
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 12 March 2020. 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](#).

COVID-19

"*Novel coronavirus capable of causing respiratory illness*" was made a notifiable infectious disease in New Zealand on 30 January 2020. One case of COVID-19 was reported in February 2020. This was the first case reported in New Zealand. The case had recently returned from Iran.

Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 19 confirmed cases of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in February 2020, compared with 10 for the same month in 2019. The majority of cases were reported from the Auckland region (8/19, 42.1%). The highest number of cases were in adults over 70+ years (7/19, 36.8%) and 50–59 years (5/19, 26.3%). Two cases were reported in children aged <5 years; both were due to serotype 12F which is not a vaccine serotype.

Meningococcal disease

There were three confirmed cases of meningococcal disease notified in February 2020, bringing the total to six for the year to date. All three cases were identified as group W. Two of the cases, aged 15-19 and 60-69 years, died.

Mumps

There were 35 cases (29 confirmed, 2 probable and 4 under investigation) of mumps notified in February 2020, compared with five for the same month in 2019. The majority of confirmed cases were reported from Southern DHB (12/29, 41.4%). Over half (18/29, 62.1%) were aged 20–29 years. Nine cases were linked to two outbreaks, reported from the Auckland region and Southern DHB.

TABLES

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