
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 7 December 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 November 2020, compared with November 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 117 cases of COVID-19 reported in November 2020 (100 confirmed and 17 under investigation). Of the 100 confirmed cases, 92 (92.0%) were imported cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities at the time of diagnosis, including nine cases from an international cricket team, three were staff in MIQ facilities and five were community cases (refer to the outbreak section for more details). No cases were hospitalised and no deaths were reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Tuberculosis

There were 46 cases of tuberculosis notified in November 2020, bringing the total to 316 for the year to date compared with 287 for the same period in 2019. Of the 289 confirmed and probable cases for 2020 to date, 79.9% (231/289) were born overseas, which is a similar proportion to the 83.5% (239/286) of cases for the same period in 2019.

Yersiniosis

There were 157 cases of yersiniosis (149 confirmed and 8 under investigation) reported in November 2020, compared with 138 cases for the same month in 2019. Of the 83 cases that were typed, 36 (43.4%) were due to *Yersinia enterocolitica* biotype 2/3 serotype O:9, 34 (41.0%) were due to *Y. enterocolitica* biotype 1A (all serotypes) and 11 (13.3%) 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

COVID-19

An outbreak of COVID-19 involving six cases was reported in November 2020. The index case was a defence force worker at an Auckland quarantine facility. Three of the remaining five cases also worked for the defence force and were based in Wellington, while the remaining two cases were from Auckland and lived in the same building. Genome sequencing for the index case showed a direct link to two returnees who were part of a family group staying in the quarantine facility.

Scombroid Poisoning

An outbreak of scombroid (histamine) poisoning was reported in November 2020. A total of 91 cases were reported with onset dates from 8 to 11 November. All of the cases were linked to the consumption of trevally fish from HelloFresh, a national food delivery service. Cases were geographically dispersed with most cases occurring in the Auckland (37.4%, 34/91) and Wellington (30.8%, 28/91) regions. Histamine testing was carried out on fish samples, with results indicating histamine levels above regulatory limits. HelloFresh initiated a [consumer level recall](#) of trevally fillets on 10 November.

TABLES

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