National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 03, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

01 February to 14 February 2020

Infectious and congenital syphilis

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in northern and central Australia, continued increases among men who have sex with men (MSM) in urban areas of Victoria (Vic) and New South Wales (NSW), and increases in non-Indigenous women residing in urban areas of Vic, NSW, Queensland (Qld) and Western Australia (WA).

Outbreak in remote Australia

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among young (15-29 years) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Qld, following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2013, WA in 2014 and South Australia (SA) in 2016, following sustained periods of low notification rates. The outbreak is of significant public health concern given the: elevated rates of infectious syphilis among women of child-bearing age, increasing the risk of congenital syphilis; and the concomitant risk of HIV transmission. For the latest information on the infectious syphilis outbreak, refer to the Department's website.

Increases among MSM

Since 2010, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in MSM, predominately 20-39 years of age, residing in urban areas of Vic and NSW.

Increases among non-Indigenous women

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in non-Indigenous women aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing in urban areas of NSW, Vic, Qld and WA. As noted in the outbreak in remote Australia, increases in women of child-bearing age is of significant public health concern given the increased risk of congenital syphilis.

Shigellosis

From 1 July 2018, the shigellosis surveillance case definition was changed to require notification of both confirmed and probable cases. This change in case definition is expected to result in an increase in notifications of shigellosis from 1 July 2018. Additionally, since 2014 there has been an increasing trend in national notifications of shigellosis. In the past quarter (17 November 2019 to 14 February 2020) there were 951 cases of shigellosis notified, which 2.0 times the quarterly rolling five year mean (n=486.6). Rates of shigellosis in Australia are higher amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared with non-Indigenous populations. In 2018, the rate of shigellosis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 115.5 cases per 100,000 population, compared with 7.3 cases per 100,000 in non-Indigenous populations.

Influenza

In 2020 up to 14 February, there have been 9,158 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is higher than the mean number of cases reported in the same period over the previous 5 years (n=4,645). However, the number of cases reported to the NNDSS in 2020 year to date remains lower than the number reported in the same period in 2019 (n=10,261).

The Department of Health closely monitors national influenza activity throughout the year, including during the inter-seasonal period. The Australian Influenza Surveillance Reports for 2019 are available on the Department's website.

Interpretative Notes

Selected diseases are chosen each fortnight based on either exceeding two standard deviations from the 90 day and/or 365 day five year rolling mean or other disease issues of significance identified during the reporting period. All diseases reported are analysed by notification receive date. Data are extracted each Monday of a CDNA week.

Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision so there may be discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.

[1]The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (17/11/2019 to 14/02/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 14/02/2020. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

[3]The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (05/02/2019 to14/02/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 14/02/2020. The ratio is the notification activity in the past year (365 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.

The five year rolling mean and the ratio of notifications compared with the five year rolling mean should be interpreted with caution. Changes in surveillance practice, diagnostic techniques and reporting may contribute to increases or decreases in the total notifications received over a five year period. Ratios are to be taken as a crude measure of current disease activity and may reflect changes in reporting rather than changes in disease activity.

