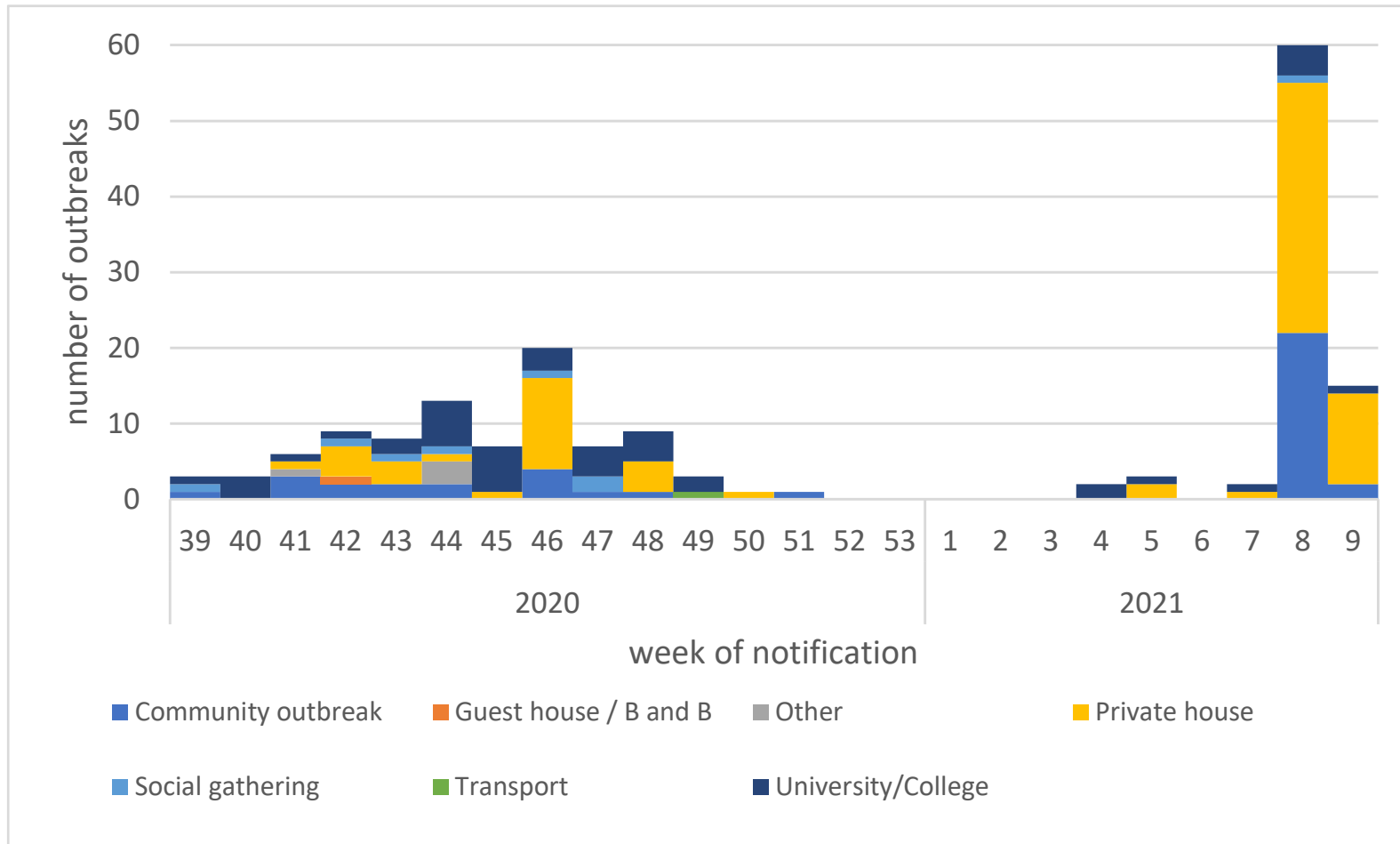
Data source: CIDR March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Outbreaks associated with third-level institutions/students to March 2020 midnight 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (n=172)



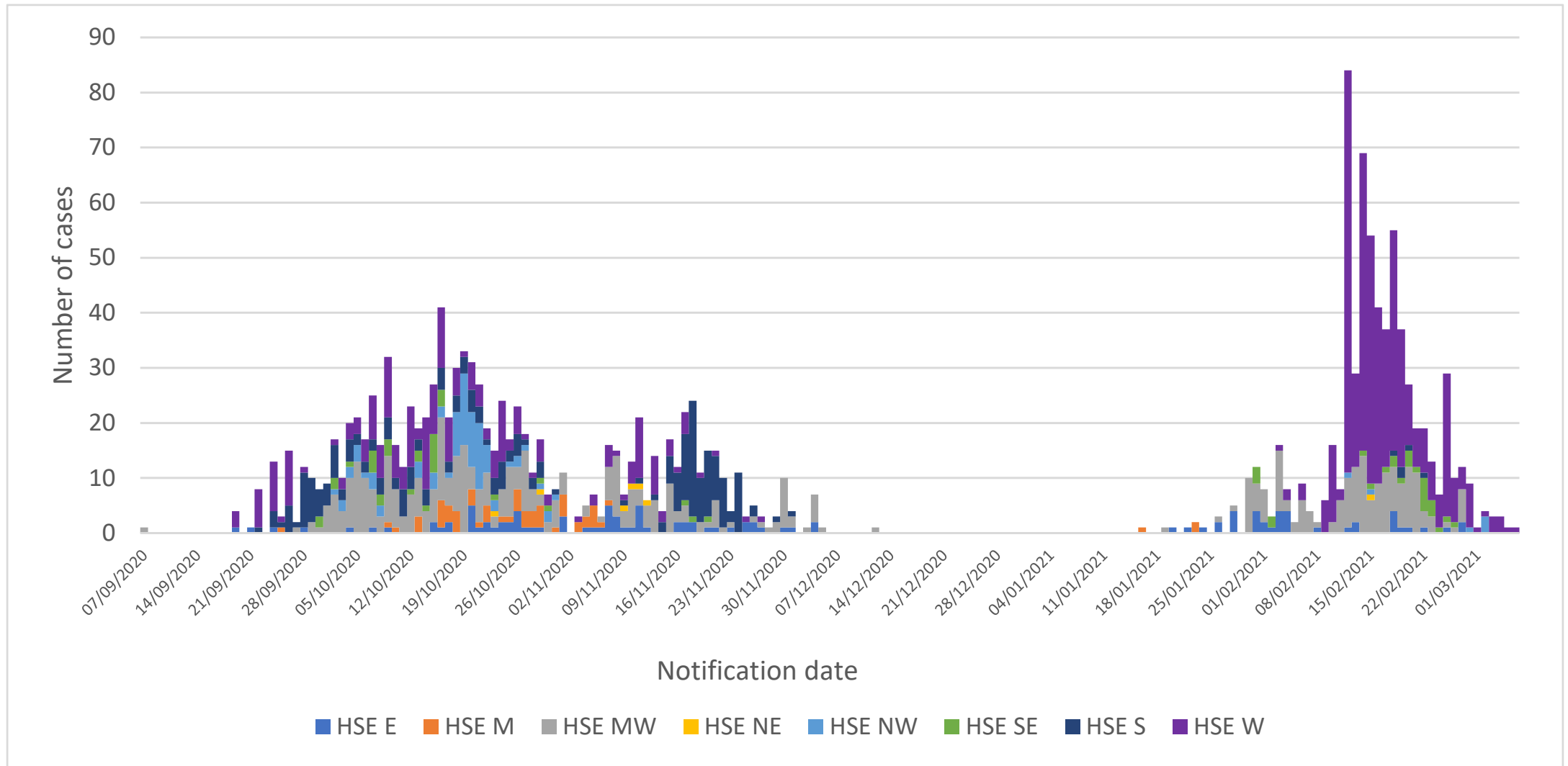
## Overview

- To date there have been 172 confirmed notified outbreaks
- 1,690 confirmed linked cases to these outbreaks
- Outbreaks occurred in all 8 HSE areas
- 107 outbreaks remain 'open'
  - 1204 linked cases
  - Median number confirmed linked cases = 3 (range 1 to 190)
- 15 new outbreaks since last report with 45 linked cases

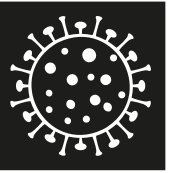


Data source: CIDR March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

# Cases linked to University/College/third-level student outbreaks March 2020 to midnight 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021

