
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 October 2019. 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 18 cases of dengue fever (13 confirmed, 1 probable and 4 under investigation) notified in September 2019, compared with seven for the same month in 2018. Countries visited by the 14 confirmed and probable cases were Fiji (4 cases), Philippines (3 cases), Thailand, (2 cases), Cambodia, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam (1 case each). Information on dengue fever in the Pacific is available on the [Safetravel website](#).

Legionellosis

There were 24 cases of legionellosis (12 confirmed, 1 probable and 11 under investigation) notified in September 2019, compared with 17 for the same month in 2018. Of the 13 confirmed and probable cases, six were due to *Legionella longbeachae* (commonly found in soil and potting mix) and four were due to *L. pneumophila* (which is usually found in warm water). One death due to *L. longbeachae* was reported in a person aged over 70 years. Information on legionellosis is available on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

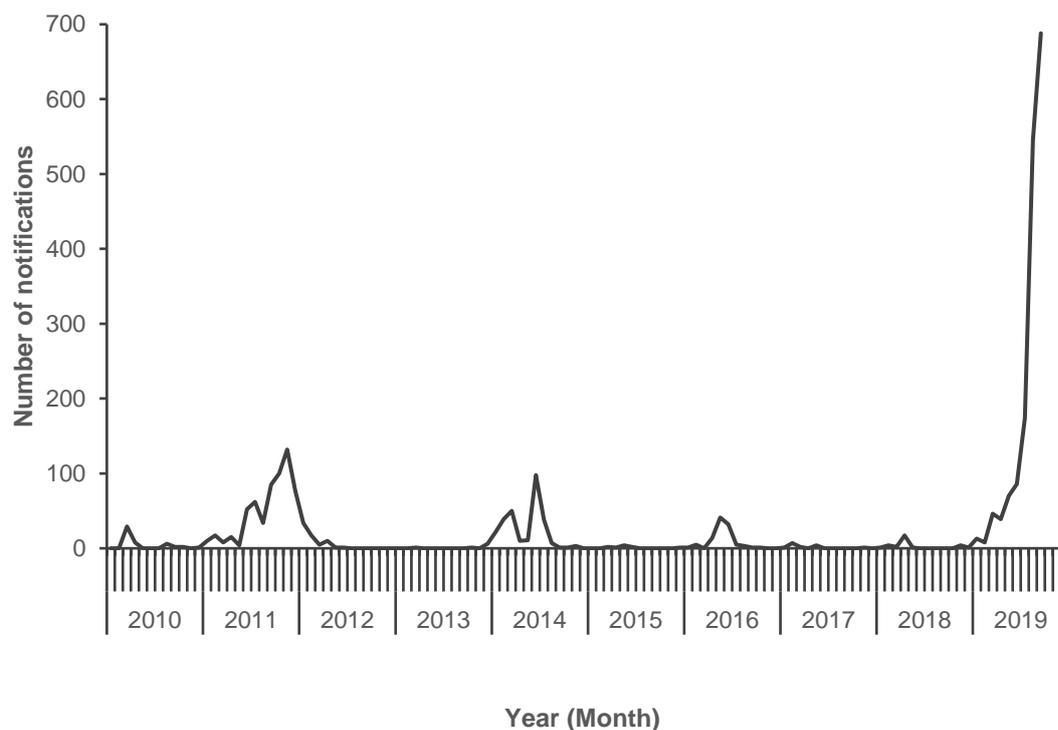
Measles

There were 668 cases (655 confirmed, 17 probable and 16 under investigation) of measles notified in September 2019, bringing the total for January–September to 1669 cases (Figure 1). The majority (522 cases, 79.7%) of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region. See the latest [weekly measles surveillance report](#) for more information.

The Ministry of Health activated the [National Health Coordination Centre](#) on Friday 30 August to coordinate the response to the Auckland outbreak and monitor the situation in the rest of New Zealand.

An update on the 2019 measles outbreaks can be found on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

Figure 1. Measles notifications by month, January 2010–September 2019



Meningococcal disease

There were 22 cases (all laboratory confirmed) of meningococcal disease notified in September 2019, bringing the total to 113 for the year to date. The group was identified in 19 cases, with 10 cases identified as group B, five cases as group W, two cases as group C and two as group Y. See the latest [meningococcal disease monthly report](#) for more information.

Mumps

There were 21 cases (17 confirmed, 2 probable and 2 under investigation) of mumps notified in September 2019, compared with 12 for the same month in 2018. The majority (16 cases, 94.1%) of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region, and in adults aged 20–29 years (11 cases, 64.7%).

Yersiniosis

There were 138 cases (130 confirmed and 8 under investigation) of yersiniosis notified in September 2019, compared with 109 for the same month in 2018. Of the 76 confirmed cases that were serotyped, 14 were due to *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* (YPTB). This is an increase compared to the same period in 2018 (3 cases) and 2017 (4 cases). Several isolates have been sequenced, with initial results indicating there is unlikely to be a common source. However there are significant YPTB detection gaps for several DHBs due to changes in laboratory testing methods.

OUTBREAKS

Influenza-like illness

Three outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in September 2019; all in long-term care facilities. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was identified in one outbreak. No pathogen was identified in the remaining two outbreaks.

TABLES

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