ADT FN03/2020

Notification received date

Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	State or Territory								Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
			ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period 01/02/2020 14/02/2020	Previous reporting Period 18/01/2020 31/01/2020	Same reporting period last year 01/02/2019 14/02/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 14/02/2020	Past Quarter 17/11/2019 14/02/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 15/02/2019 14/02/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 15/02/2014 14/02/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	6	26	38.2	0.7	-	145	158.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	68	-	44	2	2	71	20	210	178	238	615	1,217	1,353.4	0.9	-	5,637	6,141.8	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	29	29	31	85	212	167.8	1.3	22.3	797	705.0	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	128	5	75	8	5	66	35	326	301	352	948	1,868	2,324.4	0.8	-	8,340	10,034.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	9	15	17.0	0.9	-	69	66.8	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	23	418	13	434	137	30	22	146	1,223	1,448	1,604	4,697	9,615	7,786.4	1.2	-	35,776	26,024.6	1.4	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	2	69	3	67	7	-	45	69	262	183	191	630	1,013	1,065.4	1.0	-	2,850	3,944.2	0.7	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	4.6	0.9	-	17	16.2	1.0	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	1	-	4	-	-	3	1	9	9	20	30	70	68.6	1.0	-	231	244.8	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	4	8	12.8	0.6	-	49	46.6	1.1	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	7	11	21.4	0.5	-	48	76.8	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	5	5	5	16	24	26.0	0.9	-	110	76.2	1.4	12.0
	STEC	054	-	7	-	1	25	-	5	8	46	31	28	120	223	110.4	2.0	-	686	340.8	2.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	17	269	27	625	45	19	178	122	1,302	785	822	2,974	4,962	4,841.2	1.0	-	15,355	16,389.6	0.9	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	62	21	40	17	-	44	23	208	184	161	590	951	486.6	2.0	11.2	3,252	1,613.4	2.0	262.4
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	9	-	1	-	-	2	1	13	7	20	26	40	40.4	1.0	-	185	134.4	1.4	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	15	15	-		15.0	15	-		15.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	2	1.4	1.4	-
	MERS-CoV	079	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Plague	025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rabies	028	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	071	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Smallpox	069	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	036	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Yellow fever	041	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Sexually transmissible infections	Chlamydial infection	007	64	1,275	75	996	270	30	-	477	3,187	3,075	4,869	9,980	19,536	23,311.6	0.8	-	98,377	95,894.4	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	14	460	30	256	66	15	3	148	992	1,042	1,507	3,641	7,440	6,251.2	1.2	-	32,952	23,994.4	1.4	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	33	12	30	4	-	53	31	165	162	229	565	1,200	926.0	1.3	-	5,648	3,631.4	1.6	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	3	1	8	-	-	75	5	92	55	111	251	498	493.0	1.0	-	2,440	2,064.0	1.2	59.8
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	7	0.8	8.8	4.5	10	5.8	1.7	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2.8	1.1	-	7	6.6	1.1	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	4.6	1.1	-	21	18.8	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	40	1,296	40	885	305	28	59	209	2,862	3,085	3,638	9,158	15,192	8,595.0	1.8	-	312,364	115,521.0	2.7	40,794.0
	Measles	021	-	5	-	1	-	-	1	1	8	6	12	30	61	25.2	2.4	5.7	279	127.2	2.2	-
	Mumps	043	3	6	1	4	2	-	2	1	19	8	8	37	61	145.0	0.4	-	184	616.4	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	7	166	2	49	16	7	82	14	343	371	493	1,266	2,909	4,730.2	0.6	-	11,575	16,024.6	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	11	1	8	4	-	11	4	39	44	28	184	405	281.0	1.4	39.2	2,168	1,773.6	1.2	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	4	36	4	33	35	4	NN	11	127	125	103	565	1,952	861.6	2.3	730.8	6,315	4,045.8	1.6	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2.8	0.4	-	22	13.6	1.6	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.8	1.3	-	3	3.8	0.8	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	8	NN	2	18	13	-	1	22	64	70	114	279	714	789.4	0.9	-	4,097	3,118.4	1.3	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	19	NN	13	101	79	7	2	74	295	424	534	1,423	3,170	2,397.6	1.3	-	14,555	8,764.6	1.7	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	6	NN	-	296	78	12	-	73	465	256	667	848	1,559	3,428.8	0.5	-	11,576	14,088.2	0.8	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	2	15	-	-	-	-	20	19	13	52	72	95.8	0.8	-	270	466.8	0.6	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	7	2	17	28	29.2	1.0	-	92	95.4	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	6	3	2	-	-	-	7	18	28	72	84	204	401.6	0.5	-	1,344	1,527.2	0.9	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	9.0	0.3	-	15	34.0	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	1	1	-	7	1	-	-	2	12	17	26	39	94	88.8	1.1	-	367	328.6	1.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	5	4	27	-	1	2	8	47	57	137	161	327	1,415.0	0.2	-	2,806	5,714.4	0.5	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1.0	2	1.4	1.4	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	5	6.0	0.8	-	12	20.0	0.6	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	5	4	14	22	22.2	1.0	-	87	115.4	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	7.6	0.5	-	18	22.0	0.8	-
	Q fever	027	-	4	-	8	-	-	-	2	14	14	35	63	139	137.0	1.0	-	541	532.0	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	3	-	3	3	-	8	2	19	16	23	52	122	99.4	1.2	-	429	403.2	1.1	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2.4	0.4	-	9	11.4	0.8	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	6	3	4	17	36	52.0	0.7	-	205	253.4	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	18	-	6	1	4	14	5	48	49	57	143	365	336.8	1.1	-	1,504	1,368.4	1.1	-
			219	4,364	260	4,090	1,121	164	755	1,524	12,497	12,121	16,180	39,660	76,412				583,863			

Footnotes:

* Ratio of the 90 day prior surveillance period to the past 90 day 5 year rolling mean, or ratio of the year period prior surveillance period to the year period 5 year rolling mean.

NN = Not Notifiable, NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

The data in this report are reliant on the provision of data from states and territories to the Australian Government Department of Health. Backlogs in notifications at the state or territory level may contribute to delays in reporting to the NNDSS. Notifications for some high volume conditions are only uploaded quarterly by some jurisdictions, which can result in apparent large variability over time. The NNDSS is a dynamic dataset, with data in this report representing data available on **(17/02/2020).** Data in this report are subject to retrospective revision and may vary from data reported in published NNDSS reports and reports of notification data by states and territories.