National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 05, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

29 February to 13 March 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 13 March, there have been 16,813 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=9,202). 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=19,003).

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.

Shigellosis

From 1 July 2018, the shigellosis surveillance case definition was changed to require notification of both confirmed and probable cases. This change in case definition is expected to result in an increase in notifications of shigellosis from 1 July 2018. Additionally, since 2014 there has been an increasing trend in national notifications of shigellosis. In the past quarter (15 December 2019 to 13 March 2020) there were 1,076 cases of shigellosis notified, which 2.2 times the quarterly rolling five year mean (n=498). Rates of shigellosis in Australia are higher amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared with non-Indigenous populations. In 2018, the rate of shigellosis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 115.5 cases per 100,000 population, compared with 7.3 cases per 100,000 in non-Indigenous populations.

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 (15/12/2019 to 13/03/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 13/03/2020. 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 (14/03/2019 to 13/03/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 13/03/2020. 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 FN05/2020

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 29/02/2020 13/03/2020	Previous reporting Period 15/02/2020 28/02/2020	Same reporting period last year 01/03/2019 13/03/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2019 13/03/2020	Past Quarter 15/12/2019 13/03/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 14/03/2019 13/03/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 14/03/2014 13/03/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	4	3	19	28	39.6	0.7	-	149	157.0	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	1	74	-	41	2	5	1	16	140	244	232	1,026	1,198	1,369.8	0.9	-	5,589	6,132.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	-	10	30	23	128	165	166.2	1.0	-	809	700.4	1.2	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	6	118	10	97	-	4	8	41	284	323	368	1,576	1,871	2,320.6	0.8	-	8,275	10,030.2	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	13	17	14.8	1.1	-	70	66.4	1.1	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	36	400	22	436	85	46	12	101	1,138	1,270	1,309	7,339	8,940	7,423.2	1.2	-	35,741	26,284.4	1.4	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	42	2	146	5	-	19	93	308	278	148	1,217	1,333	1,347.8	1.0	-	3,108	3,963.4	0.8	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	4.2	0.5	-	14	16.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	9	13	40	54	80.4	0.7	-	212	241.8	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	1	8	1	3	16	18	13.6	1.3	-	57	46.4	1.2	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	8	24.4	0.3	-	43	76.2	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	-	7	9	8	32	37	32.2	1.1	-	101	79.2	1.3	-
	STEC	054	-	7	-	-	15	-	1	4	27	49	22	200	237	107.2	2.2	-	714	349.6	2.0	-
	Salmonellosis	030	8	268	25	349	32	14	26	85	807	1,166	657	4,970	5,696	5,407.0	1.1	-	15,926	16,335.6	1.0	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	35	41	23	8	-	27	22	157	194	134	945	1,076	498.0	2.2	128.4	3,339	1,647.0	2.0	231.9
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	3	-	1	-	1	1	2	8	20	12	55	65	54.8	1.2	-	177	138.2	1.3	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	1	128	-	45	16	5	33	9	237	10	-	262	262	-		262.0	262	-		262.0
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	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	75	979	111	1,016	214	16	-	421	2,832	3,705	4,148	16,950	19,670	23,971.8	0.8	-	96,973	96,144.0	1.0	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Gonococcal infection	011	18	318	36	290	48	5	1	166	882	1,160	1,383	6,395	7,615	6,504.2	1.2	-	33,110	24,267.8	1.4	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	2	8	9	21	6	-	20	31	97	174	244	936	1,112	947.8	1.2	-	5,597	3,690.4	1.5	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	-	4	2	-	1	20	6	33	69	87	347	410	496.4	0.8	-	2,368	2,063.2	1.1	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	0.2	20.0	2.9	10	5.6	1.8	-
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	2.0	1.0	-	7	6.8	1.0	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	5	4.2	1.2	-	22	18.6	1.2	1.1
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	22	974	39	1,545	234	26	294	160	3,294	3,406	4,000	16,813	18,989	9,201.8	2.1	-	312,817	116,782.2	2.7	40,991.6
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	12	32	37	32.0	1.2	-	261	119.0	2.2	29.4
	Mumps	043	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	1	9	17	8	66	76	155.6	0.5	-	198	616.2	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	8	183	-	61	22	-	1	11	286	358	436	1,935	2,461	4,021.8	0.6	-	11,451	16,025.6	0.7	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	15	-	8	7	-	8	6	44	41	59	270	352	244.0	1.4	29.5	2,162	1,779.0	1.2	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	3	16	2	24	19	-	NN	12	76	86	92	836	1,242	710.8	1.7	278.4	6,447	4,030.4	1.6	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	5.2	0.2	-	15	14.4	1.0	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	2	4.0	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	12	NN	14	-	14	1	-	19	60	78	165	469	582	710.0	0.8	-	4,013	3,153.8	1.3	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	22	NN	20	2	77	7	2	72	202	497	493	2,512	3,065	2,391.2	1.3	-	14,705	8,869.6	1.7	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	9	NN	-	437	48	17	-	106	617	311	603	1,341	1,468	3,353.6	0.4	-	10,907	14,162.6	0.8	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	8	-	16	1	-	-	-	25	18	8	95	98	110.6	0.9	-	291	454.6	0.6	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	4	5	-	28	35	26.4	1.3	-	96	94.8	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	5	2	8	5	-	-	6	26	20	57	139	168	459.2	0.4	-	1,275	1,510.0	0.8	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	9.6	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	-	4	-	4	-	-	2	5	15	22	10	82	97	89.4	1.1	-	387	327.8	1.2	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	9	6	50	-	-	-	14	79	57	133	296	342	2,149.4	0.2	-	2,689	5,654.4	0.5	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	2	1.4	1.4	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	5	5.8	0.9	-	12	19.6	0.6	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	3	4	23	26	30.0	0.9	-	89	115.0	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	4.4	0.7	-	19	21.2	0.9	-
	Q fever	027	-	3	-	15	-	-	-	1	19	14	33	102	125	133.4	0.9	-	525	533.8	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	6	-	4	3	-	7	2	22	24	10	100	121	100.8	1.2	-	450	401.4	1.1	-
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.6	0.6	-	9	11.4	0.8	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	6	7	27	34	46.2	0.7	-	203	255.0	0.8	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	21	-	12	-	-	18	8	59	63	57	267	335	324.0	1.0	-	1,522	1,371.2	1.1	-
			225	3,638	343	4,681	861	149	508	1,427	11,832	13,747	14,990	67,930	79,492				583,241			

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 **(16/03/2020)**. 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.