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Statement from the National Public Health Emergency Team - Saturday 16 January

Item Type	other
Citation	Ireland. Department of Health, National Public Health Emergency Team, 'Statement from the National Public Health Emergency Team - Saturday 16 January', [other], Department of Health, 2021-01-16
Publisher	Department of Health
Rights	Y
Download date	2026-03-14 19:54:02
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14765/95116

Statement from the National Public Health Emergency Team - Saturday 16 January

From [Department of Health](#)

Published on 16 January 2021

Last updated on 18 January 2021

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has today been notified of 60 additional deaths related to COVID-19.

Of these, 59 deaths occurred in January 2021. 1 death occurred in December 2020.

The median age of those who died is 85 years, and the age range is 65 to 100 years. There was no newly reported death in healthcare workers. There was no newly reported death in a young person under the age of 30.

There has been a total of 2,595* COVID-19 related deaths in Ireland.

(*Validation of data at the HPSC has resulted in the denotification of 1 death. The figure of 2,595 deaths reflects this.)

As of midnight Friday 15 January, the HPSC has been notified of 3,231 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There has now been a total of 169,780* confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ireland.

(*Validation of data at the HPSC has resulted in the denotification of 7 confirmed cases. The figure of 169,780 confirmed cases reflects this.)

Of the cases notified today:

- 1,465 are men and 1,712 are women
- 54% are under 45 years of age
- the median age is 42 years old
- 931 cases are in Dublin, 388 in Cork, 238 in Louth, 155 in Waterford, 151 in Limerick, and the remaining 1,368 cases are spread across all other counties

As of 2pm today, 1,854 COVID-19 patients are hospitalised of which 191 are in ICU. There have been 119 additional hospitalisations in the past 24 hours.

Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health said:

"This virus has taken root in every single part of the country. A significant percentage of the population - in excess of 1 in 10 in some counties - is currently either a case or a close contact. This is a huge burden of infection. When you consider that a significant percentage

of our daily cases will directly lead to hospitalisation and mortality, the urgency with which we need to act becomes clear. By staying at home, you are protecting our health and social care services as they struggle against the enormous burden of infection that many weeks with thousands of daily cases of COVID-19 represents.

"The improvement in cases is not happening fast enough. Too many people are still not complying as fully as we need with the advice. There are early indications that we may be levelling off in terms of improvement, but at far, far too high a level of infection. The UK variant is very likely making our challenge more difficult. Please follow the public health advice. The safest place at the moment is at home. Please stay at home."

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

"Due to the nature of the mutation found in the UK variant of the virus, it is inevitable that it will become the dominant variant here in Ireland over time. The UK variant has adapted to us: simply put, it is better at moving from person to person when we come into contact. So what we must do is reduce its opportunities to spread by cutting out socialising. Stay home. Do not visit anyone else's home. Do not attend illegal gatherings. Remember the simple and effective measures from springtime – wash your hands well and often, wear a mask, cough and sneeze into your elbow, keep 2 metres of space from others, and phone your GP at the very first sign of COVID-19 symptoms."

The [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) provides up-to-date information on the key indicators of COVID-19 in the community. The dashboard also now includes information on total vaccines administered (1st dose).

ENDS

Today's cases and incidence rates

County	Today's cases (to midnight 15/1/21)	14-day incidence rate per 100,000 population (14 days to midnight 15/1/21)	New cases during last 14 days (14 days to midnight 15/1/21)
Ireland	3,231	1530.2	72,864
Monaghan	83	2891.5	1,775
Louth	238	2452.6	3,161
Limerick	151	2133.4	4,158
Waterford	155	2051.2	2,383
Wexford	136	1870.1	2,800
Dublin	931	1775.7	23,925
Carlow	47	1723.1	981
Mayo	101	1639.8	2,140
Clare	47	1596.6	1,897
Cork	388	1590.8	8,636
Cavan	114	1558.2	1,187

Donegal	83	1437.9	2,289
Meath	145	1294.1	2,524
Kilkenny	40	1191.1	1,182
Kildare	90	1171.2	2,606
Kerry	49	1102.2	1,628
Galway	132	1087.7	2,807
Tipperary	61	1002.8	1,600
Offaly	44	996.7	777
Roscommon	29	951.3	614
Sligo	26	943	618
Laois	48	935.1	792
Longford	5	846.5	346
Wicklow	45	818.7	1,166
Westmeath	31	751.4	667
Leitrim	12	639.7	205

- the 7 day incidence rate is 610.9
- the 5 day moving average is 3,465