

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 03, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**01 February to 14 February 2021**

**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*

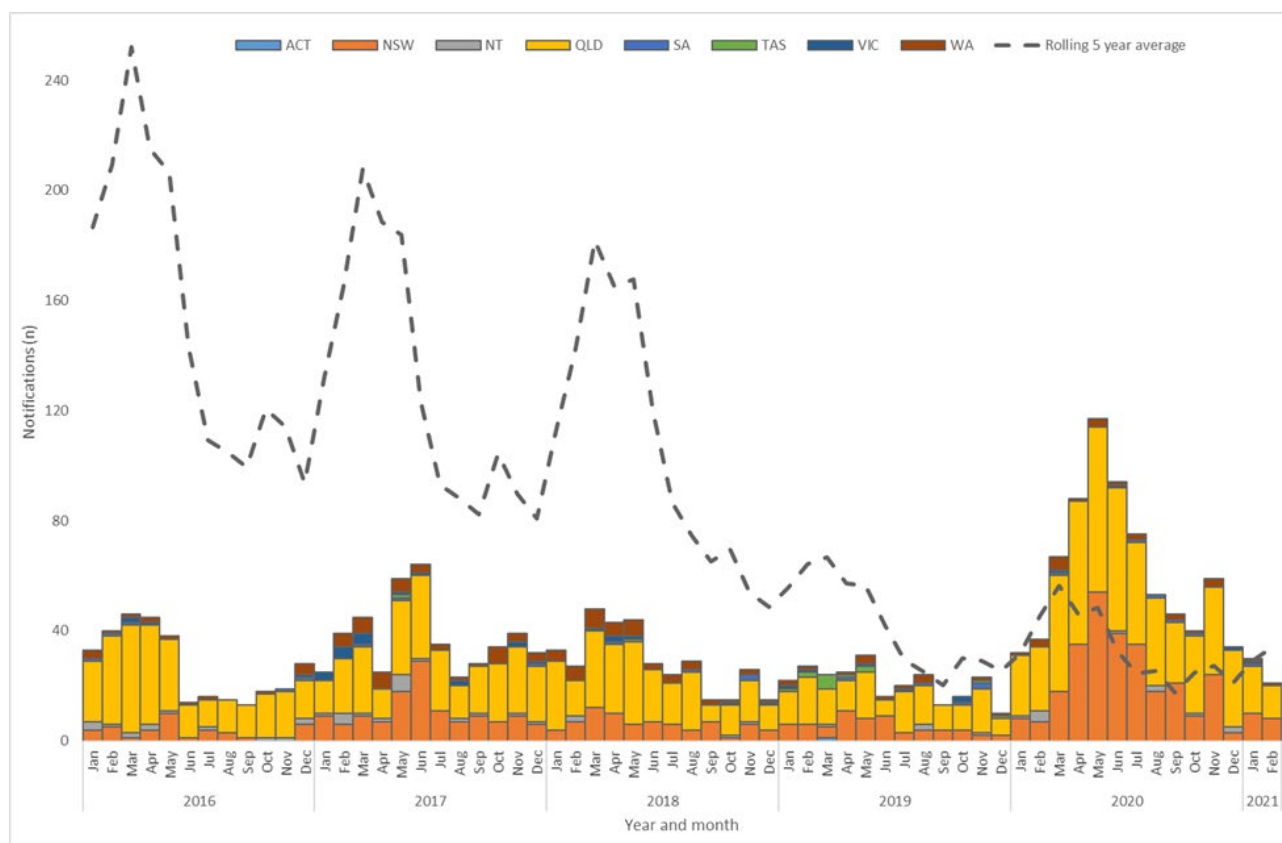
Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in non-Indigenous women aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing in urban areas of NSW, Vic, Qld and WA. As noted in the outbreak in remote Australia, increases in women of child-bearing age is of significant public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

### **Barmah Forest virus**

Between 1 and 14 February 2021, there were 21 notifications of Barmah Forest virus (BFV) infection, compared with 14 during the previous period and 20 during the same period last year. During the past quarter there were 4,946 notifications, 1.5 times the quarterly rolling mean of 3,360 notifications (Figure 1).

Seasonal increases in notifications for BFV are expected during the warmer months, and nationally peak between January and June. The timing of the increase varies for different geographical regions.

**Figure 1: Notifications of Barmah Forest virus, Australia, 1 January 2016 to 14 February 2021, by state or territory and month and year of diagnosis (notification received date)**



### **Leptospirosis**

In the past 12 months (15 February 2020 to 14 February 2021), there have been 112 cases of leptospirosis reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is slightly lower than the mean number of cases reported for the historical five-year mean (n=116). In the past fortnight (1 February 2021 to 14 February 2021), 13 cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to five cases in the same reporting period in the previous year. In the past quarter (17 November 2020 – 14 February 2021), 43 cases of leptospirosis were notified compared to the quarterly rolling five year mean of 23.6 notifications. Increased mouse and rat populations following recent wet weather in eastern Australian may be a contributing factor leading to increased case notifications.