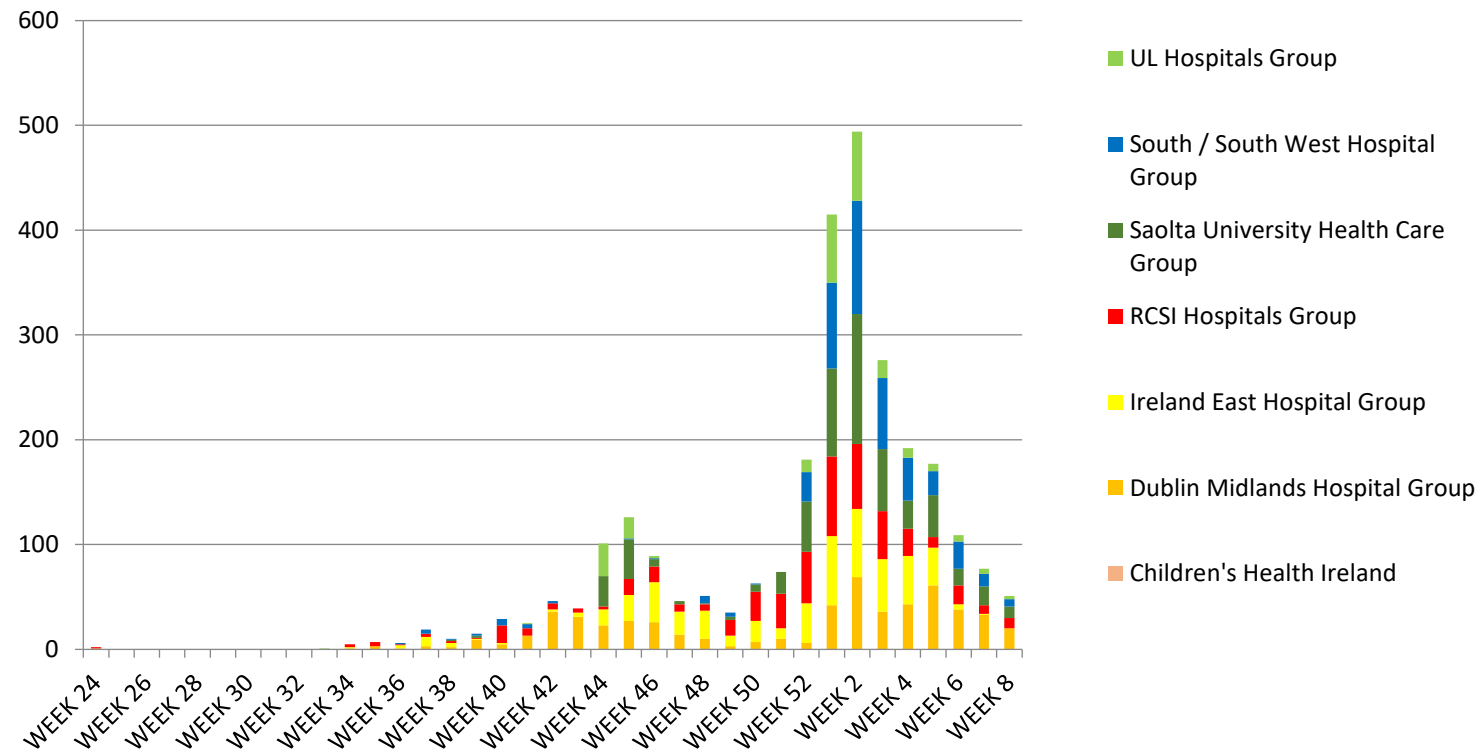


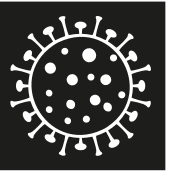
Data source: CIDR March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 – data to midnight March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021



# Acute Hospital

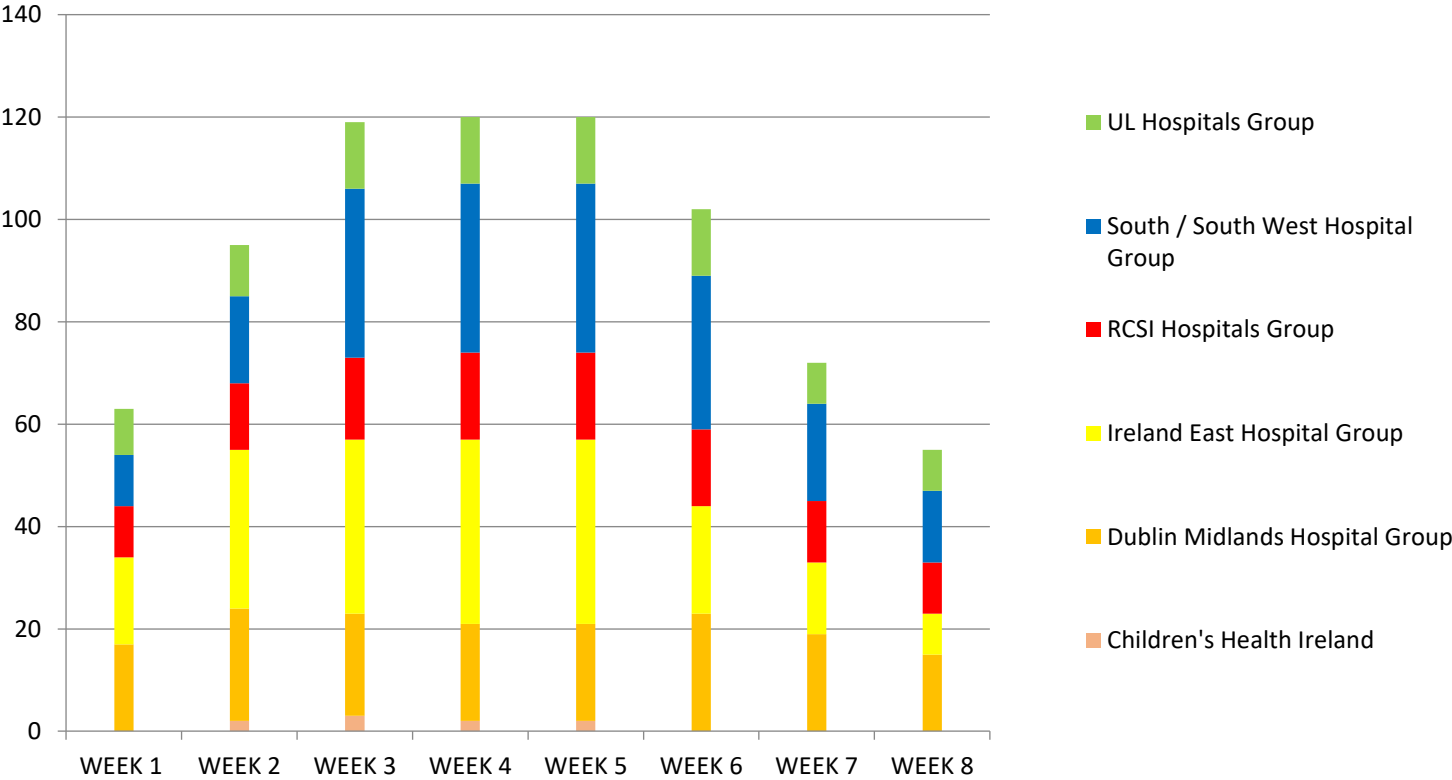
Weekly no. of Hospital-Acquired Covid-19 National Totals  
21st June 2020-28th February 2021

