

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 March 2023. 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

The New Zealand Government declared a National State of Emergency due to the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle (14 February to 7 March). Reporting may have been impacted in regions affected by the Cyclone.

Enteric Diseases

There was an increase in notifications for several enteric diseases in February 2023, compared with the same month in 2022. Lower numbers in February 2022 were likely due to public health measures implemented against COVID-19. Notifications for campylobacteriosis, acute gastroenteritis and salmonellosis in February 2023 were within the same range as in February 2016–2020 (pre-COVID-19), cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis and shigellosis were lower, while yersiniosis was higher than in 2016–2020.

Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 28 confirmed cases of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in February 2023, compared with 14 cases for the same month in 2022. Three (10.7%) cases were aged under 5 years, 17 (60.7%) were 5–64 years, and eight (28.5%) were aged 65 years and over. No deaths were reported. A serotype was identified in 25/28 (89.3%) cases. The most common serotype was 19A (36.0%, 9 cases). There was one case of serotype 19A in a child aged under 5 years, the case was age-appropriately vaccinated with PCV10. From 1 December 2022 the funded vaccine was [changed from PCV10 to PCV13](#), which gives additional protection against serotypes 3, 6A and 19A.

Leptospirosis

There were 20 cases of leptospirosis (17 confirmed and 3 under investigation) notified in February 2023, compared with six cases for the same month in 2022. The 17 confirmed cases ranged in age from 14 to 73 years, 14 were male and three were female. Five confirmed cases were from Hawke's Bay. Risk factor information was available for all 17 confirmed cases; five reported exposure to flood water (three in Hawke's Bay and two in Waitemata), and four of these also reported contact with animals/livestock. In total, 15 confirmed cases reported exposure to animals, including 10 (66.7%) who were exposed as part of their occupation, and seven cases reported exposure to streams/rivers/lakes. Five cases reported exposure to both animals and streams/rivers/lakes. Hospitalisation was recorded for all 17 confirmed cases, of which 12 (70.5%) were hospitalised. The serovar was identified for six confirmed cases, four were due to *Leptospira Hardjo*, one was *L. Ballum* and one was *L. Tarassovi*.

Measles

[A confirmed measles case](#) was notified in February 2023, the first case in New Zealand since January 2020. The case was in India during the incubation period and was infectious after their arrival in New Zealand. No further cases have been reported.

Pertussis

There were five confirmed pertussis cases notified in February 2023, compared with one case for the same month in 2022. Four cases were reported from Whanganui (with three from one family) and one from Waikato district. Three cases were aged under 1 year and two were 1–4 years. All three cases aged under 1 year were hospitalised, and two died. None of the cases were vaccinated. Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) put out a [media release](#) on 9 March encouraging people to get immunised against pertussis.

OUTBREAKS

Campylobacteriosis

An outbreak of campylobacteriosis involving 12 participants in the Wellington Classic Cycle race was reported to Canterbury district in February. Two laboratory-confirmed cases of campylobacteriosis were initially identified and 10 further people reported symptoms typical of campylobacteriosis following the race. Race participants were exposed to manure which splashed up from the roads due to heavy rain conditions during the race. Farmers in the region are required to keep roads free of livestock manure according to the [Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw](#).

Norovirus

An outbreak of norovirus which may have been related to flooding was reported among New Zealand Defence Force staff in Hawke's Bay. One confirmed and 12 probable cases were reported.

Respiratory Illness

One respiratory illness outbreak was reported in February 2023. The outbreak was due to influenza A and was in a long-term care facility.

TABLES

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