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>*The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (01/02/2020 to 14/02/2021).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 14/02/2021. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

<sup>3</sup>*The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (01/02/2020 to 14/02/2021).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 14/02/2021. 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 FN03/2021			State or Territory										Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period	Previous reporting Period	Same reporting period last year	Current year YTD	Past Quarter	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year	Yearly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by		
											01/02/2021 14/02/2021	18/01/2021 31/01/2021	01/02/2020 14/02/2020	01/01/2021 14/02/2021	17/11/2020 14/02/2021	15/02/2020 15/02/2015 14/02/2020	15/02/2015 14/02/2020	15/02/2015 14/02/2020						
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	8	28	36.0	0.8	-	117	151.4	0.8	-		
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	6	77	-	24	-	1	45	16	169	154	240	478	1,015	1,319.6	0.8	-	4,832	5,980.6	0.8	-		
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	23	-	-	1	1	25	28	32	73	138	180.4	0.8	-	652	724.2	0.9	-		
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	123	2	68	2	5	58	47	309	295	348	861	1,749	2,242.6	0.8	-	7,319	9,792.4	0.7	-		
	Hepatitis D	050	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	7	15	16.0	0.9	-	68	67.2	1.0	-		
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	0.8	2.5	-	2	1.4	1.4	-		
	Campylobacteriosis	005	37	493	30	486	89	45	209	121	1,510	1,540	1,663	4,942	9,663	8,666.8	1.1	-	31,343	29,255.4	1.1	-		
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	2	22	12	27	3	3	8	4	81	83	263	258	414	1,125.0	0.4	-	2,085	4,027.6	0.5	-		
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4.8	0.2	-	13	16.2	0.8	-		
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	2	2	70.0	0.0	-	64	245.4	0.3	-		
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	12.4	-	-	28	45.6	0.6	-		
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	2	7	14	20.6	0.7	-	44	71.2	0.6	-		
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	28.0	-	-	29	85.6	0.3	-		
	STEC	054	-	2	1	-	3	-	9	7	22	32	49	81	152	151.6	1.0	-	529	457.8	1.2	-		
	Salmonellosis	030	7	176	19	231	18	15	74	49	589	620	1,321	2,186	3,451	4,730.8	0.7	-	11,201	16,085.4	0.7	-		
	Shigellosis	031	-	3	5	8	-	-	1	4	21	21	207	69	145	610.0	0.2	-	1,141	2,053.2	0.6	-		
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	14	1	6	42.4	0.1	-	71	150.2	0.5	-		
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	COVID-19	081	-	40	5	11	10	-	25	9	100	107	3	520	1,213	3.0	404.3	1,196.6	29,040	3.0	9,680.0	29,023.6		
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	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	63	1,243	45	1,035	243	36	-	412	3,077	2,971	4,749	9,073	18,372	24,289.0	0.8	-	83,648	99,907.8	0.8	-		
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	11	384	39	235	48	10	147	106	980	1,023	1,532	3,132	6,131	7,194.2	0.9	-	28,104	27,760.2	1.0	-		
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	40	6	35	1	-	50	32	166	184	271	538	1,089	1,103.6	1.0	-	5,024	4,405.0	1.1	-		
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	4	3	9	1	1	36	5	60	60	120	194	406	517.4	0.8	-	1,903	2,194.6	0.9	-		
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	8	2.0	4.0	0.2	17	7.0	2.4	3.7	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3.4	0.6	-	8	7.6	1.1	-		
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	4.8	0.8	-	18	19.2	0.9	-		
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	-	4	-	13	1	1	8	3	30	29	3,835	99	210	11,173.8	0.0	-	11,563	164,831.4	0.1	-		
	Measles	021	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	1	1	31.6	0.0	-	3	130.8	0.0	-		
	Mumps	043	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	23	5	9	146.2	0.1	-	115	616.2	0.2	-		
	Pertussis	024	-	6	1	2	1	-	22	1	33	13	364	68	140	4,468.8	0.0	-	2,441	15,841.4	0.2	-		
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	13	-	4	2	1	3	2	26	23	40	96	238	310.0	0.8	-	1,043	1,893.6	0.6	-		
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	-	6	-	13	6	-	NN	3	29	31	169	124	258	1,137.2	0.2	-	1,214	4,757.6	0.3	-		
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2.2	0.5	-	2	15.2	0.1	-		
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	0.8	3.8	1.3	6	3.8	1.6	-		
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	9	NN	1	-	14	1	16	10	51	43	151	167	455	894.8	0.5	-	2,469	3,583.8	0.7	-		
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	18	NN	17	1	87	16	64	89	292	276	721	952	2,039	2,939.4	0.7	-	13,756	10,784.0	1.3	-		
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	4	NN	5	392	77	19	-	103	600	664	429	2,231	4,946	3,360.2	1.5	601.3	14,721	14,226.2	1.0	-			
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	8	-	12	-	-	-	1	21	14	20	51	109	81.4	1.3	-	741	394.8	1.9	78.9		
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	1	1	22.8	0.0	-	17	88.8	0.2	-		
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	1	1	347.6	0.0	-	149	1,454.8	0.1	-		
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8.8	0.2	-	12	32.8	0.4	-		
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	2	12	6	12	95.6	0.1	-	123	341.4	0.4	-		
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	1	48	9	39	13	-	138	64	312	246	46	826	1,250	1,007.2	1.2	-	6,842	5,037.2	1.4	-		
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection																							

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