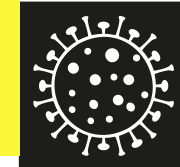




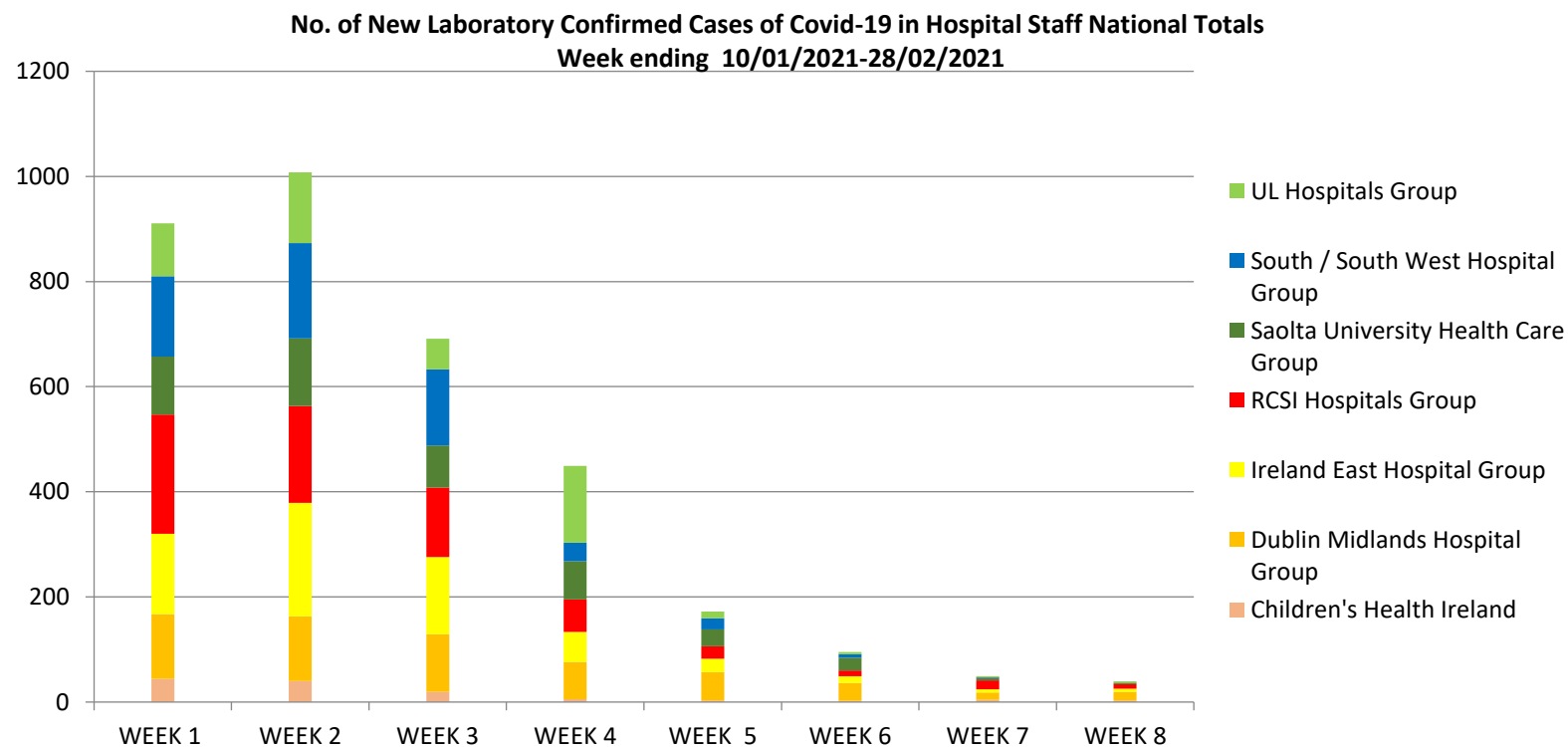
# Acute Hospital

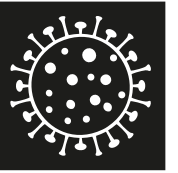
No. of Currently Open Outbreaks of Covid-19 National Totals  
Week ending 10/01/2021-28/02/2021





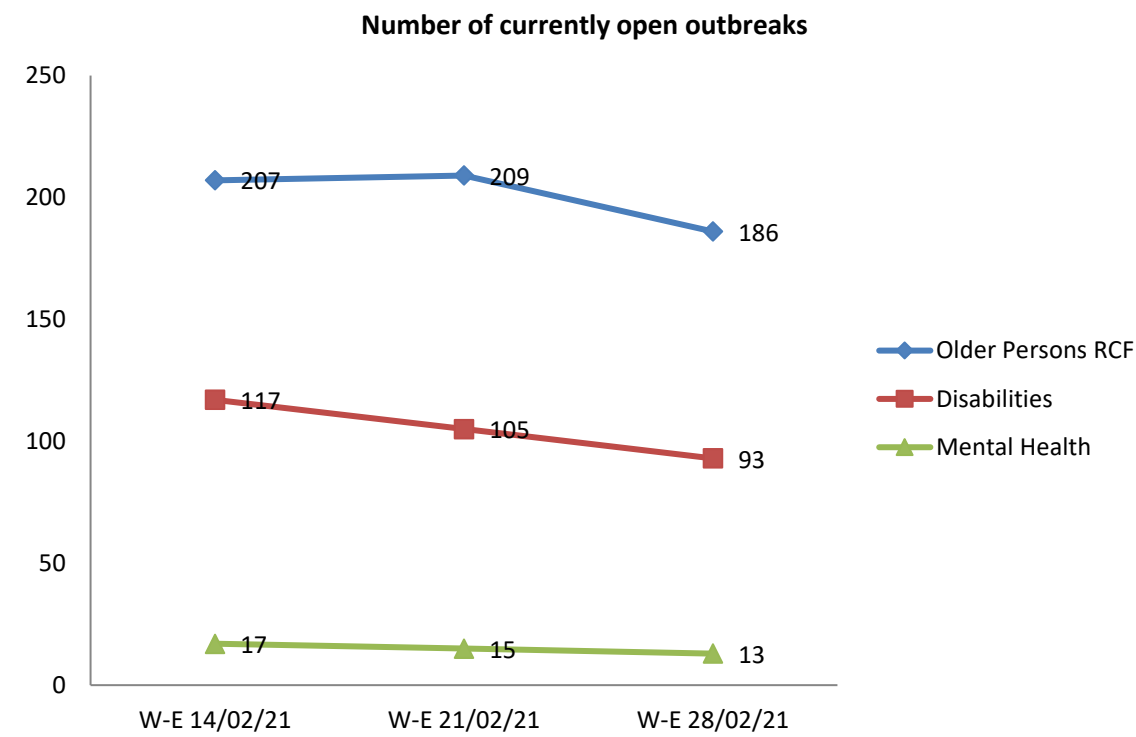
## Acute Hospital





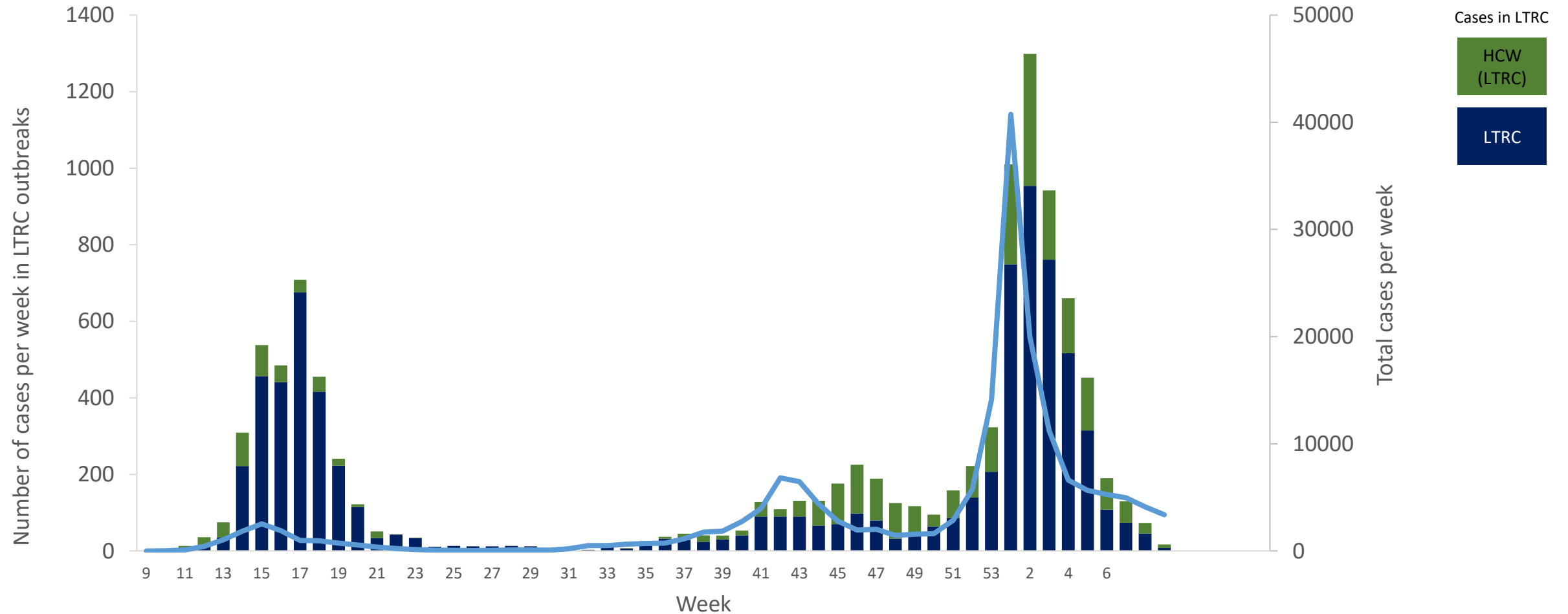
Community Operations

Number of currently open outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities



# Cases in long-term residential settings

The number of cases linked to outbreaks in LTRC, following the unprecedented levels of infection in the community in January 2021, was very high, similar to the numbers seen in April and May 2020. Nonetheless, when compared to the total burden of disease in the community (total cases per week) the level of infection in LTRC is significantly less than in April-May 2020. Cases in LTRC have decreased rapidly, and more so than would be expected given the level of disease in the wider community

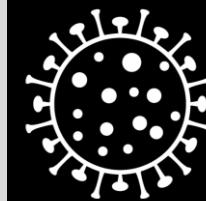


Number of cases per week linked to outbreaks in long-term residential care (bars) compared to the total number of cases per week (dotted line, referred to the secondary y-axis). LTRC: cases amongst residents in outbreaks in long-term residential settings.  
HCW (LTRC): Cases in healthcare workers associated with outbreaks in LTRC.

