

MONTHLY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Data contained within this monthly report are based on information recorded on EpiSurv by Public Health Service (PHS) staff as at 10 January 2022. Changes made to EpiSurv after this date will not be reflected in this report. The data are provisional and include cases that are still under investigation, some of which may become 'Not a case'. For this reason, comparisons between the current year and previous years should be treated with caution.

KEY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE TRENDS

COVID-19

There were 2443 cases of COVID-19 reported in December 2021 (2434 confirmed, 3 probable and 6 under investigation) compared with 107 cases for the same month in 2020. The vast majority of the confirmed and probable cases (2278/2437, 93.5%) were community cases, and the remaining 159 (6.5%) were imported cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities. A total of 159 (6.5%) cases were hospitalised. Five deaths were reported among COVID-19 cases, of which one was due to COVID-19.

Leptospirosis

There were 15 cases of leptospirosis reported in December 2021 (11 confirmed and 4 under investigation), compared with 6 cases for the same month in 2020. The 11 confirmed cases ranged in age from 21 to 76 years with over half (6 cases) in the 30-39 years age group. Eight confirmed cases were male and three were female. Nine confirmed cases reported exposure to animals (five due to the nature of their occupation as dairy/beef farm workers or meat workers) and two reported exposure to river or well water (one was occupational exposure as a kayaking guide). Hospitalisation was recorded for eight confirmed cases, of which seven (87.5%) were hospitalised. The serovar was identified for five confirmed cases: three were *Leptospira* Hardjo, one was *L. Ballum* and one was *L. Tarassovi*. The six remaining cases were confirmed by PCR.

OUTBREAKS

Respiratory illness

There were three respiratory illness outbreaks reported in December 2021, involving 27 cases. Two outbreaks were reported as influenza-like illness (ILI) and one was reported as acute respiratory infection (ARI). A pathogen was not identified in all three outbreaks (SARS-CoV was excluded in one outbreak). Two outbreaks were in long-term care facilities and one was in a childcare centre.

Tuberculosis

An outbreak of tuberculosis was reported from Canterbury DHB in December 2021, involving five cases. The cases were all males and ranged in age from 25 to 38 years. Four cases were confirmed as pulmonary while one was extrapulmonary (lymph node). All five cases were hospitalised. The cases all belong to a transient African population who meet and often use alcohol and drugs. The index case was reported in July and has been genomically linked to a case in Timaru. The outbreak is continuing to be investigated and additional cases are being identified. Six contacts have been referred for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

TABLES

Tables for December are available as Excel files on the [Public Health Surveillance website](#).