
MONTHLY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Data contained within this monthly report are based on information recorded on EpiSurv by Public Health Service (PHS) staff at 15 January 2019. Changes made to EpiSurv after this date will not be reflected in this report. The data are provisional and include cases that are still under investigation, some of which may become 'Not a case'. For this reason, comparisons between the current year and the previous year should be treated with caution.

KEY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE TRENDS

Enteric Diseases

Enteric infections are the most common notifiable diseases, and several are increasing in incidence. This increase is partly due to changes in laboratory testing practices with a shift from culture methods to multiplex PCR, which tests for several diseases at the same time. This means more diseases are likely to be detected and in a more timely manner. For further information, see the [2016 Annual Notifiable Disease Report Commentary](#).

Campylobacteriosis

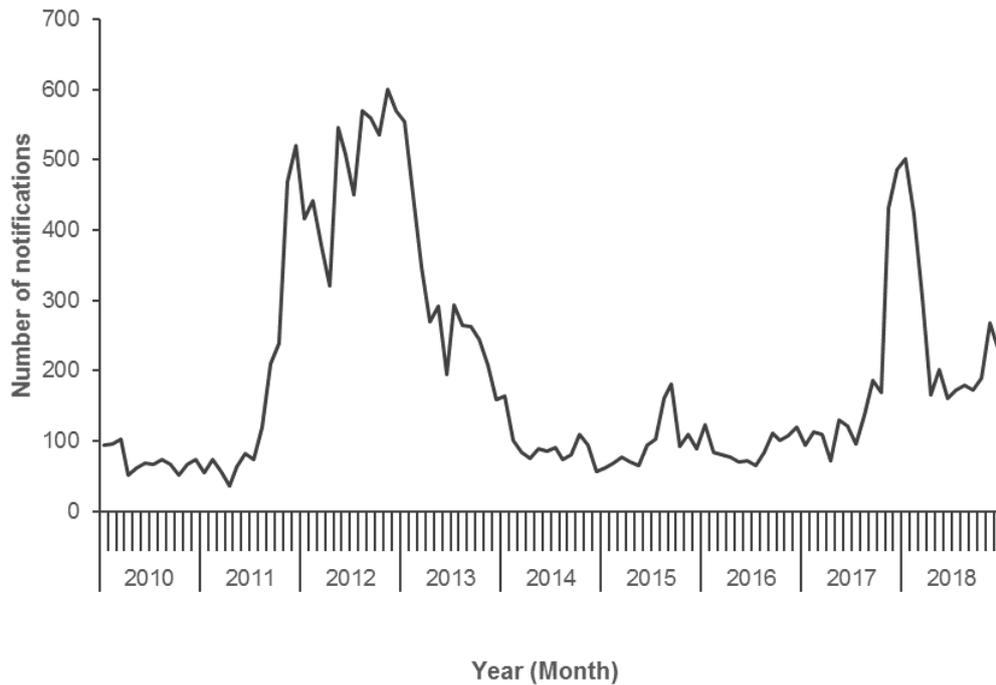
There were 918 cases of campylobacteriosis notified in December 2018, compared with 637 cases for the same month in 2017. The increase largely occurred in the Auckland region and Waikato DHB. Additional case interviews were undertaken in both regions, however no sources were identified. A seasonal increase in cases is expected at this time of year.

MPI launched a [food safety campaign](#) in December to help consumers to avoid *Campylobacter* food poisoning in the home.

Pertussis

There were 236 cases (178 confirmed, 42 probable, 3 suspect and 13 under investigation) of pertussis notified in December 2018, compared with 486 cases for the same month in 2017 (Figure 1). This is a decrease from the 268 cases notified in November and could be affected by reduced access to primary care over the holiday period. A national outbreak is ongoing. For more information see the latest [Pertussis Report](#).

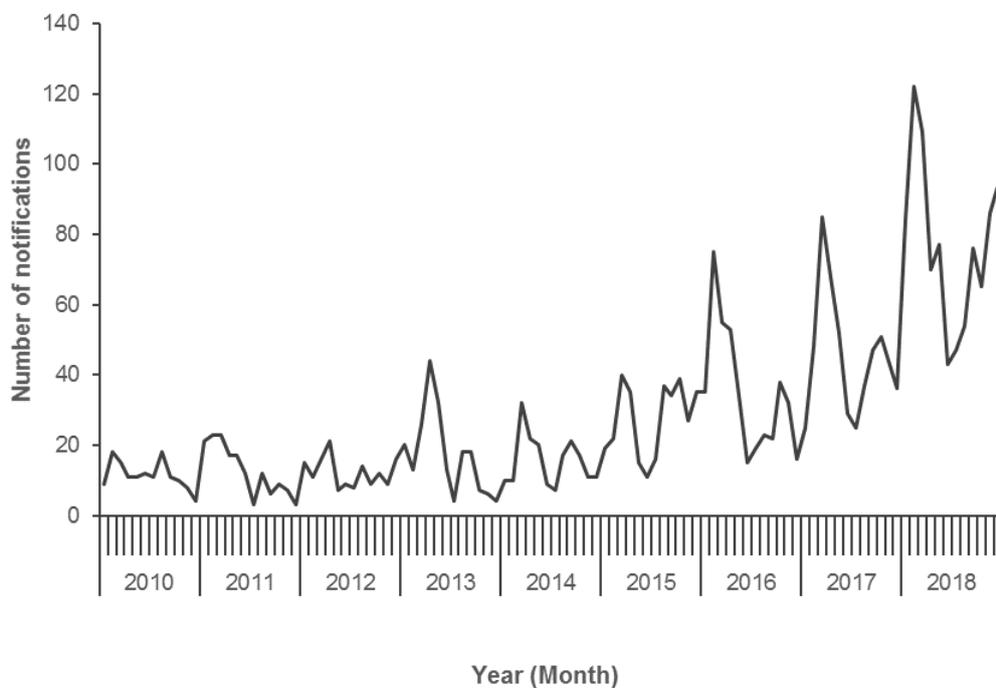
Figure 1. Pertussis notifications by month, January 2010–December 2018



VTEC/STEC infection

There were 93 cases (73 confirmed and 20 under investigation) of VTEC/STEC infection notified in December 2018, compared with 36 for the same month in 2017. VTEC/STEC infections have been increasing since 2015 (Figure 2). For more information on the possible reason for the increase, see the above section on Enteric Diseases.

Figure 2. VTEC/STEC infection notifications by month, January 2010–December 2018



Yersiniosis

There were 70 confirmed cases of yersiniosis notified in December 2018, compared with 46 for the same month in 2017. The total number of yersiniosis notifications for the year was 1208 compared with 917 in 2017. For more information on the possible reason for the increase, see the above section on Enteric Diseases.

OUTBREAKS

Histamine (scombroid) fish poisoning

An outbreak of histamine (scombroid) fish poisoning was reported in December 2018 and involved two cases who ate imported smoked yellow fin tuna purchased from a Wellington supermarket. The product was [recalled](#) on 23 October 2018 as it contained an elevated level of histamine.

TABLES

Tables for December are available as Excel files on the [Public Health Surveillance website](#).