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Statement from the National Public Health Emergency Team - Thursday 25 February

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From [Department of Health](#)

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Today's cases

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has today been notified of 35 additional deaths related to COVID-19.

21 of these deaths occurred in February, 12 occurred in January, 1 in November, while one further death is under investigation.

The median age of those who died was 85 years and the age range was 53 - 102 years.

There has been a total of 4,271 COVID-19 related deaths in Ireland.

As of midnight Wednesday 24 February, the HPSC has been notified of 613 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There has now been a total of 217,478* confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ireland.

(*Validation of data at the HPSC has resulted in the denotification of 5 confirmed cases. The figure of 217,478 cases reflects this.)

Of the cases notified today:

- 308 are men and 304 are women
- 66% are under 45 years of age
- the median age is 34 years old
- 224 in Dublin, 39 in Limerick, 37 in Meath, 34 in Westmeath, 33 in Offaly and the remaining 246 cases are spread across all other counties

As of 8am today, 591 COVID-19 patients are hospitalised, of which 138 are in ICU. There have been 20 additional hospitalisations in the past 24 hours.

Numbers of people vaccinated

As of last Monday (22 February), there have been 359,616 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Ireland:

- 226,291 people have received their first dose
- 133,325 people have received their second dose

Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy Medical Officer, Department of Health, said:

"We are making good progress and can see that many of the key indicators of disease levels in our communities are continuing to fall. This progress is the reason we are able to reopen our schools in a cautious and phased basis.

"However, we must remember that COVID-19 is still circulating at a high level and, we are still seeing positivity rates of around 15% in the community. As we see more of our children return to school next week, it is important that we continue to follow all of the public health guidance, including on the school run.

"Maintain a social distance at all times, wear a face covering, do not mix with other households other than for essential reasons, wash your hands, and most importantly, ensure that children do not attend school if they display symptoms of COVID-19, as per the HSE website, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell. If you display any of these symptoms, you should self-isolate and phone your GP or GP out-of-hours service to arrange for a test."

Dr Lucy Jessop, Director, National Immunisation Office, said:

"In the last ten days, we have seen Ireland's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme move into the community. Many of us know family and friends who are among the almost 360,000 people to have been vaccinated in recent weeks. This is cause for great hope for all of us.

"The vaccine is already having a significant impact on our healthcare workers. In the last week in January, almost 1,400 healthcare workers contracted COVID-19; that number was less than 300 last week. This is wonderful news and clearly demonstrates the early impact the vaccination programme is having.

"However, even if you have received your COVID-19 vaccine, you must continue to wash your hands, wear a face covering, maintain a social distance and keep your close contacts to a minimum."

Professor Philip Nolan, Chair of the NPHET Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group, said:

"We are making continued and significant progress, albeit more slowly. The reproduction number remains below 1, between 0.6 and 0.9, which is a real achievement given the higher transmissibility of the B.1.1.7 variant, which accounts for 90% of cases. Our collective efforts to suppress transmission of the virus and bring the disease to manageable levels are having a positive impact. If we continue to work together, we can keep each other safe as the vaccination programme offers wider protection."

Dr Cillian De Gascun, Medical Virologist and Director of the National Virus Reference Laboratory said:

"New variants of concern will continue to emerge as COVID-19 adapts to us. This highlights the importance of Ireland's National Surveillance programme. This week, we will be sequencing 15% of cases at the NVRL."

The [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) provides up-to-date information on the key indicators of COVID-19 in the community including daily data on Ireland's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

County-by-county cases and incidence rates

- the 7 day incidence is 102.3
- the 5-day moving average is 625

County	Today's cases (to midnight 24/2/21)	5 day moving average	14-day incidence rate per 100,000 population	New cases during last 14 days
Ireland	613	625	226.1	10,767
Offaly	33	21	402.8	314
Galway	26	34	315.4	814
Dublin	224	225	309.7	4,173
Longford	<5	6	288.7	118
Laois	9	13	278.6	236
Limerick	39	41	275	536
Westmeath	34	19	274.9	244
Monaghan	9	9	265.5	163
Louth	29	23	264.6	341
Kildare	28	36	261.6	582
Waterford	10	17	247.9	288
Mayo	8	19	245.2	320
Meath	37	27	235.3	459
Carlow	9	7	210.8	120
Cavan	<5	9	210	160
Tipperary	17	21	194.9	311
Leitrim	8	3	193.5	62
Donegal	23	23	164.6	262
Clare	8	14	160.8	191
Wexford	6	6	133.6	200
Wicklow	5	10	106	151
Roscommon	5	5	105.4	68
Kilkenny	5	7	97.8	97
Sligo	<5	4	97.7	64
Cork	24	20	80.9	439

Kerry

7

6

36.6

54