National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 06, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

14 March to 27 March 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.

Influenza

In 2020 up to 27 March, there have been 19,381 laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the reporting period between 14 March and 27 March 2020 there have been 2,087 confirmed influenza cases. This is higher than the 5 year mean for this period (n=1,087) but lower than the same period in 2019 (n= 5,296).

Testing practices for COVID-19 may affect the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases notified to the NNDSS. These effects may also differ by jurisdiction.

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 (29/12/2019 to 27/03/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 27/03/2020. 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 (28/03/2019 to 27/03/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 27/03/2020. 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 FN06/2020

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 14/03/2020 27/03/2020	Previous reporting Period 29/02/2020 13/03/2020	Same reporting period last year 14/03/2019 27/03/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 27/03/2020	Past Quarter 29/12/2019 27/03/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 28/03/2019 27/03/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 28/03/2014 27/03/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	6	4	9	26	29	39.4	0.7	-	146	156.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	6	68	-	28	-	-	-	23	125	149	286	1,167	1,188	1,459.8	0.8	-	5,446	6,125.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	1	17	22	32	159	163	174.8	0.9	-	808	702.6	1.2	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	8	96	5	74	-	6	1	40	230	283	381	1,808	1,856	2,430.0	0.8	-	8,127	10,014.8	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	13	14	15.0	0.9	-	64	67.2	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	30	348	17	294	80	51	5	91	916	1,156	1,321	8,309	8,577	7,443.4	1.2	-	35,390	26,386.0	1.3	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	2	39	8	79	5	-	29	68	230	316	149	1,455	1,479	1,534.0	1.0	-	3,197	3,959.6	0.8	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	3	4.0	0.8	-	15	16.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	11	7	17	55	58	86.8	0.7	-	210	243.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	6	8	3	22	22	14.4	1.5	-	60	46.8	1.3	0.1
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	10	10	24.4	0.4	-	44	75.6	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	5	9	9	39	39	35.0	1.1	-	99	79.8	1.2	-
	STEC	054	-	5	-	2	8	-	4	10	29	31	30	233	245	109.6	2.2	2.1	718	354.8	2.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	9	142	25	178	42	11	103	84	594	846	739	5,606	5,746	5,671.0	1.0	-	15,821	16,307.2	1.0	-
	Shigellosis	031	2	30	24	17	1	-	14	11	99	160	118	1,046	1,066	504.0	2.1	93.4	3,321	1,660.0	2.0	161.4
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	2	-	2	1	-	5	-	10	14	10	71	71	60.0	1.2	-	183	140.0	1.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	69	1,628	13	637	260	59	524	255	3,445	255	-	3,727	3,727	-		3,727.0	3,727	-		3,727.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	2	1.2	1.7	-
	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	80	940	71	821	204	-	-	521	2,637	2,948	4,483	19,737	20,093	25,100.2	0.8	-	95,276	96,228.4	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	12	339	31	275	80	7	1	183	928	914	1,411	7,358	7,524	6,809.8	1.1	-	32,673	24,400.8	1.3	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	17	12	31	6	-	4	29	101	134	260	1,096	1,113	978.2	1.1	-	5,501	3,725.4	1.5	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	-	2	-	1	1	25	6	36	58	114	415	425	526.4	0.8	-	2,326	2,066.8	1.1	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	0.4	10.0	2.5	10	5.6	1.8	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1.8	1.1	-	7	6.8	1.0	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	7	7	4.2	1.7	-	23	18.8	1.2	0.6
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	10	546	44	709	260	15	407	96	2,087	3,739	5,296	19,381	19,856	10,189.0	1.9	-	310,084	117,721.0	2.6	38,429.5
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	29	32	32	43.0	0.7	-	232	122.6	1.9	2.6
	Mumps	043	-	5	-	2	1	-	-	1	9	9	6	75	77	161.6	0.5	-	201	615.2	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	3	151	1	38	22	3	1	8	227	290	449	2,168	2,264	3,909.0	0.6	-	11,235	16,040.2	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	14	1	5	8	-	11	4	44	44	47	315	328	241.4	1.4	12.1	2,160	1,777.6	1.2	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	3	8	4	15	17	1	NN	7	63	102	96	955	1,014	676.4	1.5	147.1	6,470	4,029.4	1.6	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	3	5.2	0.6	-	15	14.8	1.0	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1.2	0.8	-	2	4.0	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	5	NN	5	-	15	-	1	7	33	67	153	511	532	706.2	0.8	-	3,902	3,161.4	1.2	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	10	NN	22	-	85	14	1	70	202	238	566	2,769	2,900	2,471.4	1.2	-	14,396	8,933.4	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	5	NN	6	386	45	15	-	80	537	580	587	1,820	1,845	3,520.2	0.5	-	10,797	14,148.4	0.8	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	5	-	19	-	-	-	4	28	27	12	125	125	127.0	1.0	-	309	449.8	0.7	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	29	31	24.2	1.3	-	94	95.8	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	3	1	10	3	-	-	14	31	31	62	178	183	488.2	0.4	-	1,252	1,507.4	0.8	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10.2	0.1	-	14	33.8	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.4	2.5	-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	-	3	-	3	1	-	-	2	9	16	12	92	93	89.6	1.0	-	385	328.4	1.2	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	26	8	166	3	-	-	16	219	87	180	525	533	2,423.2	0.2	-	2,739	5,622.4	0.5	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	2	1.4	1.4	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	6	6	5.4	1.1	-	12	19.8	0.6	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	11	28	28	34.2	0.8	-	83	117.0	0.7	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4.2	0.5	-	19	21.0	0.9	-
	Q fever	027	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	1	7	20	27	112	114	144.8	0.8	-	508	534.6	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	8	-	3	-	1	11	-	23	25	15	125	126	98.0	1.3	-	460	401.8	1.1	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	9	11.4	0.8	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	4	4	28	33	47.0	0.7	-	200	254.6	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	11	-	9	-	-	10	5	35	67	60	312	322	312.0	1.0	-	1,508	1,373.4	1.1	-
			258	4,439	300	3,838	1,151	185	1,170	1,642	12,991	12,674	16,998	81,961	83,911				580,287			

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 **(30/03/2020)**. 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.

The highlighted diseases above indicate the disease exceeds the expected (more than two standard deviations) number of cases shown in the five year rolling mean column.