
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 June 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 27 cases (26 confirmed and 1 under Investigation) of dengue fever notified in May 2019, compared with 20 for the same month in 2018. All of the cases had travelled overseas during the incubation period, and the majority (20 cases, 74.1%) had travelled to Fiji. Of the 20 cases that had travelled to Fiji, 13 were confirmed as DENV-1, one as DENV-2 and the serotype was unknown for six cases.

Measles

There were 82 cases (65 confirmed, 2 probable and 15 under investigation) of measles notified in May 2019, bringing the total for January–May to 188 cases. The majority (46 cases, 70.8%) of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region. See the latest [weekly measles surveillance report](#) for more information.

New Zealand is at ongoing risk of [importation from international travellers](#): The Ministry of Health issued a [media release](#) on 10 May 2019 reminding travellers to make sure they are fully immunised against measles before they go overseas. A further [media release encouraging immunisation](#) was issued on 16 June 2019.

OUTBREAKS

Influenza-like illness outbreaks

Thirteen outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in May 2019. Influenza A was identified in four outbreaks and influenza B in three outbreaks. No pathogen was identified in the remaining six outbreaks. Eight outbreaks were in long-term care facilities (4 influenza A), four were in schools (3 influenza B) and one was in a childcare centre.

Measles

The measles outbreak that was reported from Auckland Regional Public Health in March continued during May with a further 30 cases linked to the outbreak. While the majority (16/30, 53.3%) of cases were from Auckland DHBs, cases from five other DHBs (Bay of Plenty (7), Lakes (3), Capital and Coast (2), Northland and Waikato (1 each) were also linked to the outbreak.

A measles outbreak was reported from Hutt Valley DHB in May. Six cases were linked to the outbreak during May, including two from Capital and Coast DHB. The index case was a [visitor from Australia](#).

Vibrio parahaemolyticus outbreak

An outbreak of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* involving nine cases linked to consumption of raw mussels was reported from Bay of Plenty DHB in May 2019. The mussels were harvested from the Coromandel area and were from a commercial supplier. The growing area for the mussels has been closed by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) while investigations continue. MPI put out a [media release](#) on 21 June advising people to ensure they cook mussels thoroughly.

TABLES

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