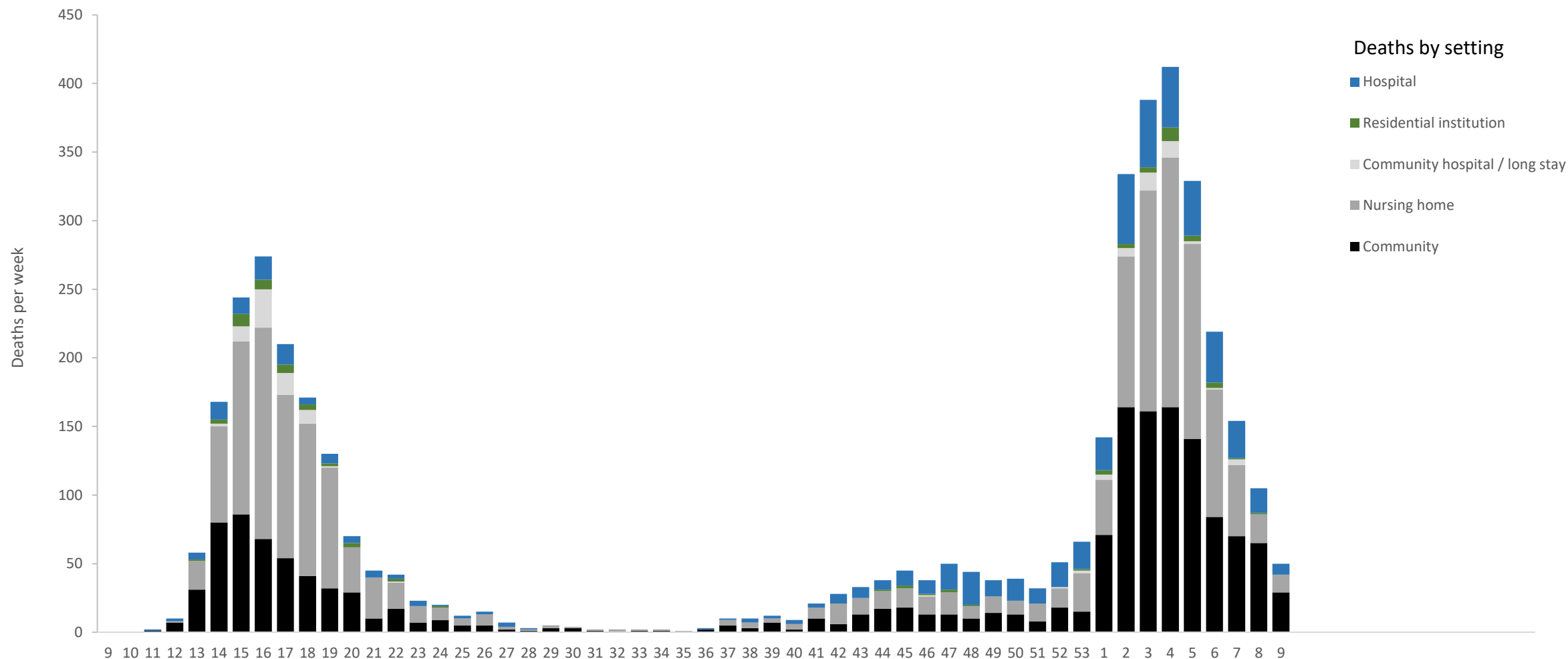


# Deaths by setting

There were over 100 deaths per week in recent weeks in long-term residential facilities, although deaths in LTRC constituted a smaller proportion of all deaths. Deaths in hospital outbreaks were significant in the period after the October surge. Deaths associated with outbreaks in LTRC appear to have decreased earlier and more rapidly than in the wider community, which may be due to the protective effect of vaccination



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Deaths per week by week of death and the setting in which the death occurred. Deaths with laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 only. Deaths in hospital outbreaks refers to deaths within a cluster of linked cases where the infection has been transmitted in the hospital setting, other deaths in hospitals are recorded as 'community' as the infection occurred in the community.



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# Test & Trace Update

## Testing/sampling and contact tracing NPHET update



### *Sampling*

Over the seven-day period, 3<sup>rd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> March, there has been approximately 97,275 swabs taken for COVID-19 testing.

Of these:

- 32,782 (34%) of these were taken in the community
- 41,262 (42%) swabs were taken in acute and private acute settings.
- 23,321 (24%) swabs taken were taken as part of the Serial Testing programmes of staff in residential care facilities including mental health facilities and disability facilities meeting the agreed criteria, as well as staff in food production facilities.

## Turnaround Times (3<sup>rd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> March )



### *End-to-end turnaround time*

- The median end-to-end turnaround time, from referral to SMS, for **not detected** tests in the community setting was **1.4 days**.
- The median turnaround time for time, from referral to communication of a **detected result** by SMS, in community settings was **1.6 days**.
- The median end-to-end turnaround time, from referral to the end of contact tracing SMS sent, for **detected cases** in the community setting was **1.9 days**.

**Overall Swab to laboratory result communicated – Medians:** 24 hours in Acute, 25 hours in Serial Testing, 28 hours in Community

### *Referral to appointment*

In the community, the median time from referral to appointment was 0.2 days.

93% of community referrals are provided with a COVID-19 test appointment within 24 hours.

### *Contact Tracing:*

The mean time and median time to complete all calls are 6.1 hours and 3.7 hours, respectively.

### **Education and Childcare Facility turnaround times**

The median turnaround time from swab taken to result communicated in education and childcare settings was **1.1 days**.

## CMP close contact update (1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March)



- The number of close contacts reported during the week ending 7<sup>th</sup> March was 7,622, an 18% decrease from the previous week
- In total, 7,261 (95%) of the contacts created between in the week ending 7<sup>th</sup> March have been informed of their close contact status at the time of CMP report preparation.
- The mean number of close contacts per case (incl. cases with no close contacts) was 2.1, a decrease from 2.2 the previous week
- The number of complex contact episodes decreased by 25% to 1,206

**Source: HSE – COVID-19 Contact Management  
Programme Weekly report**



## Close Contact Attendance and Positivity Rates at Test 1 – 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Feb

- Of the close contacts created between 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5,727 (85%) of those who were referred for a Test 1 appointment attended for testing.
- Results were available at the time of report preparation for 5,613 close contacts, 23.9% (1,341) of which were positive.
- Household close contact positivity rate at 31.9%

**SARS-CoV2 Test 1\* Results by Circumstances – Contacts Created 22/02/2021 to 28/02/2021**

<i>Circumstances of Contact</i>	<i>Number of Results Reported</i>	<i>Positive Results</i>	<i>Positivity Rate</i>
<i>Household</i>	2801	894	31.9%
<i>Social</i>	952	136	14.3%
<i>Workplace</i>	318	31	9.7%
<i>Childcare Facilities</i>	169	32	18.9%
<i>Primary School***</i>	21	<5	**
<i>Special School</i>	62	<5	**
<i>Third Level Education</i>	<5	<5	**
<i>Healthcare Setting: Patient****</i>	24	<5	**
<i>Healthcare Setting: Staff****</i>	14	<5	**
<i>Sport</i>	14	<5	**
<i>Transport</i>	64	6	9.4%
<i>Other</i>	69	7	10.1%
<i>Not Recorded</i>	1102	225	20.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5613</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>23.9%</b>

*Table 1.5 – Test 1\* Results by Circumstances of Contact – 22/02/2021 to 28/02/2021*

**Source: HSE – COVID-19 Contact Management Programme Weekly report**



## Close Contact Attendance and Positivity Rates at Test 2 – 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Feb

- Of the close contacts created between 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 3,433 (79%) of those who were referred for a Test 2 appointment attended for testing.
- Results were available at the time of report preparation for 3,174 close contacts, 7.8% (248) of which were positive.
- Household close contact positivity rate at 10.7%

**Source: HSE – COVID-19 Contact Management Programme Weekly report**

**SARS-CoV2 Test 2\* Results by Circumstances – Contacts Created 15/02/2021 to 21/02/2021**

<i>Circumstances of Contact</i>	<i>Number of Results Reported</i>	<i>Positive Results</i>	<i>Positivity Rate</i>
<i>Household</i>	1313	140	10.7%
<i>Social</i>	634	45	7.1%
<i>Workplace</i>	264	<5	**
<i>Childcare Facilities</i>	94	<5	**
<i>Special School</i>	<5	<5	**
<i>Third Level Education</i>	<5	<5	**
<i>Healthcare Setting: Patient***</i>	23	<5	**
<i>Healthcare Setting: Staff***</i>	17	<5	**
<i>Sport</i>	8	<5	**
<i>Transport</i>	24	<5	**
<i>Other</i>	63	<5	**
<i>Not Recorded</i>	729	50	6.9%
<b>Total</b>	3174	248	7.8%

