National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 25, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

7 December to 20 December 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.

Legionellosis

In the past 12 months (21 December 2019 to 20 December 2020), there have been 508 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=402.4). In the past fortnight (7 to 20 December 2020), 32 cases of legionellosis were notified compared to 18 in the same reported period in 2019. It is difficult to determine the extent to which this increase 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 (22/09/2020 to 20/12/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 20/12/2020. 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 (21/12/2019 to 20/12/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 20/12/2020. 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 FN25/2020

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 07/12/2020 20/12/2020	Previous reporting Period 23/11/2020 06/12/2020	Same reporting period last year 07/12/2019 20/12/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2020 20/12/2020	Past Quarter 22/09/2020 20/12/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 21/12/2019 20/12/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 21/12/2014 20/12/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	109	25	34.4	0.7	-	114	152.8	0.7	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	67	1	23	4	-	57	25	180	175	207	4,882	1,171	1,445.6	0.8	-	4,963	5,994.4	0.8	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	17	2	-	-	1	20	24	50	650	146	202.2	0.7	-	663	722.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	3	124	5	66	2	7	36	37	280	277	364	7,198	1,799	2,448.8	0.7	-	7,331	9,827.0	0.7	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	69	20	18.6	1.1	-	72	67.6	1.1	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.4	-	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	39	432	19	291	156	48	140	128	1,253	1,597	1,671	30,321	8,982	8,175.6	1.1	-	31,147	28,742.0	1.1	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	21	5	3	2	1	17	3	53	47	124	2,423	315	712.0	0.4	-	2,489	3,979.4	0.6	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	4	4.2	1.0	-	16	16.4	1.0	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	91	3	54.2	0.1	-	97	244.8	0.4	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	1	9.2	0.1	-	34	45.8	0.7	-
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	41	12	17.2	0.7	-	41	71.0	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	45	-	18.6	-	-	48	82.6	0.6	-
	STEC	054	-	12	-	5	7	-	4	1	29	21	29	558	140	133.0	1.1	-	584	430.6	1.4	-
	Salmonellosis	030	6	109	17	139	17	10	38	45	381	343	667	11,576	2,020	3,393.2	0.6	-	11,991	16,126.2	0.7	-
	Shigellosis	031	-	6	3	7	-	-	-	1	17	34	118	1,641	177	514.0	0.3	-	1,701	1,964.0	0.9	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	8	97	7	27.4	0.3	-	101	148.2	0.7	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	1	167	15	16	4	4	13	13	233	147	-	28,283	1,279	-		1,279.0	28,283	-		28,283.0
	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	61	1,075	64	834	234	51	23	403	2,745	2,781	3,644	74,492	18,212	23,792.6	0.8	-	75,959	98,933.2	0.8	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	9	331	49	177	68	6	49	108	797	974	1,346	28,975	6,204	6,707.2	0.9	-	29,610	27,169.6	1.1	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	4	28	14	31	2	-	29	32	140	172	252	5,022	1,155	1,139.8	1.0	-	5,097	4,297.6	1.2	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	2	2	2	-	-	28	6	41	64	86	1,964	392	547.4	0.7	-	1,995	2,181.0	0.9	-
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	15	3	2.0	1.5	-	15	6.2	2.4	3.1
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	2	2.8	0.7	-	6	7.4	0.8	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	20	6	4.2	1.4	-	20	18.4	1.1	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	7	-	5	1	-	8	6	28	36	2,029	21,874	159	24,772.6	0.0	-	23,144	162,874.4	0.1	-
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	32	-	34.0	-	-	34	129.4	0.3	-
	Mumps	043	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	9	154	11	148.2	0.1	-	160	615.8	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	-	-	-	2	1	-	13	1	17	29	601	3,651	116	5,024.0	0.0	-	3,896	16,036.6	0.2	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	14	1	10	4	1	8	5	43	45	64	1,086	258	472.8	0.5	-	1,137	1,871.8	0.6	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	5	15	1	6	8	1	NN	11	55	36	434	1,742	267	1,814.6	0.1	-	1,946	4,660.8	0.4	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1.8	-	-	2	15.0	0.1	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	2	0.8	2.5	0.3	5	3.6	1.4	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	6	NN	5	-	12	3	16	32	74	86	159	2,640	680	1,068.0	0.6	-	2,740	3,538.0	0.8	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	18	NN	18	1	81	8	51	80	257	290	650	14,443	2,765	2,836.6	1.0	-	14,820	10,452.6	1.4	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	3	NN	4	381	56	12	233	110	799	939	432	13,282	4,647	3,494.6	1.3	285.8	13,556	14,273.8	0.9	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	1	8	-	-	1	-	13	30	8	732	139	72.8	1.9	23.4	732	403.2	1.8	31.8
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	41	-	30.0	-	-	44	92.8	0.5	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	249	-	285.8	-	-	267	1,508.0	0.2	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	4	7.2	0.6	-	12	32.6	0.4	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0.4	-	-	1	1.4	0.7	-
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	12	161	11	80.2	0.1	-	168	339.2	0.5	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	13	7	31	2	1	24	53	131	120	57	6,066	626	632.6	1.0	-	6,090	5,320.0	1.1	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.6	-	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	18	3	5.0	0.6	-	18	19.0	0.9	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	92	20	16.2	1.2	-	93	113.8	0.8	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	46	18	6.0	3.0	6.0	48	18.0	2.7	16.8
	Q fever	027	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	12	13	24	464	99	146.4	0.7	-	472	545.6	0.9	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		-	2	-		2.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	12	-	1	3	1	12	3	32	23	18	498	138	114.0	1.2	-	508	402.4	1.3	29.2
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	6	3	4.6	0.7	-	6	12.0	0.5	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	5	87	19	76.6	0.2	-	92	261.2	0.4	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	29	-	11	-	2	17	5	64	71	66	1,520	423	390.2	1.1	-	1,555	1,406.2	1.1	-
			161	2,487	231	2,078	666	156	821	1,112	7,720	8,404	13,213	267,433	52,483				273,925			

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 **(22/12/2020)**. 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.