

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 07, 2022 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**28 March 2022 to 10 April 2022**

**Infectious and congenital syphilis**

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in 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, and increases in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) predominately residing in urban areas of Australia.

*Outbreak in northern and central Australia*

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Queensland, following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory in 2013, Western Australia in 2014 and South Australia 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 and related national activities, 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 Australia.

*Increases among women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous)*

Since 2016, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in women (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous) aged predominately 20-39 years of age residing largely in urban areas in Australia. As noted in the outbreak in northern and central Australia, increases in women of childbearing age is of significant public health concern given the increased risk of congenital syphilis.

*Syphilis response*

On 23 March 2021, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) endorsed the [National strategic approach for responding to rising rates of syphilis in Australia](#) 2021 (Strategic Approach) prepared through the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) and BBV STI Standing Committee (BBVSS). The Strategic Approach builds on and intersects with existing national activities related to syphilis and provides specific focus for efforts towards rising rates of syphilis and adverse outcomes in Australia.

The CDNA and BBVSS are, in collaboration, developing priority public health actions, including those related to workforce and community engagement, to ensure progress is made towards reducing the incidence of syphilis and elimination of congenital syphilis in Australia.

For further information on national activities related to syphilis refer to the [Department's website](#).

## **Diphtheria**

During the reporting period six (6) cases of toxigenic diphtheria were reported to the NNDSS, all notified by Queensland. These cases ranged in age from 18 to 50 years and 67% (4 cases) were male. In the current year to date, all cases (n=10) were notified by Queensland. Queensland Health is continuing to investigate these cases. For further information, refer to the [Queensland Health Surveillance Reports](#).

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>*The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (11/01/2022 to 10/04/2022).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 10/04/2022. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

