

National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report
Fortnight 17, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases
15 August to 28 August 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.

Legionellosis

There has been an increase in legionnaires disease this reporting year, in part associated with recent outbreaks identified in Victoria and New South Wales.

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 (31/05/2020 to 28/08/2020).*

²*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 28/08/2020. 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 (29/08/2019 to 28/08/2020).*

⁴*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 28/08/2020. 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 FN17/2020			Notification received date																				
			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 15/08/2020 28/08/2020	Previous reporting period 01/08/2020 14/08/2020	Same reporting period last year 15/08/2019 28/08/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2020 28/08/2020	Past Quarter 31/05/2020 28/08/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 29/08/2019 28/08/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 29/08/2014 28/08/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by	
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	77	22	38.2	0.6	-	129	154.4	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	5	88	1	39	-	2	34	26	195	191	240	3,394	1,326	1,503.0	0.9	-	5,215	6,076.6	0.9	-	
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	5	22	21	32	447	162	169.0	1.0	-	784	701.8	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	-	104	3	66	1	4	41	27	246	285	384	4,853	1,775	2,355.2	0.8	-	7,563	9,917.4	0.8	-	
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	4	5	3	43	23	17.8	1.3	-	63	68.4	0.9	-	
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	
	Campylobacteriosis	005	26	330	12	301	117	12	208	112	1,118	1,083	1,332	19,391	6,548	6,410.2	1.0	-	32,923	27,544.4	1.2	-	
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	10	1	5	7	-	13	1	37	21	69	2,032	216	591.8	0.4	-	2,813	3,939.4	0.7	-	
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	12	8	3.4	2.4	0.5	17	16.2	1.0	-	
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	85	2	46.6	0.0	-	160	246.4	0.6	-	
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	30	2	10.6	0.2	-	46	45.4	1.0	-	
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	6	26	11	12.8	0.9	-	41	72.8	0.6	-	
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	45	-	13.2	-	-	67	81.2	0.8	-	
	STEC	054	-	1	-	-	7	-	2	7	17	17	18	394	90	84.0	1.1	-	640	392.0	1.6	-	
	Salmonellosis	030	4	42	11	65	15	5	45	33	220	206	353	9,135	1,672	2,857.8	0.6	-	13,937	16,118.0	0.9	-	
	Shigellosis	031	-	4	7	3	4	-	1	6	25	33	124	1,419	204	477.8	0.4	-	2,374	1,851.8	1.3	-	
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	88	4	23.0	0.2	-	139	144.2	1.0	-	
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	COVID-19	081	-	73	-	25	3	-	2,470	10	2,581	5,820	-	25,463	18,093	-	-	18,093.0	25,463	-	25,463.0		
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	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	75	933	33	889	213	-	79	430	2,652	2,746	4,159	49,962	17,526	24,019.0	0.7	-	80,911	97,913.2	0.8	-	
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Gonococcal infection	011	14	354	18	237	63	4	157	161	1,008	964	1,328	20,915	6,851	6,568.8	1.0	-	32,192	26,001.0	1.2	-	
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	23	13	29	-	-	20	33	119	178	253	3,239	1,097	1,073.0	1.0	-	5,246	4,046.6	1.3	-	
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	5	4	7	1	-	42	4	63	80	98	1,556	447	541.0	0.8	-	2,433	2,128.4	1.1	-	
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	3	1.6	1.9	-	14	6.0	2.3	5.6	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1.6	0.6	-	7	7.0	1.0	-	
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	13	7	6.2	1.1	-	17	19.4	0.9	-	
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	15	-	24	2	1	14	4	61	79	28,756	21,636	573	79,511.6	0.0	-	81,155	158,331.0	0.4	-	
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	32	-	16.8	-	-	156	111.4	1.4	-	
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	122	11	151.4	0.1	-	187	613.2	0.3	-	
	Pertussis	024	1	5	-	6	-	-	15	3	30	35	503	3,488	416	3,395.6	0.1	-	7,905	16,219.2	0.5	-	
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	14	2	7	9	1	5	7	46	66	113	760	324	678.2	0.5	-	1,554	1,834.8	0.8	-	
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rotavirus	077	1	3	-	6	10	-	NN	6	31	38	283	1,404	273	1,080.0	0.3	-	5,290	4,180.6	1.3	-	
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4.0	0.3	-	3	16.2	0.2	-	
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0.4	2.5	-	2	4.0	0.5	-	
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	4	NN	4	-	14	1	14	22	59	59	232	1,630	484	918.8	0.5	-	3,360	3,362.4	1.0	-	
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	10	NN	14	-	103	4	74	76	281	303	593	9,925	3,228	2,478.6	1.3	-	15,793	9,702.4	1.6	-	
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	5	NN	3	378	56	12	256	111	821	845	475	8,660	3,854	3,624.6	1.1	-	12,659	14,354.8	0.9	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	8	-	15	-	-	-	-	23	27	8	558	220	80.0	2.8	76.9	624	415.2	1.5	-	
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	37	2	19.0	0.1	-	69	94.2	0.7	-	
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	223	3	329.6	0.0	-	593	1,491.6	0.4	-	
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	17	3	7.0	0.4	-	19	32.8	0.6	-	
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.6	-	-	2	1.4	1.4	-	
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	126	13	87.6	0.1	-	253	332.0	0.8	-	
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	17	2	37	-	-	-	3	59	62	85	5,245	1,071	714.0	1.5	-	5,871	5,525.8	1.1	-	
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.6	0.6	-		
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Bruceellosis	004	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	14	6	5.0	1.2	-	19	18.6	1.0	-	
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	63	15	35.4	0.4	-	82	114.2	0.7	-	
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	8	4.0	2.0	1.6	31	19.4	1.6	-	
	Q fever	027	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	12	17	332	90	122.8	0.7	-	528	536.8	1.0	-	
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1.0	-	2	-	-	2.0	
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	5	-	3	2	-	-	2	12	8	12	334	88	84.4	1.0	-	518	397.4	1.3	60.0	
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	3.0	1.0	-	7	11.6	0.6	-	
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	-	1	-	-															