
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 July 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](#).

Acute gastroenteritis

There were 48 cases of acute gastroenteritis notified in June 2019, compared with 16 for the same month in 2018. Most cases were due to either *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (20 cases) or enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) (18 cases). Outbreaks of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* have been recently reported from Bay of Plenty DHB and the Auckland region – see the outbreak section of this report and the [May monthly report](#) for more information. An increase in acute gastroenteritis due to ETEC has been noted in the Bay of Plenty, Lakes and Waikato DHBs since Pathlab introduced a PCR test that detects the organism in February this year.

Dengue Fever

There were 20 confirmed cases of dengue fever notified in June 2019, compared with 13 for the same month in 2018. All of the cases had travelled overseas during the incubation period, with half having travelled to Fiji. Other countries visited were Indonesia (4 cases), Cook Islands (2 cases), Malaysia, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vietnam. Information on dengue fever in the Pacific is available on the [Safetravel website](#).

Measles

There were 87 cases (86 confirmed and 1 probable) of measles notified in June 2019, bringing the total for January–June to 263 cases. The majority (68 cases, 78.2%) 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](#) encouraging immunisation on 16 June 2019. General information on the 2019 measles outbreaks can be found on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

Meningococcal disease

There were 16 cases (15 laboratory confirmed and 1 probable) of meningococcal disease notified in June 2019, compared with four for the same month last year. The group was identified in 13 cases as group B: 6 cases, group W: 4 cases and group Y: 3 cases. One death was reported in a 60-69 year old due to group B. See the latest [meningococcal disease quarterly report](#) for more information.

Typhoid fever

There were seven cases of typhoid fever notified in June 2019, compared to one case for the same month in 2018. All seven cases had travelled overseas during the incubation period. The countries visited were Fiji (3 cases), India (2 cases), Samoa and Thailand (1 case each).

Zika Virus

There were three confirmed Zika cases notified in June 2019, bringing the total for January–June to four cases. Two cases were female. All three cases had travelled to Fiji during the incubation period.

Zika infection can lead to serious complications, including birth defects in babies born to women who are infected during pregnancy. Asia and the Pacific are the most common sources of infection for New Zealand travellers.

OUTBREAKS

Influenza-like illness

Twelve outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in June 2019. Influenza A was identified in six outbreaks and influenza B in one outbreak. No pathogen was identified in the remaining five outbreaks. Eight outbreaks were in long-term care facilities (5 influenza A), two were in schools (1 influenza B) and one was in a workplace. The setting was not recorded for one outbreak.

Measles

Three new measles outbreaks were reported, and two previously reported outbreaks continued during June 2019. The five outbreaks involved cases from the Auckland (37 cases) and Wellington (6 cases) regions, Northland (10 cases), Lakes and Waikato (1 case each) DHBs.

STEC/Shigella

An outbreak of STEC/Shigella involving seven cases was reported from Bay of Plenty DHB in June 2019. The cases had consumed untreated water while on a church mission trip to Fiji.

Vibrio parahaemolyticus

Following the outbreak of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* reported from Bay of Plenty DHB in May, a second outbreak linked to the consumption of raw or partially cooked mussels was reported from Auckland Regional Public Health in June 2019 and involved 12 confirmed cases. MPI put out a [media release](#) on 21 June advising people to ensure they cook mussels thoroughly.

TABLES

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