<sup>3</sup>*The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (11/04/2021 to 10/04/2022).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 10/04/2022. 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 FN07/2022			State or Territory											Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical Yearly Period			
Disease group	Disease name	Disease code	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	This reporting period	Previous reporting Period	Same reporting period last year	Current year YTD	Past Quarter	Quarterly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past quarter/5 year mean*	Exceeds quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year	Yearly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio past year/5 year mean*	Exceeds yearly rolling mean +2 SD by			
											28/03/2022 10/04/2022	14/03/2022 27/03/2022	28/03/2021 10/04/2021	01/01/2022 10/04/2022	11/01/2022 10/04/2022				11/04/2021 10/04/2022	11/04/2016 10/04/2021					
Bloodborne diseases	Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	039	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	12	11	31.8	0.3	-	77	143.6	0.5	-			
	Hepatitis B (unspecified)	052	2	57	-	54	-	1	70	20	204	182	144	1,320	1,243	1,424.4	0.9	-	4,939	5,629.2	0.9	-			
	Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	040	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	28	17	23	130	120	170.8	0.7	-	673	688.6	1.0	-			
	Hepatitis C (unspecified)	053	1	93	-	63	-	2	38	37	234	250	232	1,559	1,487	2,245.2	0.7	-	6,486	9,138.4	0.7	-			
	Hepatitis D	050	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	18	18	14.6	1.2	-	82	72.6	1.1	-			
Gastrointestinal diseases	Botulism	045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0.8	1.3	-	5	1.2	4.2	2.1			
	Campylobacteriosis	005	22	350	13	282	110	34	295	104	1,210	1,323	1,323	9,689	8,839	8,501.8	1.0	-	36,573	31,758.2	1.2	-			
	Cryptosporidiosis	061	1	23	1	29	1	-	37	16	108	74	42	529	482	1,290.4	0.4	-	1,834	3,284.4	0.6	-			
	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	055	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	4.2	0.2	-	6	15.0	0.4	-			
	Hepatitis A	038	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	6	8	-	24	24	73.2	0.3	-	44	216.0	0.2	-			
	Hepatitis E	051	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	6	14.0	0.4	-	15	41.2	0.4	-			
	Listeriosis	018	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	1	23	21	19.4	1.1	-	54	62.0	0.9	-			
	Paratyphoid	080	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	10	9	30.8	0.3	-	14	69.8	0.2	-			
	Salmonellosis	030	17	140	21	176	24	13	75	56	522	579	507	3,686	3,442	5,047.6	0.7	-	10,134	14,590.0	0.7	-			
	Shigellosis	031	3	10	3	5	4	-	4	4	33	45	20	215	198	593.0	0.3	-	531	2,046.4	0.3	-			
	STEC	054	-	5	-	1	6	1	4	11	28	45	20	215	204	175.8	1.2	-	645	553.8	1.2	-			
	Typhoid Fever	035	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	7	8	-	40	39	59.0	0.7	-	50	136.8	0.4	-			
Quarantinable diseases	Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Cholera	008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	0.2	5.0	-	2	1.0	2.0	-			
	COVID-19	081	7,313	278,841	6,199	43,423	83,932	5,430	50,525	40,318	515,981	466,166	149	3,082,555	2,544,451	1,432.4	1,776.4	#####	3,449,149	5,938.8	580.8	#####			
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (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	53	1,013	67	978	232	51	924	311	3,629	3,729	2,919	23,646	22,593	26,824.8	0.8	-	85,911	99,747.0	0.9	-			
	Donovanosis	010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Gonococcal infection	011	7	400	56	255	69	11	290	90	1,178	1,283	1,044	8,242	7,799	8,365.2	0.9	-	27,120	29,997.8	0.9	-			
	Syphilis < 2 years	066	1	59	7	33	6	-	58	13	177	161	194	1,301	1,221	1,321.6	0.9	-	5,456	4,981.8	1.1	-			
	Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	067	-	4	-	13	-	-	41	5	63	72	78	457	426	569.2	0.7	-	1,820	2,166.4	0.8	-			
Vaccine preventable diseases	Syphilis congenital	047	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	5	2.2	2.3	-	16	8.8	1.8	-			
	Diphtheria	009	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	10	10	2.2	4.5	4.0	15	8.4	1.8	2.0			
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	4.2	0.2	-	13	19.8	0.7	-			
	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	062	4	412	9	43	19	2	163	3	655	201	21	982	965	13,309.6	0.1	-	1,525	146,195.8	0.0	-			
	Measles	021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39.2	-	-	-	111.2	-	-			
	Mumps	043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	5	4	109.6	0.0	-	15	450.2	0.0	-			
	Pertussis	024	-	3	-	-	3	-	10	3	19	19	12	140	130	2,266.4	0.1	-	547	10,934.8	0.1	-			
	Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	065	-	9	-	10	6	-	11	4	40	32	47	232	200	268.2	0.7	-	1,301	1,811.0	0.7	-			
	Poliovirus infection	026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Rotavirus	077	-	9	-	23	21	-	6	6	65	77	56	629	547	589.2	0.9	-	2,857	4,108.8	0.7	-			
	Rubella	029	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	4.6	0.2	-	3	11.0	0.3	-			
	Rubella congenital	046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Vectorborne diseases	Tetanus	033	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1.6	-	-	2	4.4	0.5	-			
	Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	073	6	NN	-	1	12	-	14	6	39	52	77	314	284	758.0	0.4	-	1,764	3,639.2	0.5	-			
	Varicella zoster (shingles)	074	29	NN	9	11	74	12	57	58	250	327	418	2,221	2,053	3,414.4	0.6	-	9,432	12,913.6	0.7	-			
	Varicella zoster (unspecified)	075	5	NN	7	374	44	13	329	103	875	842	634	5,637	5,232	3,526.8	1.5	583.6	21,324	14,089.6	1.5	4,245.6			
	Barmah Forest virus infection	048	-	3	-	10	-	-	-	-	13	19	17	96	92	114.0	0.8	-	349	415.8	0.8	-			
	Chikungunya virus infection	078	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	5	16.6	0.3	-	6	72.0	0.1	-			
	Dengue virus infection	003	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	5	3	-	15	15	260.8	0.1	-	24	1,049.2	0.0	-			
	Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	001	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	2.8	0.7	-	3	25.0	0.1	-			
Zoonoses	Japanese encephalitis virus infection**	059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Malaria	020	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	5	7	3	28	28	85.6	0.3	-	73	312.0	0.2	-			
	Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	049	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	5.0	-			
	Ross River virus infection	002	-	29	8	48	17	-	47	26	175	232	124	1,845	1,792	1,670.8	1.1	-	3,452	4,652.8	0.7	-			
	West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-		
	Anthrax	058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Australian bat lyssavirus infection	063	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Brucellosis	004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	5.4	0.6	-	17	18.6	0.9	-			
Other notifiable diseases	Leptospirosis	017	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	9	111													