**Table 1.8 –Test 2\* Results by Circumstances of Contact –15/02/2021 to 21/02/2021**

# Variants update



## Variants of Concern

Confirmed cases of P1 (new in the last week): 6 (3)

Confirmed B.1.351 cases (new in the last week): 19 (4)

## Variants under Investigation/of Note

Confirmed B.1.525 cases: 7

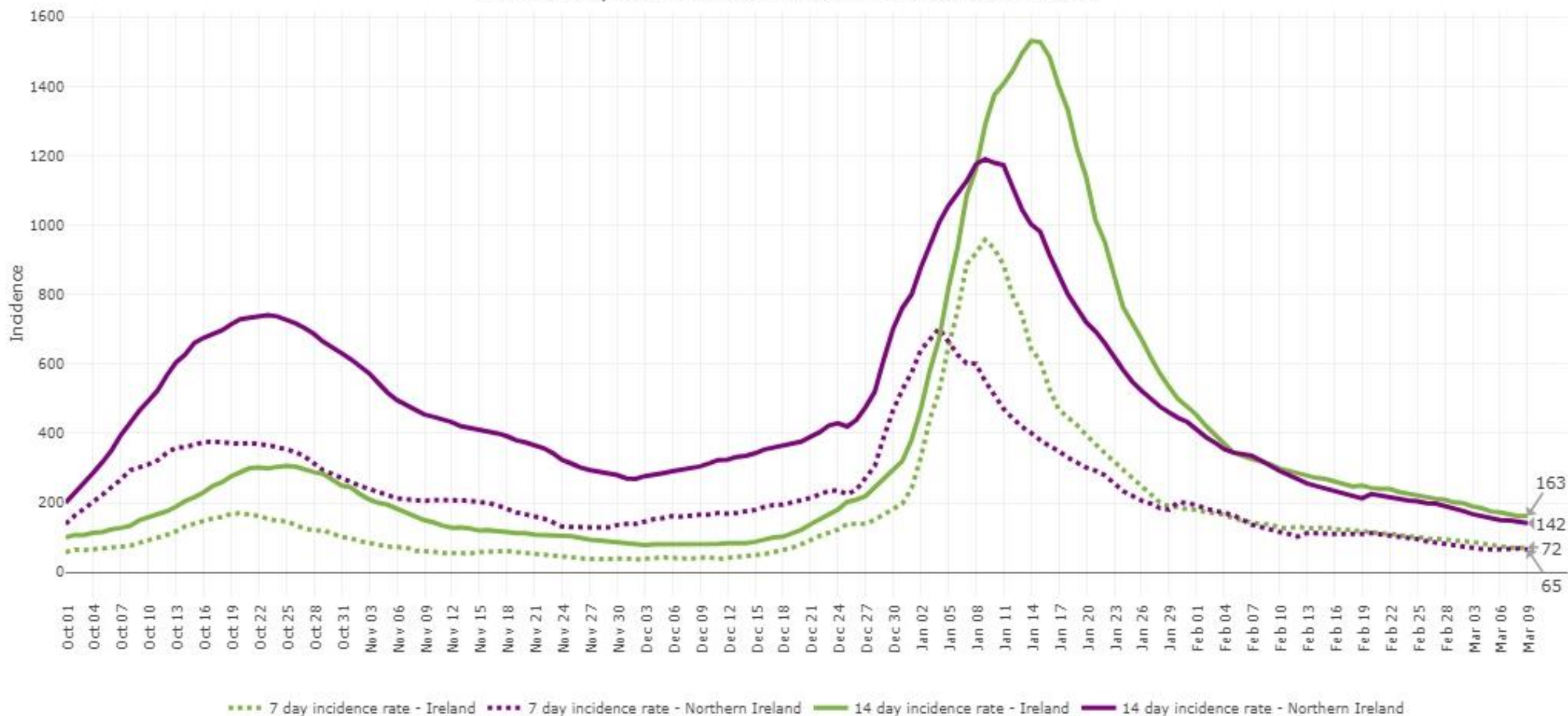
Confirmed B.1.526 cases: 5

Confirmed P.2 cases: 11

**Source: Office of the NCDHP HSE**



7 and 14 day Incidence rates for Ireland and Northern Ireland



Note – calculated using the 2016 population estimates for both ROI and NI.

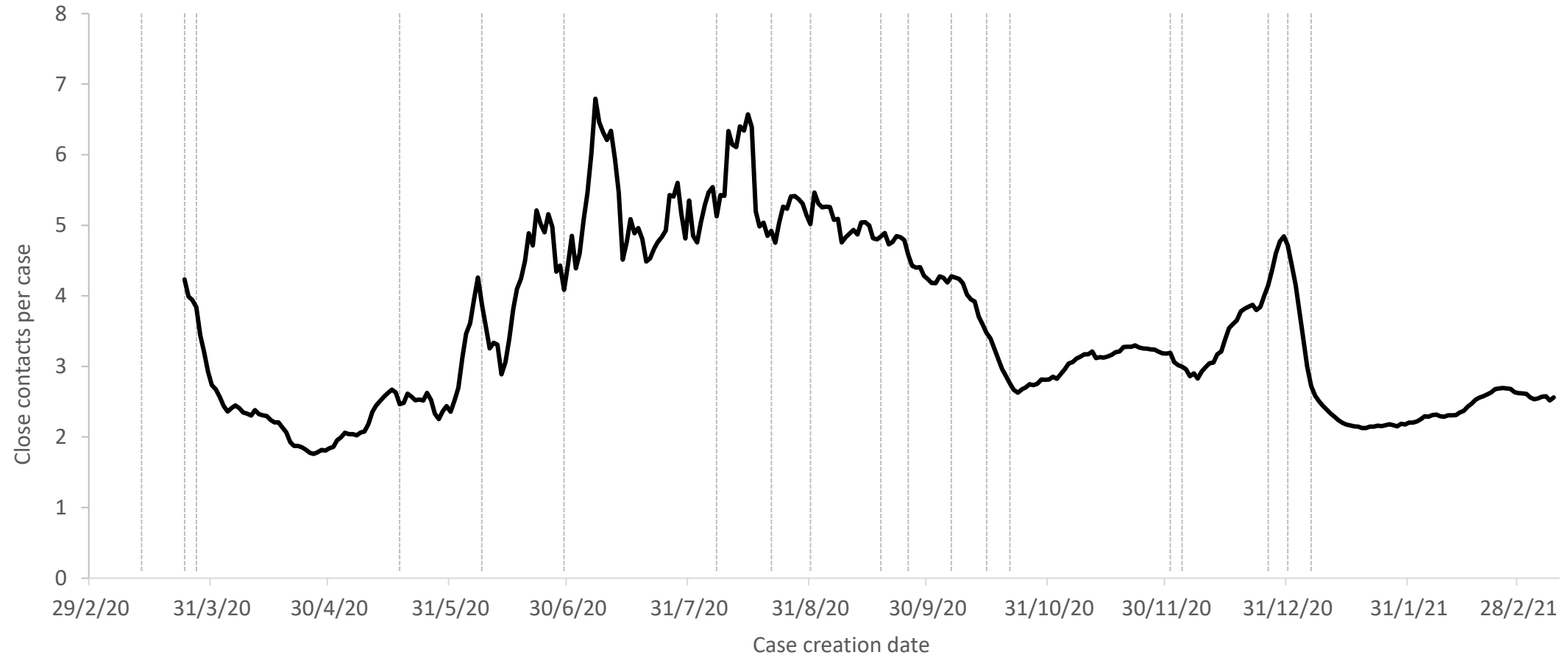
Source: HPSC CIDR Extract 100321 and health-ni.gov.uk daily data 10/03/21.



