National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report

Fortnight 10, 2020 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases

09 May to 22 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 22 May, there have been 20,994 laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the reporting period between 9 May and 22 May 2020 there have been 138 confirmed influenza cases. This is lower than the 5 year mean for this period (n=3,636), for the same period in 2019 (n= 12,467) and is the lowest number of notifications recorded for this period.

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 28 notifications of legionellosis reported to the NNDSS. The cases were notified by NSW (11), Qld (5), Vic (4) and WA (8). These cases ranged in age from 26 to 101 years and 36% (10 cases) were female. All but one (1) of the cases were reported with species identification, 47% (13 cases) were Legionella longbeachae and 50% (14 cases) were L. pneumophila. Twenty (20) cases (72%) had place of acquisition reported. All of these cases were reported to be acquired in Australia.

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 (23/02/2020 to 22/05/2020).

[2]The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 22/05/2020. 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 (23/05/2019 to 22/05/2020).

[4]The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 22/05/2020. 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 FN10/2020

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 09/05/2020 22/05/2020	Previous reporting Period 25/04/2020 08/05/2020	Same reporting period last year 09/05/2019 22/05/2019	Current year YTD 01/01/2020 22/05/2020	Past Quarter 23/02/2020 22/05/2020	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year 23/05/2019 22/05/2020	Yearly rolling 5 year mean 23/05/2014 22/05/2019	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	5	5	4	46	34	38.6	0.9	-	144	153.4	0.9	-
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	3	59	1	34	1	-	21	17	136	149	233	1,902	1,095	1,538.8	0.7	-	5,297	6,121.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	7	21	23	27	256	153	165.4	0.9	-	805	698.4	1.2	-
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	6	115	2	104	1	9	39	37	313	245	341	2,956	1,825	2,545.8	0.7	-	8,008	9,979.2	0.8	-
	Hepatitis D	050	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	4	18	6	14.4	0.4	-	60	67.6	0.9	-
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1	1.2	0.8	-
	Campylobacteriosis	005	16	227	15	250	90	35	180	83	896	725	1,264	12,282	6,250	6,218.8	1.0	-	34,379	26,850.6	1.3	-
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	-	19	2	20	7	-	9	8	65	72	126	1,775	983	1,570.6	0.6	-	3,043	3,954.8	0.8	-
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	4.6	0.4	-	14	16.2	0.9	-
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	84	54	70.6	0.8	-	209	242.8	0.9	-
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	29	21	12.2	1.7	2.0	58	47.2	1.2	0.9
	Listeriosis	018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	7	17.4	0.4	-	44	73.2	0.6	-
	Paratyphoid	080	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	44	24	23.8	1.0	-	84	81.6	1.0	-
	STEC	054	-	1	-	-	8	-	3	1	13	12	27	290	133	103.4	1.3	-	673	370.0	1.8	-
	Salmonellosis	030	7	117	14	135	25	4	93	86	481	415	562	7,279	3,651	4,947.0	0.7	-	14,944	16,217.8	0.9	-
	Shigellosis	031	1	5	4	4	5	-	3	5	27	36	138	1,199	503	445.6	1.1	-	2,912	1,755.0	1.7	-
	Typhoid Fever	035	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	12	85	46	46.4	1.0	-	172	141.8	1.2	-
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	COVID-19	081	-	30	-	11	-	1	88	6	136	259	-	7,125	7,103	-		7,103.0	7,125	-		7,125.0
	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	56	793	57	900	219	25	11	426	2,487	2,241	4,357	30,503	17,344	25,323.0	0.7	-	90,234	96,746.4	0.9	-
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Gonococcal infection	011	6	305	15	249	68	9	78	142	872	861	1,430	12,840	7,146	6,707.0	1.1	-	33,397	24,965.0	1.3	-
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	13	8	33	2	-	9	35	101	141	259	1,746	911	1,005.8	0.9	-	5,323	3,835.4	1.4	-
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	1	4	-	8	1	-	41	7	62	98	98	1,003	654	540.0	1.2	-	2,560	2,090.0	1.2	104.6
	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	6	2	1.2	1.7	-	11	5.8	1.9	1.4
Vaccine preventable diseases	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1.2	1.7	-	8	6.8	1.2	-
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	2	4.0	0.5	-	19	19.2	1.0	-
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	1	27	-	46	21	3	28	12	138	159	12,467	20,994	8,736	15,073.4	0.6	-	274,752	124,949.6	2.2	4,573.1
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	32	1	45.8	0.0	-	188	124.8	1.5	-
	Mumps	043	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	6	3	5	100	46	148.2	0.3	-	203	616.2	0.3	-
	Pertussis	024	1	22	-	9	17	4	41	2	96	133	422	3,001	1,508	3,175.4	0.5	-	10,487	16,135.2	0.6	-
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	6	3	4	-	-	5	3	21	15	71	416	211	317.6	0.7	-	1,986	1,800.2	1.1	-
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Rotavirus	077	4	5	1	7	13	-	NN	6	36	42	108	1,088	345	642.6	0.5	-	6,180	4,059.0	1.5	-
	Rubella	029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	5.8	-	-	5	16.2	0.3	-
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.2	-	-
	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.6	-	-	2	3.8	0.5	-
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	-	NN	1	-	12	3	9	7	32	32	140	884	383	688.8	0.6	-	3,891	3,208.4	1.2	-
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	13	NN	4	1	107	11	37	77	250	272	535	4,556	2,076	2,443.0	0.8	-	14,439	9,172.2	1.6	-
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	2	NN	6	389	41	16	-	69	523	558	623	6,194	4,538	3,455.0	1.3	337.7	13,612	14,289.4	1.0	-
Vectorborne diseases	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	16	-	37	-	-	-	2	55	48	13	289	227	149.2	1.5	-	421	433.0	1.0	-
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	34	6	18.4	0.3	-	93	93.4	1.0	-
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	97	216	101	462.4	0.2	-	1,008	1,503.2	0.7	-
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	7	7.8	0.9	-	19	31.6	0.6	-
	Japanese encephalitis virus infection	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	4	1.0	4.0	0.6
	Malaria	020	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	6	14	114	52	69.4	0.7	-	355	329.8	1.1	-
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	266	7	532	4	-	-	18	827	980	210	3,626	3,433	2,384.2	1.4	-	5,137	5,573.4	0.9	-
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	2	1.4	1.4	-
Zoonoses	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Brucellosis	004	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	9	6	3.2	1.9	1.1	16	20.0	0.8	-
	Leptospirosis	017	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	6	2	40	20	34.4	0.6	-	84	114.8	0.7	-
	Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
	Ornithosis	023	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	4	1	11	10	2.4	4.2	4.6	26	20.6	1.3	-
	Q fever	027	-	9	-	18	-	-	-	1	28	12	20	202	115	133.4	0.9	-	518	538.0	1.0	-
	Tularaemia	070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-		1.0	1	-		1.0
Other bacterial infections	Legionellosis	015	-	11	-	5	-	-	4	8	28	21	21	234	169	99.4	1.7	54.1	512	398.4	1.3	52.0
	Leprosy	016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	-	-	7	11.2	0.6	-
	Meningococcal disease (invasive)	022	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	40	20	46.2	0.4	-	185	256.0	0.7	-
	Tuberculosis	034	-	20	-	5	-	-	15	3	43	40	61	534	335	323.2	1.0	-	1,487	1,383.0	1.1	-
			118	2,080	141	2,833	644	120	716	1,071	7,723	7,626	23,728	124,122	70,297				545,144			

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 **(25/05/2020)**. 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.