
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 September 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 August 2020, compared with August 2019. This is most likely due to behavioural changes as a result of public health messaging about the COVID-19 pandemic, and the dramatic reduction in overseas travel.

COVID-19

There were 192 cases of COVID-19 reported in August 2020 (185 confirmed, 1 probable and 6 under investigation). Of the 186 confirmed or probable cases, 143 (76.9%) were linked to an Auckland community outbreak, 42 (22.6%) were imported cases in managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities, and one case was a staff member in an MIQ facility. Twenty cases were hospitalised. Two cases died; one aged 50–59 years and the other aged 70 years and over. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Hepatitis NOS

One confirmed case of hepatitis E was reported in August 2020. The case was a male, aged 60–69 years. The suspected source of infection was an untreated water supply. No other risk factors were identified.

Meningococcal disease

There were five confirmed cases of meningococcal disease reported in August 2020, bringing the total for the year to date to 24. Of the 24 cases, 10 were identified as group B (six were NZ B:P1.7-2,4), 10 as group W, two as group Y and one as group C. A group was not identified for one case. Almost half the cases (11, 45.8%) were aged 40 years and over, nine (37.5%) were aged <5 years and four (16.6%) were 5–19 years.

Yersiniosis

There were 131 cases of yersiniosis (130 confirmed and 1 under investigation) reported in August 2020, compared with 100 for the same month in 2019. Of the 92 cases that were typed, 57 (62.0%) were due to *Yersinia enterocolitica* biotype 2/3 serotype O:9 and 13 (14.1%) were due to *Y. enterocolitica* biotype 4 serotype O:3. *Y. enterocolitica* biotype 2/3 serotype O:9 is the most common biotype isolated in New Zealand.

OUTBREAKS

Campylobacteriosis

An outbreak of campylobacteriosis was reported to Hawke's Bay DHB in August, involving eight cases (6 confirmed and 2 probable). The cases were linked to consumption of raw milk. One case was hospitalised. Lindsay Farm raw milk was [recalled on 13 August](#) after *Campylobacter* bacteria was found in some product.

Respiratory illness

Public Health Units are asked to report any outbreaks of influenza-like illness/acute respiratory infections (including COVID-19) to EpiSurv as soon as possible.

Eleven respiratory illness outbreaks were reported in August 2020 from five DHBs. Six outbreaks were reported as influenza-like illness (ILI), four were acute respiratory infection (ARI), and one was rhinovirus. Coronavirus NL63 was identified in one ARI outbreak, while no pathogen was identified in the other ILI/ARI outbreaks. Ten outbreaks were in long-term care facilities and one was in a childcare centre.

TABLES

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