

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – WEEKLY DEATH STATISTICS (Week ending 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020)



4.00pm Wednesday 23rd December 2020

## **Covid-19 related deaths: week ending 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Latest figures published today by NISRA show that 70 deaths involving Covid-19 occurred in the last week from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December, and the total Covid-19 related deaths figure has now reached 1,674. Of this total, 1,002 (59.9%) deaths took place in hospital, 553 (33.0%) in care homes, nine (0.5%) in hospices and 110 (6.6%) at residential addresses or other locations. The 562 deaths which occurred in care homes and hospices involved 130 separate establishments.

The comparative number of deaths reported daily by the Department of Health to 18<sup>th</sup> December was 1,180. These figures are based on patients having previously tested positive for the virus, whereas the NISRA figures are based on the information entered on death certificates completed by medical professionals. They may or may not have previously tested positive for the virus.

Further analysis, which includes deaths of care home residents in hospital, shows that of the 700 deaths of care home residents involving Covid-19 in the year to date to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 79.0% (553) occurred in a care home, with the remaining 147 occurring in hospital. On this basis, deaths of care home residents account for 41.8% of all Covid-19 related deaths; however, no assumptions can be made in relation to where or when the deceased contracted the disease.

Separate analyses, based on the date of death registration, shows that the provisional number of total deaths from all causes registered in Northern Ireland in the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (week 50) was 350, 16 less than in week 49 and 6 more than the 5-year average of 344. Over the last 38 weeks in total, 1,905 'excess deaths' (deaths above the average for the corresponding period in previous years) have been registered in Northern Ireland, with the number of 'excess deaths' in the year to date to 18<sup>th</sup> December totalling 1,646.

Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate of 82 (23.4%) of the 350 deaths registered in week 50. The total number of Covid-19 related deaths registered in the calendar year up to 18<sup>th</sup> December has reached 1,649.

Persons aged 75 and over accounted for two-thirds (65.3%) of all deaths and 77.7% of Covid-19 related deaths registered this calendar year up to 18<sup>th</sup> December.

For Covid-19 related deaths, those with an address in Belfast Local Government District (LGD) accounted for 395 (24.0%) of the 1,649 deaths registered in the calendar year to 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## NISRA

### December 2020

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics on weekly deaths registered in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths>. For the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> December this will be limited to the usual excel tables and accompanying statistical press notice – A weekly bulletin is not provided.
2. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at [dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk) or on Tel: 028 90816724. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer on 028 9037 8110 and your call will be returned.
3. Differences between NISRA's death registration statistics and the daily totals reported via the Department of Health are as follows:
  - The **daily updates** provided by the Department of Health (DoH) count the number of deaths reported by Trusts, where the deceased had a positive test for Covid-19 and died within 28 days, whether or not Covid-19 was the cause of death. DoH figures will not capture all deaths that do not meet this definition. These data are important because they are available earlier, and therefore give a quicker indication of what is happening day by day and are broadly comparable with the figures released daily in other parts of the United Kingdom (UK). **The DoH reported 1,180 deaths associated with Covid-19 by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (including revisions up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020).**
  - NISRA weekly, provisional death statistics, which are based on death registration information collected by the General Register Office, count all deaths where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate by the doctor who certified the death, whether or not Covid-19 was the primary underlying cause of death. The figures include cases where the doctor noted that there was suspected or probable coronavirus infection involved in the death. As a result the weekly totals will usually be higher than the relevant daily figures - because the DoH daily updates only include those who have tested positive for the virus.

4. Quoted figures based on occurrence take into account registrations up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, to allow for delays in death registrations.
5. Analysis of care home residents refers to deaths where either (a) the death occurred in a care home, or (b) the death occurred elsewhere but the place of usual residence of the deceased was recorded as a care home. It should be noted that the statistics will not capture those cases where a care home resident died in hospital or another location and the usual address recorded on their death certificate is not a care home; however no assumptions can be made about where or when the deceased contracted Covid-19 (and all figures include probable or suspect cases).
6. **Publication Schedule over Christmas** – please note, the next bulletin, covering the two weeks ending 25<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January, will be published on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, at 9.30am.
7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:  
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