National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 07, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

28 March to 10 April 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 10 April, there have been 19,757 laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the reporting period between 28 March and 10 April 2020 there have been 244 confirmed influenza cases. This is lower than the 5 year mean for this period (n=2,810), for the same period in 2019 (n= 7,299) and is the lowest number of notifications for this period since 2012 (n=249).

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.

The Department of Health closely monitors national influenza activity throughout the year, including during the inter-seasonal period.

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 (12/01/2020 to 10/04/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 10/04/2020. 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 (11/04/2019 to 10/04/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 10/04/2020. 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 FN07/2020

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 28/03/2020 10/04/2020	Previous reporting Period 14/03/2020 27/03/2020	Same reporting period last year 28/03/2019 10/04/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 10/04/2020	Past Quarter 12/01/2020 10/04/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 11/04/2019 10/04/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 11/04/2014 10/04/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	6	7	29	26	39.4	0.7	-	140	156.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	4	43	-	24	5	2	-	17	95	137	249	1,291	1,154	1,530.0	0.8	-	5,324	6,130.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	2	13	18	30	174	162	177.8	0.9	-	794	703.8	1.1	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	6	71	2	69	-	7	-	22	177	238	354	2,031	1,840	2,542.2	0.7	-	7,996	10,014.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	9	14.4	0.6	-	63	67.4	0.9	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	14	207	18	191	51	30	2	57	570	948	1,347	9,105	7,840	6,902.2	1.1	-	34,839	26,533.6	1.3	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	21	1	37	1	1	2	39	102	230	143	1,558	1,455	1,670.4	0.9	-	3,157	3,964.8	0.8	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	3	4.8	0.6	-	17	16.0	1.1	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	5	14	11	64	57	88.0	0.6	-	208	244.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	6	7	3	29	29	13.4	2.2	6.8	65	47.2	1.4	5.4
	Listeriosis	018	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	13	9	24.2	0.4	-	44	75.4	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	40	37	35.4	1.0	-	93	80.4	1.2	-
	STEC	054	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	5	9	29	23	242	214	107.4	2.0	-	703	359.0	2.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	1	73	13	120	32	9	52	50	350	616	731	5,988	5,437	5,688.8	1.0	-	15,471	16,309.4	0.9	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	8	11	6	10	-	2	9	46	102	138	1,094	971	498.2	1.9	-	3,231	1,682.0	1.9	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	5	11	8	77	71	60.8	1.2	-	181	140.4	1.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	34	1,029	14	285	145	65	533	226	2,331	3,689	-	6,326	6,326	-		6,326.0	6,326	-		6,326.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	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	34	656	80	626	171	30	-	287	1,884	2,812	4,205	21,936	19,903	26,287.4	0.8	-	93,270	96,345.4	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	7	319	30	238	42	3	-	111	750	987	1,386	8,175	7,251	6,972.0	1.0	-	32,175	24,559.2	1.3	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	7	6	16	3	-	-	14	47	126	224	1,188	1,047	1,015.0	1.0	-	5,371	3,758.4	1.4	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	1	3	9	-	1	-	3	17	49	107	456	413	542.8	0.8	-	2,271	2,074.8	1.1	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	0.6	5.0	0.6	9	5.8	1.6	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2.0	1.0	-	7	6.8	1.0	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	4.2	0.2	-	21	18.8	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	4	79	19	64	24	3	24	27	244	2,180	7,299	19,757	17,843	11,327.0	1.6	-	303,161	119,118.0	2.5	32,167.8
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	32	22	48.0	0.5	-	213	123.8	1.7	-
	Mumps	043	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	7	80	75	164.4	0.5	-	199	614.8	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	2	55	3	24	35	-	1	3	123	236	446	2,303	1,945	3,747.2	0.5	-	10,924	16,079.8	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	1	13	1	8	4	1	5	3	36	46	55	354	294	236.8	1.2	-	2,144	1,784.0	1.2	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	2	7	-	2	8	-	NN	6	25	64	116	987	739	653.4	1.1	-	6,386	4,036.0	1.6	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	6.0	0.2	-	9	15.4	0.6	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1.4	0.7	-	2	4.0	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	2	NN	1	-	6	1	-	8	18	34	149	529	432	691.0	0.6	-	3,771	3,171.0	1.2	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	11	NN	15	-	72	10	-	53	161	221	557	2,968	2,504	2,491.8	1.0	-	14,038	9,002.8	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	8	NN	2	298	35	14	-	58	415	519	592	2,199	2,125	3,492.4	0.6	-	10,584	14,181.6	0.7	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	2	-	20	-	-	-	1	23	30	20	150	141	140.4	1.0	-	314	445.4	0.7	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	33	30	24.0	1.3	-	96	95.0	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	7	16	32	55	200	173	510.0	0.3	-	1,221	1,505.8	0.8	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	11.2	0.4	-	16	32.6	0.5	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.4	2.5	-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	-	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	6	9	14	98	90	91.0	1.0	-	377	329.0	1.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	52	7	287	1	-	-	14	361	226	172	894	859	2,576.0	0.3	-	2,939	5,605.8	0.5	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-		1.0	3	1.4	2.1	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	8	8	4.4	1.8	-	14	19.8	0.7	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	29	26	37.4	0.7	-	82	116.2	0.7	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4.0	0.3	-	19	20.4	0.9	-
	Q fever	027	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	6	10	24	126	104	148.0	0.7	-	498	538.0	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	5	1	4	1	-	2	5	18	28	15	152	138	99.0	1.4	10.6	472	401.6	1.2	1.3
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.8	-	-	8	11.6	0.7	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	2	5	32	26	43.4	0.6	-	199	254.2	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	22	-	6	-	-	4	5	37	36	68	346	323	318.4	1.0	-	1,473	1,376.0	1.1	-
			131	2,687	227	2,371	652	179	631	1,037	7,915	13,714	18,601	91,130	82,166				570,944			

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 **(14/04/2020)**. 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.