
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 March 2021. 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 February 2021, compared with February 2020. 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.

Brucellosis

A case of brucellosis was reported in February 2021. The case, a male aged over 70 years, was a pig farmer from Tonga who arrived in New Zealand in February 2020. The case was confirmed as *Brucella suis* which is found in pigs and has been associated with a prolonged incubation period.

COVID-19

There were 76 cases of COVID-19 reported in February 2021 (74 confirmed and 2 under investigation). Of the 74 confirmed cases, 57 (77.0%) were cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities at the time of diagnosis, 15 were community cases that were linked to an outbreak associated with Papatoetoe High School (see the following section for more details) and one was linked to the outbreak reported in the [January monthly report](#). Two cases were hospitalised, and [one MIQ death](#) was reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Dengue fever

Three cases of dengue fever were reported in February 2021. One case was hospitalised. All three cases had recently arrived from the Cook Islands where a dengue type 2 outbreak [was declared](#) on 2 February 2021. Border restrictions were eased on 21 January 2021 to allow [quarantine-free travel](#) from the Cook Islands to New Zealand.

Tetanus

A case of tetanus was reported in February 2021. The case was a male aged over 70 years who lived on a rural property. He was hospitalised and was confirmed based on clinical presentation. His vaccination status was unknown.

Tuberculosis disease

There were 31 cases of tuberculosis reported in February 2021, bringing the total for the year to date to 65 (41 confirmed, 4 probable and 20 under investigation), compared with 36 for the same period in 2020. Of the 45 confirmed and probable cases, 44 were new cases and one was a reactivation; 25 cases were pulmonary and 20 were extrapulmonary, and 28 (62.2%) were of Asian ethnicity.

OUTBREAKS

COVID-19

An outbreak of COVID-19 involving 15 cases associated with Papatoetoe High School was reported in February 2021. The [first three cases](#) were from the same household, including one who was a student at Papatoetoe High School. [Whole genome sequencing](#) confirmed the UK variant, B.1.1.7. A further 12 cases from three additional households were identified, four of which were students at Papatoetoe High School.

Salmonella Enteritidis

An increase in *Salmonella* Enteritidis ST183 involving 28 cases was identified in February 2021. Sequencing results showed that the 28 cases were genetically clustered. Cases were predominantly in the South Island (Canterbury 18, Nelson Marlborough 4, Capital & Coast 3, South Canterbury 2, and Southern 1). Seven cases were hospitalised. No epidemiological link to a common source was identified.

TABLES

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