National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 04, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

15 February to 28 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.

Influenza

In 2020 up to 28 February, there have been 13,121 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=6,329). 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=13,768).

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 (01/12/2019 to 28/02/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 28/02/2020. 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 (01/03/2019 to28/02/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 28/02/2020. 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 FN04/2020

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 15/02/2020 28/02/2020	Previous reporting Period 01/02/2020 14/02/2020	Same reporting period last year 15/02/2019 28/02/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 28/02/2020	Past Quarter 01/12/2019 28/02/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 01/03/2019 28/02/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 28/02/2014 28/02/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	4	6	5	15	30	38.8	0.8	-	148	158.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	111	-	37	4	-	59	19	231	227	252	869	1,249	1,373.0	0.9	-	5,666	6,136.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	2	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	13	33	11	102	186	167.2	1.1	-	805	701.0	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	4	115	4	94	2	7	66	46	338	343	357	1,304	1,950	2,333.4	0.8	-	8,370	10,037.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	12	16	15.4	1.0	-	71	66.0	1.1	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	21	471	15	429	88	53	17	159	1,253	1,424	1,485	6,180	9,410	7,690.4	1.2	-	35,891	26,166.6	1.4	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	71	8	71	10	-	29	72	262	262	190	892	1,145	1,223.0	0.9	-	2,931	3,955.4	0.7	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4.2	0.7	-	16	15.8	1.0	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	2	-	3	-	-	1	2	8	7	17	36	60	77.4	0.8	-	221	244.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	6	8	14.2	0.6	-	50	46.6	1.1	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	8	8	25.2	0.3	-	43	76.4	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	7	5	17	23	30	31.0	1.0	-	100	77.8	1.3	-
	STEC	054	-	6	-	3	19	-	3	14	45	49	32	169	233	112.0	2.1	-	705	345.6	2.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	10	305	26	473	58	14	165	113	1,164	1,316	827	4,152	5,514	5,197.4	1.1	-	15,764	16,367.2	1.0	-
	Shigellosis	031	4	56	26	38	15	1	28	18	186	211	147	780	1,019	497.0	2.1	75.5	3,308	1,629.2	2.0	258.6
	Typhoid Fever	035	1	4	2	1	1	2	6	1	18	14	25	45	57	49.4	1.2	-	179	137.6	1.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	-	-	-	4	1	-	3	2	10	3	-	25	25	-		25.0	25	-		25.0
	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	71	1,277	131	1,050	295	15	-	643	3,482	3,462	4,640	13,817	19,898	23,826.6	0.8	-	97,989	96,013.4	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	15	403	73	341	61	11	5	203	1,112	1,165	1,352	5,418	7,946	6,432.6	1.2	-	33,509	24,107.8	1.4	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	26	13	20	5	-	33	32	131	210	220	770	1,210	943.0	1.3	-	5,668	3,653.8	1.6	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	3	4	8	1	3	44	5	68	100	95	323	482	492.8	1.0	-	2,427	2,062.0	1.2	51.6
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	0.4	15.0	4.5	10	5.8	1.7	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2.2	0.5	-	7	6.6	1.1	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	4.8	1.0	-	21	18.8	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	17	1,086	30	1,044	224	12	501	203	3,117	3,576	3,507	13,121	17,384	8,878.6	2.0	-	313,126	116,069.4	2.7	41,426.7
	Measles	021	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	8	31	52	28.0	1.9	-	272	123.6	2.2	15.2
	Mumps	043	2	7	-	4	1	-	2	1	17	20	9	57	75	154.4	0.5	-	197	617.4	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	8	166	1	57	9	2	94	17	354	361	379	1,642	2,745	4,404.6	0.6	-	11,594	16,017.8	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	15	-	5	4	-	8	7	40	40	36	225	372	260.8	1.4	43.9	2,176	1,774.2	1.2	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	5	18	3	22	21	4	NN	12	85	142	85	736	1,598	767.4	2.1	525.5	6,438	4,039.2	1.6	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	3.8	0.3	-	19	14.0	1.4	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	2	4.0	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	8	NN	7	10	14	-	-	12	51	93	130	376	607	759.4	0.8	-	4,084	3,132.2	1.3	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	18	NN	20	93	96	11	-	73	311	510	542	2,054	3,218	2,441.4	1.3	-	14,728	8,807.4	1.7	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	9	NN	-	338	57	12	-	98	514	229	563	1,004	1,265	3,390.0	0.4	-	11,186	14,118.6	0.8	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	4	1	8	-	-	-	3	16	20	14	68	78	102.4	0.8	-	272	461.0	0.6	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	5	5	7	24	33	27.8	1.2	-	92	96.2	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	4	1	3	3	1	-	5	17	21	72	105	179	434.4	0.4	-	1,299	1,521.6	0.9	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	10.2	0.2	-	14	34.0	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.4	2.5	-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	5	11	12	13	49	78	90.8	0.9	-	364	327.8	1.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	9	4	21	-	1	-	15	50	46	130	210	319	1,787.4	0.2	-	2,736	5,708.0	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	4	6.2	0.6	-	10	19.8	0.5	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	5	4	20	26	27.6	0.9	-	90	114.6	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	5.6	0.7	-	19	21.8	0.9	-
	Q fever	027	-	7	-	3	-	-	-	-	10	15	26	75	124	138.2	0.9	-	530	531.2	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	4	-	3	4	-	7	4	22	18	18	75	116	100.4	1.2	-	435	404.8	1.1	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.4	0.4	-	9	11.6	0.8	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	-	3	1	-	1	-	6	6	6	23	33	50.4	0.7	-	206	254.2	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	24	-	7	1	-	16	10	58	49	53	202	345	334.0	1.0	-	1,519	1,370.4	1.1	-
			201	4,202	369	4,213	998	149	1,095	1,799	13,026	14,021	15,290	55,062	79,153				585,350			

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 **(02/03/2020).** 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.