
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 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

Overall decrease in notifications

There was a decrease in the incidence of most notifiable diseases in May 2020, compared with May 2019. This is most likely due to behavioural changes as a result of public health messaging about the COVID-19 pandemic, and the national lockdown which began on 25 March. It is likely that exposure to some risk factors decreased during this time, but also that less people sought healthcare and therefore were not tested for many diseases.

COVID-19

There were 23 cases of COVID-19 (15 confirmed, 4 probable, 2 suspect and 2 under investigation) reported in May 2020. The following analysis is restricted to the 19 confirmed and probable cases. The majority of cases (14/19, 73.7%) were reported from the Auckland region. Seventeen (89.5%) cases were associated with outbreaks. Three cases were hospitalised, and no deaths were reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

OUTBREAKS

Botulism

An outbreak of botulism was reported in May 2020 from Bay of Plenty DHB, involving four people who consumed home-preserved sea snails. All four cases were admitted to hospital. Botulism was confirmed in clinical samples and the leftover home-preserved shellfish.

Ciguatera fish poisoning

An outbreak of ciguatera fish poisoning was reported in May 2020 from Canterbury DHB, involving five people. The cases purchased and ate camouflage grouper (kawakawa) which was imported from Fiji. MPI issued a [statement](#) on 27 May, warning the public not to consume frozen kawakawa purchased from Krazy Price Mart Ltd in Christchurch between 10 May and 21 May 2020.

TABLES

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