# Growth in Cases & R number

# Close contacts of adult confirmed cases

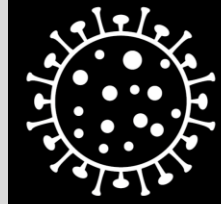
The mean number of close contacts per confirmed case. The number of contacts was very low (2 or less) during April, but increased to 5-6 per case during the summer. The public health measures during October was associated with a progressive reduction in close contacts, to below 3. The number of close contacts remained below 3.3 on average until early December, rose to almost 5 on average by 28 December, fell to 2.1 in January, and while there has been some recent increase, remains stable at  $\approx 2.6$



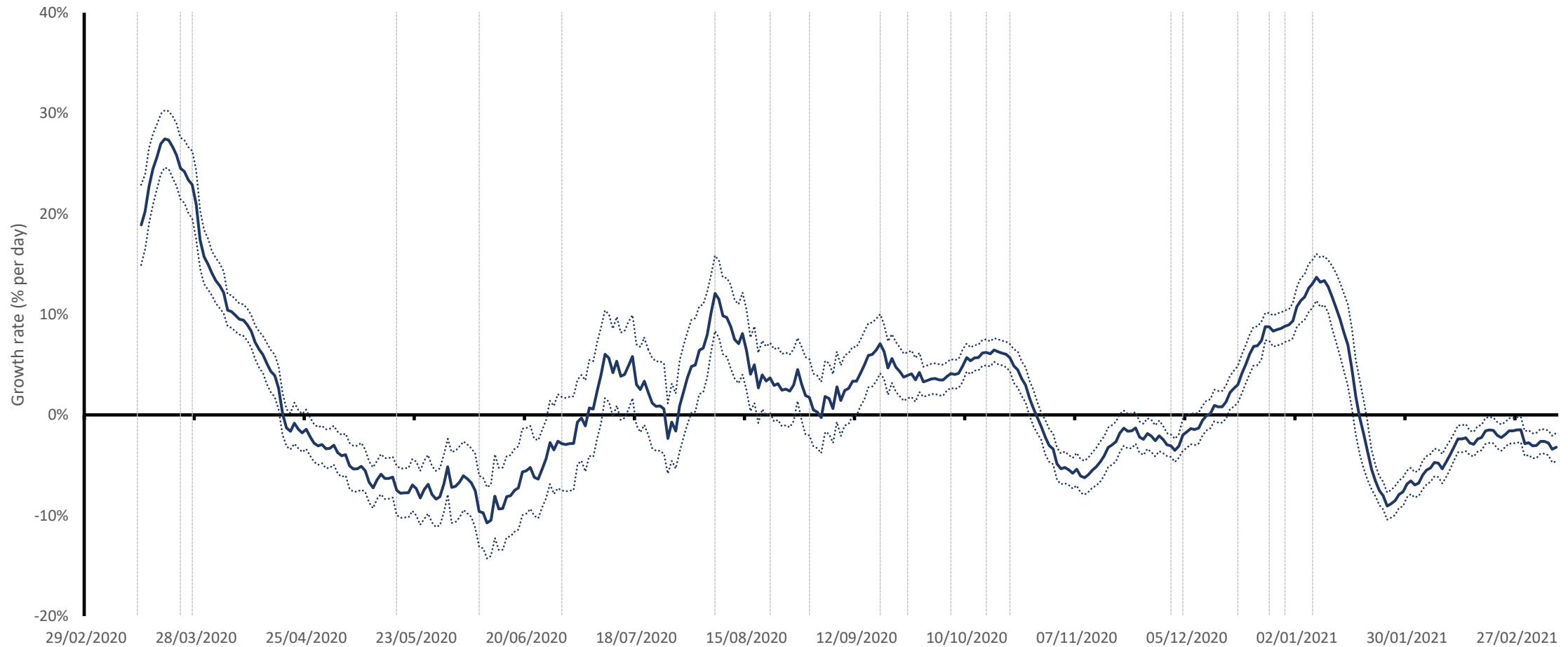
The average number of close contacts per confirmed case. Data from COVID-19 Care Tracker (CCT). Cases dated by case creation date. Cases (but not contacts) aged 18 and younger are excluded. Data are 7-day trailing averages except for the months of June – August where a 21-day trailing average is used due to very low case counts.

# Growth rate for case numbers

Growth rate peaked at 13% per day over the 21-day period up to 10 January 2021. While case numbers decreased very rapidly in January (-6 to -10% per day) case numbers are now decreasing more slowly at between 0 to -5%



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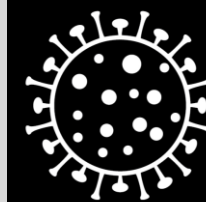
Growth rate calculated as the average growth rate over a 21-day trailing window, with 95% credible interval; cases dated by notification (event) date.



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# Estimates of effective reproduction number (R)

Reproduction number is below 1.0 with high levels of uncertainty in its estimation; it is currently estimated at 0.6 – 1.0



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Method	Estimate	95% confidence interval
SEIR model-inferred	0.72	0.46 – 1.02
Bayesian model	0.75	0.38 – 1.21
Time-dependent R	0.82	0.76 – 0.89
GAM estimate 2 Mar 2021	0.88	0.73 – 1.03
GAM estimate 9 Mar 2021	0.93	0.70 – 1.14

Estimates generated 10 March 2021, refer to IEMAG technical notes for methodology. Estimates are unreliable when case numbers are low or variable. SEIR-inferred estimate is slow to respond to changes in R. The time-dependent R estimate lags behind other estimates. These R estimates relate to viral transmissions and infections that occurred approximately 7-14 days ago. The estimate of R is influenced by different patterns of transmission in large outbreaks, smaller clusters, and individual transmission.



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# Situation analysis 10 March 2021



- We are seeing **continued slow progress** against **all indicators of disease**
- **Incidence remains high**
- Cases (5-day average) **487 cases per day**; 14-day incidence **163 per 100,000**
  - Incidence decreasing across all age groups
  - Recent increase in young adults aged 19-24 has reversed
  - Incidence in children has continued to decrease
  - Numbers in hospital and ICU decreasing
  - Test positivity below 4%
- **Concern** that **increased mobility** and workplace attendance may be associated with increasing transmission and **increased infection** in the coming weeks
- We are **maintaining suppression** of transmission but this is **precarious**
  - R and rate of decline uncertain and difficult to estimate
  - Rate of decline could be between 0 to -5%. **R below estimated as stable or decreasing at 0.6 – 1.0**
  - **GP test referrals plateauing/static week on week**
- While evidence of protective effect of vaccination in LTRC and HCW, the population is not protected and we remain at **high risk**



# European Data

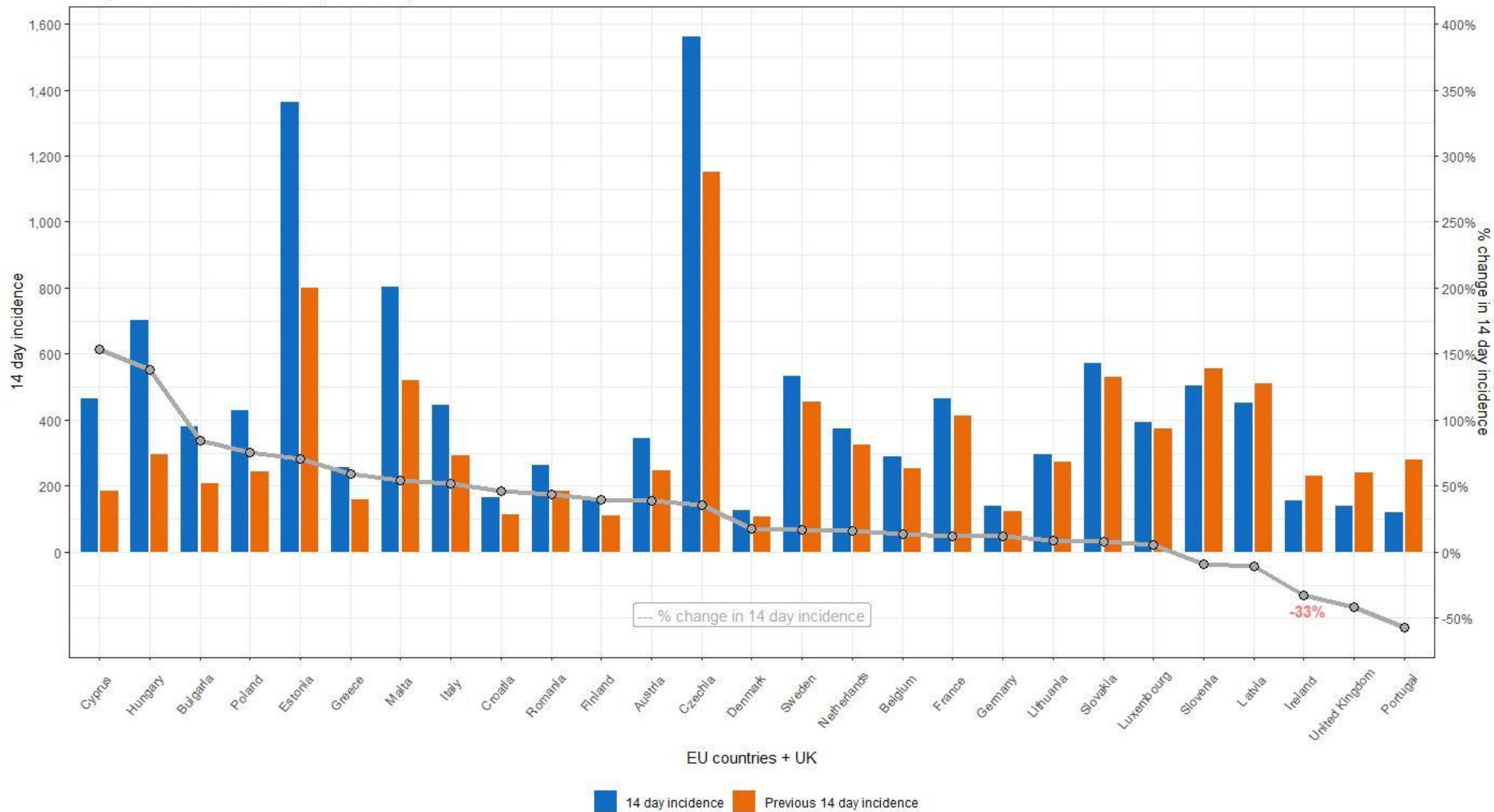
## EU/UK ranked by 14 day incidence (9<sup>th</sup> March)

