
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 November 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 October 2020, compared with October 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 124 cases of COVID-19 reported in October 2020 (120 confirmed and 4 under investigation). Of the 120 confirmed cases, 114 (95.0%) were imported cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities at the time of diagnosis, including 32 cases among international mariners, four were part of a cluster linked to a port worker, and two were historical cases. One case was hospitalised and no deaths were reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Legionellosis

There were 23 cases of legionellosis (19 confirmed and 4 under investigation) notified in October 2020, compared with 18 cases for the same month in 2019. Of the 17 confirmed cases where the species was identified, 14 (82.4%) were due to *Legionella longbeachae* which is commonly found in soil and potting mix, and three were due to *L. pneumophila* which is associated with warm water systems. Information on legionellosis is available on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

Leprosy

One case of leprosy was notified in October 2020, bringing the total for the year to date to two. The case had been in Samoa during the incubation period and was classified as multibacillary leprosy.

Salmonellosis

There were 26 cases of *Salmonella* Bovismorbificans reported during October 2020, compared with four cases in October 2019 and seven in October 2018. Cases were geographically dispersed, and the majority were of Māori ethnicity (84.0%, 21/25), female (65.4%, 17/26) and aged over 40 years (80.8%, 21/26). Eleven cases were hospitalised. There has been an increase in reports of *Salmonella* Bovismorbificans in cattle since 2015.

OUTBREAKS

Norovirus

Fourteen norovirus outbreaks were reported in October 2020 from eight DHBs. Almost two thirds (9/14, 64.3%) were in childcare centres, compared with 27.8% (5/18) for the same month last year. Although the cause of the recent increase in outbreaks in childcare centres is unknown, an increase in alcohol-based hand gels may be a factor, particularly if used as a substitute for washing hands with soap and water. Hand sanitisers are [not as effective as handwashing](#) for the removal and/or inactivation of norovirus.

TABLES

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