

INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE REPORT 23 January 2019

This report summarises invasive meningococcal disease notifications for the period from 1 January 2018 to 18 January 2019 (a cumulative summary). The information in this report is based on confirmed and probable cases reported up to 22 January 2019 (surveillance weeks 1–52, 2018, and weeks 1–3, 2019) and extracted from EpiSurv and the Invasive Pathogens Laboratory results, ESR, on 22 January 2019. Data presented may be further updated and should be regarded as provisional.

This report will be updated on a fortnightly basis. A more detailed quarterly report was published on 23 November 2018.

National trends

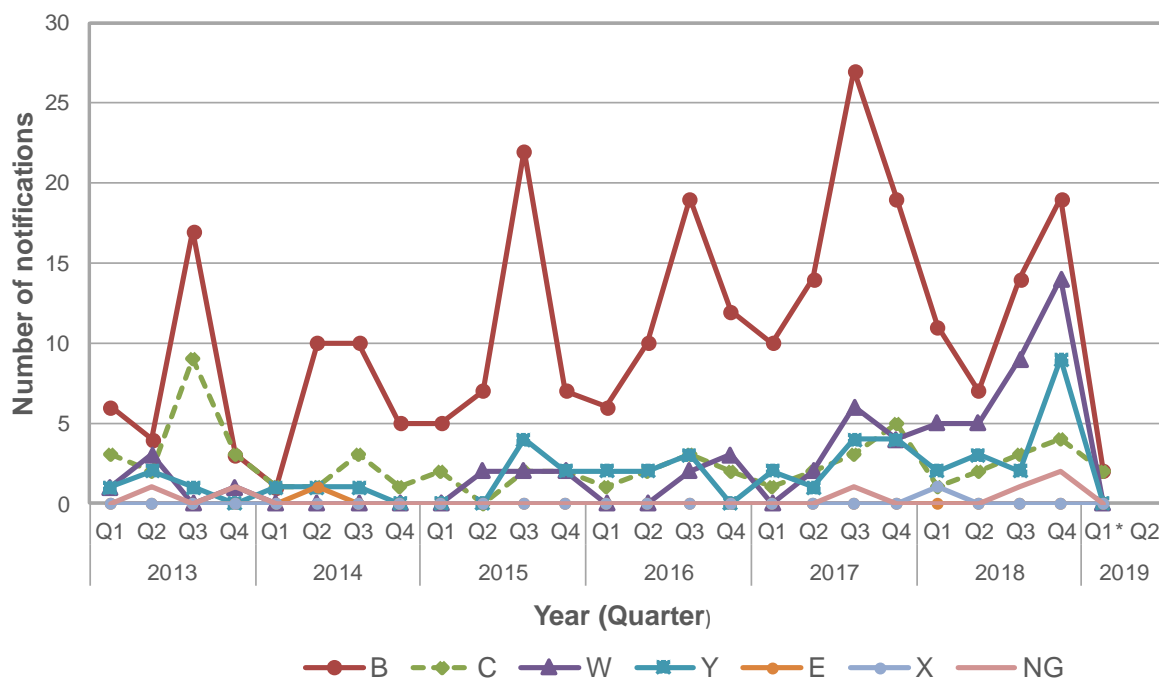
In the past two weeks (weeks 2–3, 2019), two new cases of invasive meningococcal disease were reported. The cases were from Auckland and Canterbury (1 case each) District Health Boards (DHBs). No deaths were reported.

The total number of reported cases for 2018 is 120 cases with 10 deaths. This is higher than the 112 cases and 9 deaths reported in 2017. There have been five cases and no deaths reported in 2019 year to date (YTD).

Although notifications in 2018 followed the usual seasonal pattern seen in New Zealand, whereby there is an increase in cases reported in winter and spring, there was a later peak than in recent years (Figure 1).

In 2018 117 (97.5%) cases were laboratory-confirmed and the group was determined for 113 cases: group B (51 cases), group W (33 cases), group Y (16 cases), group C (10 cases), non-groupable (NG) (2 cases) and group X (1 case) (Figure 1). In 2019 YTD four (80.0%) cases were laboratory-confirmed with the group determined as: group B and group C (2 cases each).

Figure 1. Meningococcal disease notifications by group by quarter by year, 2013–2019*



NG – non-groupable.

*Cases reported up to 18 January 2019 only.

Geographic distribution

In 2018 Northland DHB had the highest rate (7.4 per 100,000, 13 cases) followed by Whanganui (4.7 per 100,000, 3 cases), Bay of Plenty (4.3 per 100,000, 10 cases) and Southern (3.7 per 100,000, 12 cases) DHBs (Table 1).

The Auckland region (Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs) had the highest group B notifications (17 cases) followed by Southern (8 cases) DHB. Northland DHB had the highest group W notifications (7 cases) (Table 1).

In 2019 YTD five cases were reported: Bay of Plenty DHB (2 cases both group C), Counties Manukau and Canterbury DHBs (1 case each of group B). One case reported from Auckland DHB (yet to be grouped).

Table 1. Meningococcal disease notifications by DHB, 1 Jan–31 Dec 2018

District Health Board	Group						Other lab-confirmed ²	Probable ³	Total	Rate per 100,000*
	B	W	Y	C	X	NG ¹				
Northland	0	7	3	1	0	0	1	1	13	7.4
Waitemata	3	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	13	2.1
Auckland	5	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	2.3
Counties Manukau	9	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	13	2.4
Waikato	3	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	8	2.0
Lakes	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.8
Bay of Plenty	5	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	10	4.3
Tairāwhiti	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.1
Taranaki	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	3.4
Hawke's Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Whanganui	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4.7
MidCentral	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.3
Hutt Valley	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1.4
Capital & Coast	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.9
Wairarapa	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.2
Nelson Marlborough	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.7
West Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Canterbury	4	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	10	1.8
South Canterbury	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.7
Southern	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	3.7
Total	51	33	16	10	1	2	4	3	120	2.5

*Rates should be interpreted with caution for DHBs with <5 cases.

¹ Non-groupable – group not determined but other strain characteristics were determined.

² Includes DNA laboratory-confirmed by PCR where no group or other strain characteristics were determined, or laboratory-confirmed isolates not received by the Meningococcal Reference Laboratory.

³ Probable – A clinically compatible illness.

This report is available at: https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/Meningococcal_disease.php