EU and the UK	14 day incidence	Previous 14 day incidence	% change in 14 day incidence
Czechia	1562.5	1151.9	36%
Estonia	1363.3	798.9	71%
Malta	802.0	518.9	55%
Hungary	703.2	295.4	138%
Slovakia	571.5	530.9	8%
Sweden	533.5	454.7	17%
Slovenia	505.3	555.7	-9%
Cyprus	466.2	183.6	154%
France	464.5	414.1	12%
Latvia	452.5	508.6	-11%
Italy	444.8	292.5	52%
Poland	428.2	243.8	76%
Luxembourg	394.3	372.5	6%
Bulgaria	380.1	206.2	84%
Netherlands	374.7	323.9	16%
Austria	344.4	247.4	39%
Lithuania	296.3	272.3	9%
Belgium	288.8	253.4	14%
Romania	264.3	183.4	44%
Greece	256.0	160.4	60%
Spain**	249.8	556.7	-55%
Croatia	164.2	112.2	46%
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>230.1</b>	<b>-33%</b>
Finland	154.8	110.6	40%
United Kingdom	140.1	240.1	-42%
Germany	137.7	123.2	12%
Denmark	125.0	106.0	18%
Portugal	119.7	280.5	-57%

- As of 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, this daily data is now sourced from Our World In Data (OWID) instead of ECDC as they have switched to weekly reporting (Thursday evenings).
- OWID source their confirmed cases and deaths data from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>
- \*\*Due to data quality issues relating to Spain, we have used the latest ECDC figures for Spain (Week 8) instead of from Our World in Data.



European 14 incidence rates (09 March)



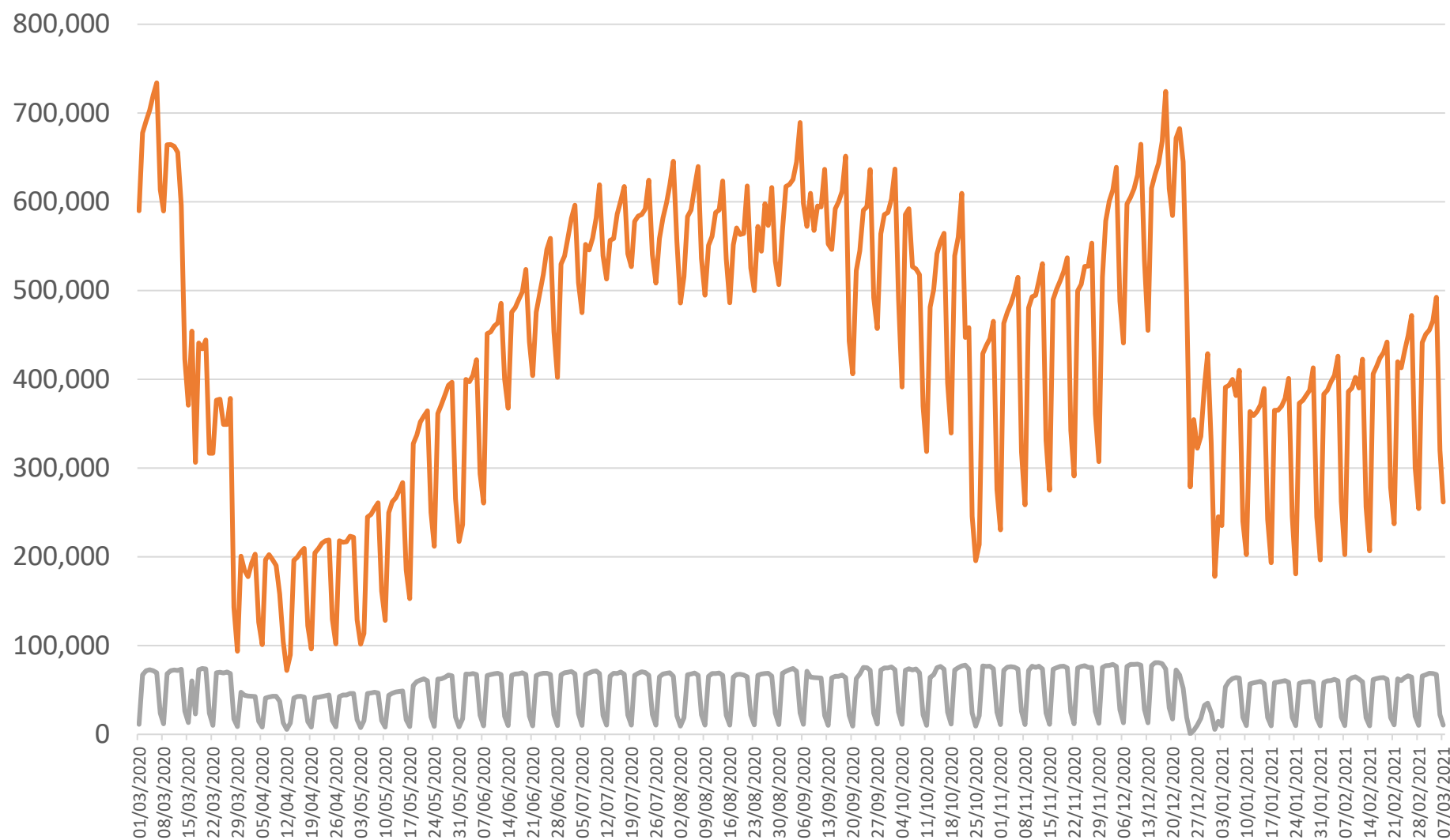
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- OWID source their confirmed cases and deaths data from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). <https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/tree/master/public/data>
- \*\*Spain has been removed from this graph today due to data quality issues that are being investigated.



