
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 May 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 previous years should be treated with caution.

KEY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE TRENDS

Enteric Diseases

There was an increase in the incidence of notifiable enteric diseases in April 2021, compared with April 2020. The lower number of cases seen in April 2020 coincides with New Zealand introducing stringent measures against COVID-19, such as social distancing, increased hygiene practices, working from home and children not attending school or pre-school. All of these measures are also likely to prevent the spread of enteric diseases.

COVID-19

There were 116 cases of COVID-19 reported in April 2021 (115 confirmed and 1 under investigation) compared with 743 for the same month in 2020. Of the 115 confirmed cases, 111 (96.5%) were in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities at the time of diagnosis, one was a historical community case, two were [MIQ workers](#) and one was an [aircraft cleaner](#). One case was hospitalised, and no deaths were reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Haemophilus influenzae serotype b disease

A case of *Haemophilus influenzae* serotype b (Hib) disease was reported in April 2021. The case was aged 1–4 years, unvaccinated, and lives in an extended Christian community where there have been five cases since December 2020.

Meningococcal disease

There were six confirmed cases of meningococcal disease reported in April 2021, compared with no cases for the same month in 2020. There have been 12 cases for the year to date. The strain type was identified in five out the six April cases and all were group B; four cases with PorA type P1.7-12,14 and one with P1.7-2,4. Four cases were aged <1 year.

Salmonellosis

There were 85 cases of salmonellosis reported in April 2021, compared with 22 cases in April 2020 and 97 in April 2019. The cases were geographically dispersed, and ages ranged from 1 month to 85 years. Twenty-four (35.3%, 24/68) cases were hospitalised. A serotype was identified for 81 (95.3%) cases, and the most common serotype was *Salmonella* Typhimurium (40 cases).

OUTBREAKS

Clostridium perfringens infection

An outbreak of gastroenteritis due to *Clostridium perfringens* was reported from Southern DHB in April 2021, involving 27 prisoners (1 confirmed and 26 probable cases) from the Otago Corrections Facility. Information on food consumption within the incubation period was available for 12 cases. All 12 cases had consumed corned beef, including the confirmed case. The prison operates under an MPI-registered [custom food control plan](#) and MPI visited to assess food practices at the facility.

Salmonellosis

A further 12 cases of *Salmonella* Enteritidis sequence type 11 that were reported in April 2021 have been identified as belonging to the Enteritidis_2019_C_01 cluster [reported last month](#). From January to April 2021, there have been 35 cases reported, with the majority (21/35 cases) in the Auckland region. This strain was first detected in 2019 in an outbreak associated with a restaurant in the Auckland region. Since May 2019, the total number of cases associated with this strain is 101. Case and environmental investigations are continuing.

TABLES

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