National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 02, 2021 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

18 January to 31 January 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.

Legionellosis

In the past 12 months (1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021), there have been 530 cases of legionellosis reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is higher than the mean number of cases reported for the historical five-year mean (n=403.4). In the past fortnight (18 January 2021 to 31 January 2021), 16 cases of legionellosis were notified compared to 20 cases in the same reporting period in the previous year. Of the 16 cases reported in the past fortnight, 15 cases have had species identification reported, with 13 cases identified as *Legionella pneumophila* (87%) and two cases identified as *Legionella longbeachae* (13%). It is difficult to determine the extent to which the increase in legionellosis notifications is associated with increased testing of individuals with influenza-like symptoms or pneumonia in response to COVID-19, or other factors.

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 (03/11/2020 to 31/01/2021).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 31/01/2021. 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 (01/02/2020 to 31/01/2021).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 31/01/2021. 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 FN02/2021

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 18/01/2021 31/01/2021	Previous reporting Period 04/01/2021 17/01/2021	Same reporting period last year 18/01/2020 31/01/2020	Current year YTD 01/01/2021 31/01/2021	Past Quarter 03/11/2020 31/01/2021	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 01/02/2020 31/01/2021	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 01/02/2015 31/01/2020	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	3	2	1	5	31	35.4	0.9	-	121	152.0	0.8	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	63	-	15	1	1	44	14	136	154	187	291	1,029	1,291.8	0.8	-	4,859	5,984.0	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	26	19	33	46	134	183.0	0.7	-	656	722.8	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	97	4	58	2	10	61	38	263	253	292	521	1,680	2,226.8	0.8	-	7,299	9,802.0	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	4	13	16.4	0.8	-	66	67.8	1.0	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.8	1.3	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	30	489	6	387	92	44	348	125	1,469	1,782	1,487	3,378	9,718	8,567.2	1.1	-	31,443	29,129.8	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	22	7	21	10	-	18	5	83	88	183	180	389	940.6	0.4	-	2,271	4,016.2	0.6	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	5.0	0.2	-	13	16.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	2	2	62.6	0.0	-	72	246.2	0.3	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	11.4	-	-	32	45.6	0.7	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	5	17	18.4	0.9	-	44	70.2	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	26.6	-	-	34	85.2	0.4	-
	STEC	054	-	4	-	1	10	-	7	9	27	25	31	54	155	145.0	1.1	-	551	448.6	1.2	-
	Salmonellosis	030	16	189	15	220	31	20	69	56	596	895	783	1,573	3,192	4,204.0	0.8	-	11,909	16,020.0	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	2	6	5	4	-	1	3	18	26	182	45	159	570.4	0.3	-	1,324	2,022.2	0.7	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	34.4	0.2	-	84	148.0	0.6	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19**	081	-	45	2	15	4	-	27	14	107	237	12	422	1,274	2.4	530.8	1,260.9	28,952	2.4	12,063.3	28,938.9
	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	58	1,142	76	913	192	37	1	414	2,709	2,957	3,689	5,752	16,970	23,245.0	0.7	-	76,686	99,432.8	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	11	356	50	232	43	10	63	96	828	1,060	1,497	1,930	5,922	6,899.0	0.9	-	28,432	27,635.4	1.0	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	22	9	36	2	-	42	44	138	175	211	318	1,051	1,088.0	1.0	-	5,050	4,360.8	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	1	5	-	-	55	9	65	79	59	146	443	503.2	0.9	-	2,006	2,190.0	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	6	2.6	2.3	-	15	7.0	2.1	1.7
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3.4	0.6	-	8	7.6	1.1	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	4.6	0.9	-	17	19.4	0.9	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	3	-	14	2	1	8	-	29	38	3,368	69	205	10,792.2	0.0	-	15,373	164,193.8	0.1	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	29.2	-	-	10	129.8	0.1	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	10	3	7	141.4	0.0	-	136	615.0	0.2	-
	Pertussis	024	-	-	1	2	2	-	6	3	11	22	374	33	125	4,747.4	0.0	-	2,771	15,914.6	0.2	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	9	1	3	1	-	7	2	22	40	44	69	262	352.4	0.7	-	1,056	1,891.6	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	2	3	-	10	7	2	NN	3	28	54	159	91	257	1,273.6	0.2	-	1,350	4,743.2	0.3	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.8	1.1	-	4	15.0	0.3	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	0.8	3.8	1.3	6	3.8	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	2	NN	3	-	10	1	13	7	33	70	116	106	515	951.4	0.5	-	2,555	3,573.2	0.7	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	23	NN	13	1	67	7	52	68	187	347	641	553	2,032	2,862.0	0.7	-	14,026	10,688.2	1.3	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	4	NN	2	379	70	18	52	83	593	935	387	1,592	5,240	3,329.8	1.6	937.6	14,576	14,252.4	1.0	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	-	9	-	-	-	1	12	16	19	28	119	74.6	1.6	12.9	738	399.4	1.8	51.9
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	25.4	-	-	24	89.6	0.3	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	35	1	1	325.8	0.0	-	175	1,478.6	0.1	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5.4	0.7	-	12	32.8	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	20	2	8	87.6	0.1	-	131	343.8	0.4	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	31	2	46	11	-	104	36	216	251	60	484	1,011	855.4	1.2	-	6,546	5,189.6	1.3	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	4	5.2	0.8	-	19	18.6	1.0	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	1	9	6	5	15	28	23.0	1.2	-	100	115.2	0.9	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	18	5.6	3.2	4.3	61	18.8	3.2	29.6
	Q fever	027	-	3	-	5	1	-	1	-	10	18	20	28	86	134.4	0.6	-	444	551.0	0.8	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	2	-		2.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	10	-	1	-	-	4	3	16	25	20	41	148	109.6	1.4	-	530	403.4	1.3	41.3
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.6	1.2	-	6	12.0	0.5	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	3	5	16	57.4	0.3	-	84	261.2	0.3	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	16	-	9	-	1	15	5	45	59	50	106	383	355.0	1.1	-	1,575	1,412.2	1.1	-
			156	2,513	198	2,430	563	152	998	1,044	7,691	9,649	14,028	17,906	52,677				264,255			

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 **(03/02/2021)**. 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.