
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 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

COVID-19

There were 2330 cases of COVID-19 reported in October 2021 (2323 confirmed, 3 probable and 4 under investigation), compared with 121 cases for the same month in 2020. The vast majority (2266/2326, 97.4%) of the confirmed and probable cases were community cases, while the remaining 60 were imported cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities. A total of 131 (5.6%) cases were hospitalised and two deaths were reported, though neither were reported as COVID-19-related deaths. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Legionellosis

There were 23 cases of legionellosis (21 confirmed and 2 under investigation) notified in October 2021, compared with 23 cases for the same month in 2020. Of the 20 confirmed cases where the species was identified, 14 (70.0%) were due to *Legionella longbeachae* which is associated with compost and potting mix, five were due to *L. pneumophila* which is associated with warm water systems, and one was due to *L. sainthelensi*. Information on legionellosis is available on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

OUTBREAKS

Cryptosporidiosis

An outbreak of cryptosporidiosis involving six cases (4 confirmed and 2 probable) was reported from Southern DHB in October 2021. All six were students at a rural polytechnic and were on various work placements including local dairy farms, the polytechnic's dairy and sheep units, and a veterinary practice. The students were exposed to lambs, calves and sick animals. Four students lived in the same unit at the polytechnic, sharing a communal kitchen, and precautions were put in place to minimise the likelihood of person-to-person spread within the unit.

Respiratory illness

There were three respiratory illness outbreaks reported in October 2021, involving 19 cases. Two outbreaks were reported as influenza-like illness (ILI) and one was reported as acute respiratory infection (ARI). No pathogen was identified in any of the outbreaks. Two outbreaks were in long-term care facilities and one was in a childcare centre.

TABLES

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