# Compliance Data

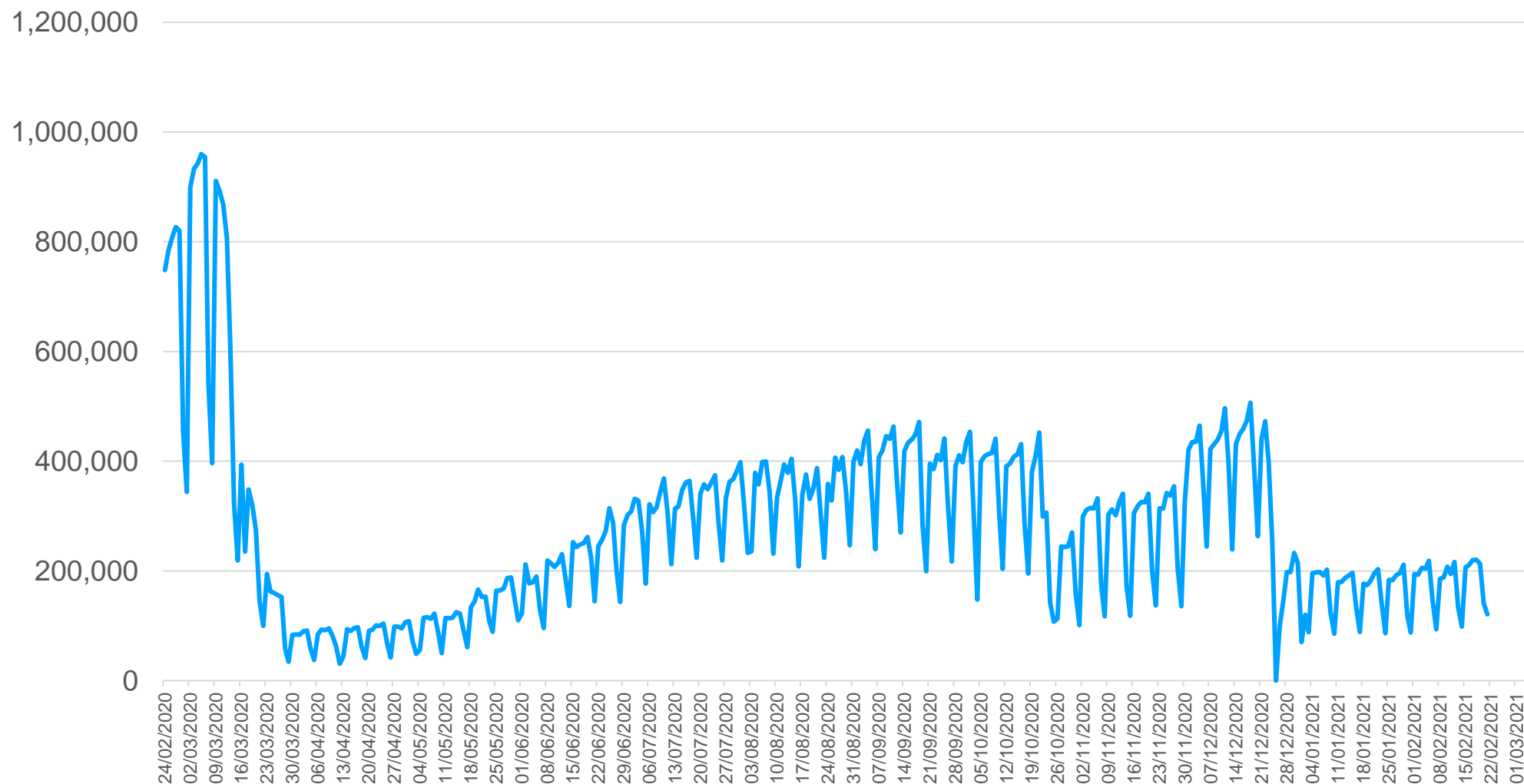


## Daily Traffic Flow

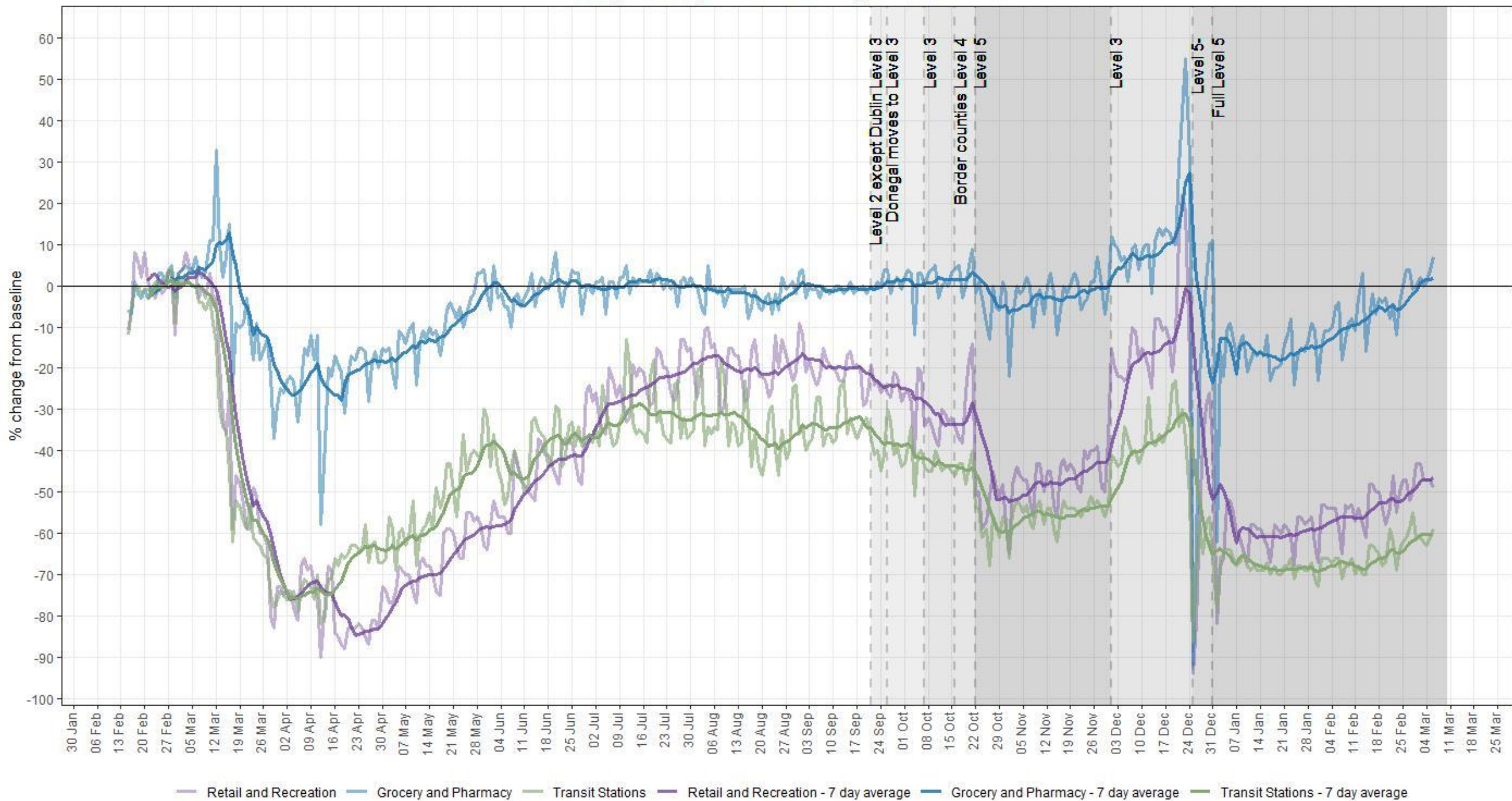




## Overall Public Transport daily passengers

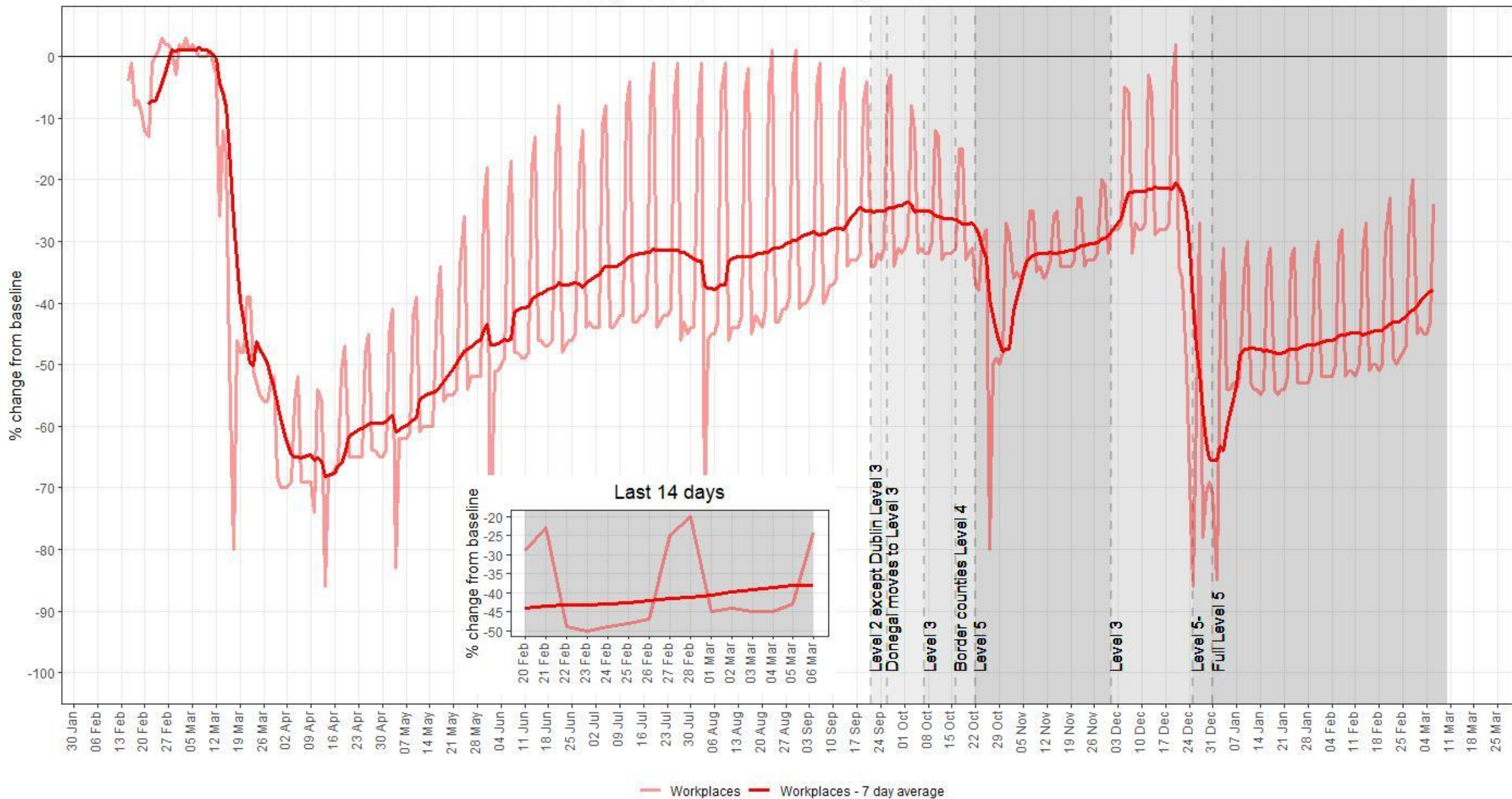


Google Mobility Ireland - % change from baseline





# Google Mobility Ireland - % change from baseline



# Apple Mobility Ireland - % change from baseline

