
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 2020. 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 the previous year should be treated with caution.

KEY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE TRENDS

Enteric Diseases

Enteric infections are the most common notifiable diseases, and several, along with acute gastroenteritis, are increasing in incidence. This increase is partly due to changes in laboratory testing practices, with a shift from culture methods to multiplex PCR (which tests for several diseases at the same time). This means more diseases are likely to be detected and in a more timely manner. For further information, see the [2016 Annual Notifiable Disease Report Commentary](#).

Dengue Fever

There were 16 cases of dengue fever (12 confirmed, 1 probable and 3 under investigation) notified in December 2019, compared with seven for the same month in 2018. Countries visited by the 13 confirmed and probable cases were India (5 cases), French Polynesia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand (2 cases each), Cook Islands, Malaysia, New Caledonia and United Arab Emirates (1 case each). Information on avoiding dengue fever is available on the [Safetravel website](#).

Legionellosis

There were 33 cases of legionellosis (20 confirmed and 13 under investigation) notified in December 2019, compared with 19 for the same month in 2018. The majority of the confirmed cases (15/20, 75.0%) were due to *Legionella longbeachae* which is commonly found in soil, compost and potting mix. Information on working safely with soil, compost and potting mix is available on the Worksafe website [here](#).

Measles

There were 53 cases of measles (49 confirmed and 4 under investigation) notified in December 2019, bringing the total for 2019 to 2214 cases. The majority (26/49 cases, 53.1%) of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region. See the latest [weekly measles surveillance report](#) for more information.

Mumps

There were 81 cases (75 confirmed, 5 probable and 1 under investigation) of mumps notified in December 2019, compared with four for the same month in 2018. The majority of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region (45/75, 60.0%), and two thirds (48/75, 64.0%) were aged 20–29 years. Nine cases were linked to three outbreaks, reported from Auckland, Capital and Coast, and Southern DHBs.

OUTBREAKS

Clostridium perfringens

An outbreak of gastroenteritis due to *Clostridium perfringens* associated with a school leavers dinner in Christchurch was reported in December 2019. No single food source was able to be identified although several sources were implicated.

Foodborne group A streptococcus (GAS)

An outbreak of group A streptococcus was reported from Auckland DHB involving 48 cases among attendees at an open day for an outpatient service in December 2019. Attendees reported symptoms of fever and sore throat. The primary mode of transmission was foodborne. Food was prepared by staff the night before and some food was left overnight without refrigeration. Further cases were reported among household contacts who did not attend the open day.

TABLES

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