National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 09, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

25 April to 08 May 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 8 May, there have been 20,850 laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the reporting period between 25 April and 8 May 2020 there have been 156 confirmed influenza cases. This is lower than the 5 year mean for this period (n=2,595), for the same period in 2019 (n= 9,368) and is the lowest number of notifications for this period since 2013 (n=258).

Elements of the COVID-19 response, including social distancing measures and the diversion of testing resources to COVID-19 diagnosis, are affecting the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases notified to the NNDSS. These effects may differ by jurisdiction.

Legionellosis

This reporting period there were 20 notifications of legionellosis reported to the NNDSS. The cases were notified by NSW (8), Qld (3), SA (2), Tas (2), Vic (3) and WA (2). These cases ranged in age from 36 to 85 years and 40% (8 cases) were female. All but two (2) of the cases were reported with species identification, 50% (10 cases) were *Legionella longbeachae* and 40% (8 cases) were *L. pneumophila*. Sixteen (16) cases (80%) had place of acquisition reported. Of these cases 14 were reported to be acquired in Australia, one (1) was acquired in Indonesia and the remaining case was acquired overseas with no country information provided.

Tularaemia

During the reporting period one (1) case of Tularaemia was reported to the NNDSS from NSW. Tularaemia is a rare disease caused by the bacteria Francisella tularensis. Infections usually occur through handling of infected animals, bites of an infected ticks, consumption of contaminated food, or contact with contaminated water. Most infections are reported from the Northern Hemisphere. Including the case reported in NSW, to date there have been three (3) locally acquired cases of Tularaemia in Australia. Two (2) of these cases were acquired through bites/scratches from infected ringtail possums in Tasmania in 2011.[1]

1. Tasmanian Department of Health

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 (25/04/2020 to 08/05/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 08/05/2020. 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 (09/05/2019 to 08/05/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 08/05/2020. 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 FN09/2020

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 25/04/2020 08/05/2020	Previous reporting Period 11/04/2020 24/04/2020	Same reporting period last year 25/04/2019 08/05/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 08/05/2020	Past Quarter 09/02/2020 08/05/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 09/05/2019 08/05/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 09/05/2014 08/05/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	40	31	40.8	0.8	-	144	154.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	2	70	-	24	1	1	-	14	112	111	209	1,695	1,149	1,540.4	0.7	-	5,321	6,115.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	1	-	15	-	-	-	3	19	22	21	227	153	170.6	0.9	-	803	701.4	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	100	2	69	-	3	9	24	210	219	282	2,613	1,811	2,567.2	0.7	-	8,008	9,994.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	15	6	14.6	0.4	-	61	66.4	0.9	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.2	0.8	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	14	191	16	189	68	22	150	67	717	631	1,243	11,378	6,918	6,401.0	1.1	-	34,739	26,751.4	1.3	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	17	2	23	7	-	12	11	72	72	127	1,711	1,205	1,697.6	0.7	-	3,105	3,954.2	0.8	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	3.8	0.5	-	16	16.2	1.0	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	10	8	82	56	82.2	0.7	-	211	243.6	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	23	13.0	1.8	4.0	58	47.6	1.2	1.3
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	9	21.4	0.4	-	44	74.4	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	44	31	28.8	1.1	-	89	81.0	1.1	-
	STEC	054	-	1	-	-	6	-	1	2	10	12	25	275	168	110.2	1.5	-	685	365.2	1.9	-
	Salmonellosis	030	2	99	19	108	29	10	57	91	415	375	691	6,797	4,475	5,295.6	0.8	-	15,024	16,250.6	0.9	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	5	10	5	5	-	7	5	37	36	160	1,175	685	456.4	1.5	-	3,026	1,729.4	1.7	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	83	65	54.4	1.2	-	182	140.6	1.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	1	49	2	17	1	18	144	6	238	403	-	6,968	6,952	-		6,952.0	6,968	-		6,968.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
	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	42	704	60	771	186	47	5	383	2,198	2,167	3,908	27,932	18,685	25,565.2	0.7	-	92,020	96,635.6	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	6	255	20	216	52	7	8	121	685	948	1,231	11,746	7,594	6,755.2	1.1	-	33,733	24,814.8	1.4	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	37	16	37	2	-	8	23	124	129	207	1,576	976	1,002.0	1.0	-	5,393	3,802.8	1.4	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	-	3	2	1	67	9	83	82	83	880	657	542.6	1.2	1.4	2,527	2,087.4	1.2	85.8
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	1	1.0	1.0	-	10	5.8	1.7	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	1.4	1.4	-	8	6.8	1.2	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	4.0	0.3	-	20	18.8	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	37	-	44	21	3	40	10	156	154	9,368	20,850	12,162	13,418.8	0.9	-	287,073	122,423.2	2.3	16,799.0
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	32	2	47.0	0.0	-	196	124.4	1.6	-
	Mumps	043	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	93	60	155.6	0.4	-	201	616.0	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	7	32	-	14	31	3	7	4	98	209	398	2,866	1,748	3,324.6	0.5	-	10,774	16,113.8	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	9	-	3	-	-	1	2	16	25	77	396	230	281.2	0.8	-	2,038	1,794.4	1.1	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	6	15	1	6	12	-	NN	2	42	19	103	1,052	444	621.8	0.7	-	6,252	4,047.6	1.5	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6.2	0.2	-	6	16.0	0.4	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.8	-	-	2	3.8	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	1	NN	1	-	12	1	2	6	23	38	137	832	443	689.8	0.6	-	3,978	3,192.4	1.2	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	18	NN	18	-	82	9	16	61	204	301	499	4,193	2,356	2,449.8	1.0	-	14,595	9,103.2	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	2	NN	1	308	40	13	-	56	420	836	612	5,523	4,409	3,481.0	1.3	130.1	13,582	14,236.2	1.0	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	17	-	29	-	-	-	-	46	29	13	232	188	148.2	1.3	-	377	435.2	0.9	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	34	15	19.4	0.8	-	94	94.2	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	81	215	124	473.8	0.3	-	1,104	1,502.4	0.7	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	7	6	11.2	0.5	-	19	31.8	0.6	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	6	4	10	109	68	75.0	0.9	-	364	330.4	1.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	351	2	564	5	-	-	8	930	831	195	2,741	2,602	2,561.8	1.0	-	4,462	5,572.2	0.8	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	2	1.4	1.4	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	4.0	1.3	-	13	19.6	0.7	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	36	20	38.0	0.5	-	82	115.4	0.7	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	5	2.6	1.9	-	21	20.4	1.0	-
	Q fever	027	-	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	8	19	20	168	101	139.8	0.7	-	504	539.4	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-		1.0	1	-		1.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	8	-	3	3	2	3	2	21	28	11	205	150	98.0	1.5	32.3	504	399.0	1.3	39.4
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2.4	-	-	7	11.2	0.6	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	7	39	26	45.4	0.6	-	195	254.8	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	24	-	6	-	-	10	2	42	56	57	474	348	328.6	1.1	-	1,493	1,380.2	1.1	-
			107	2,032	172	2,478	567	140	548	913	6,957	7,803	19,819	115,409	77,169				560,139			

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 **(11/05/2020)**. 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.