
MONTHLY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Data contained within this monthly report are based on information recorded on EpiSurv by Public Health Service (PHS) staff as at 10 September 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, along with acute gastroenteritis, 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](#).

Dengue Fever

There were 22 cases of dengue fever (19 confirmed, 1 probable and 2 under investigation) notified in August 2019, compared with five for the same month in 2018. Countries visited by the 20 confirmed and probable cases were Fiji (8 cases), Indonesia (5 cases), India, Thailand (2 cases each), Malaysia, Philippines, and Samoa (1 case each). Information on dengue fever in the Pacific is available on the [Safetravel website](#).

Legionellosis

There were 14 cases of Legionellosis (10 confirmed and 4 under investigation) notified in August 2019, compared with four for the same month in 2018. Of the ten confirmed cases, five were due to *Legionella longbeachae* (commonly found in soil and potting mix) and five were due to *L. pneumophila* (which is usually found in warm water).

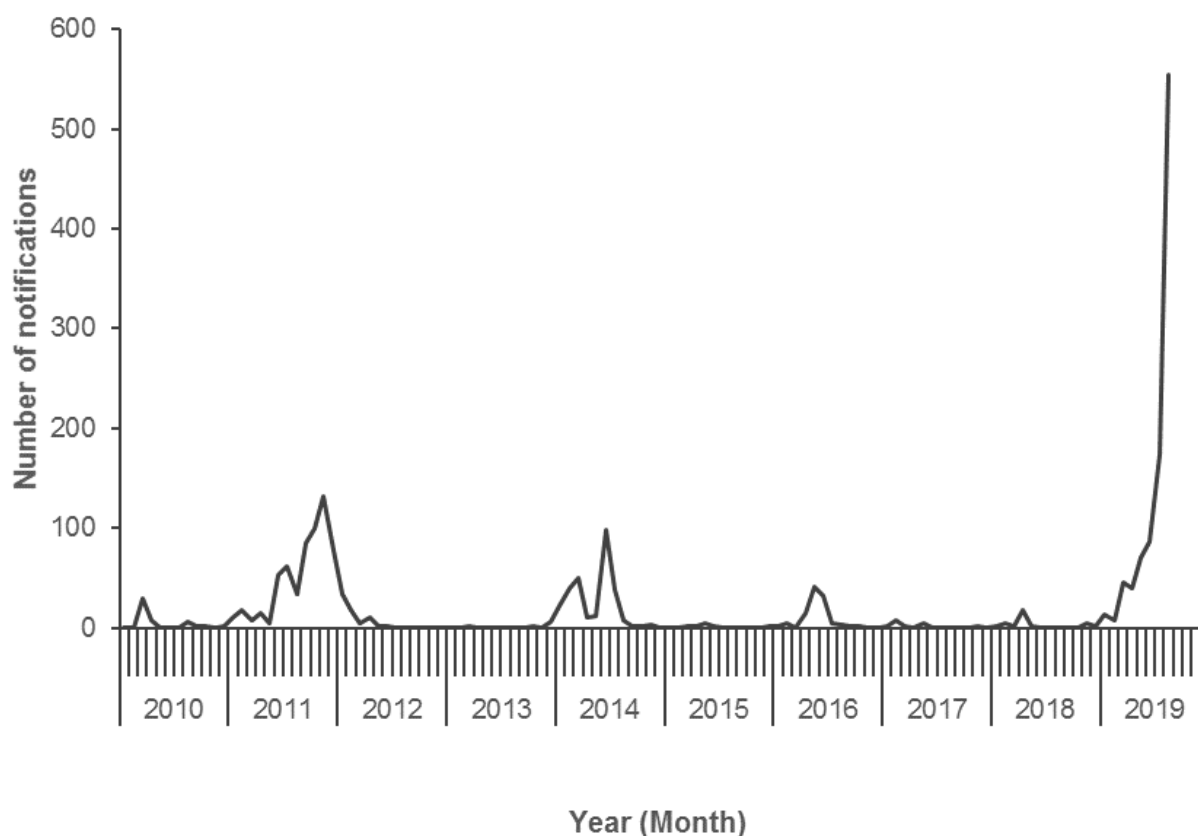
Measles

There were 554 cases (534 confirmed, 12 probable and 8 under investigation) of measles notified in August 2019, bringing the total for January–August to 990 cases (Figure 1). The majority (514 cases, 92.8%) of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region. See the latest [weekly measles surveillance report](#) for more information.

The Ministry of Health activated the [National Health Coordination Centre](#) on Friday 30 August to coordinate the response to the Auckland outbreak and monitor the situation in the rest of New Zealand.

General information on the 2019 measles outbreaks can be found on the Ministry of Health website [here](#).

Figure 1. Measles notifications by month, January 2010–August 2019



Meningococcal disease

There were 14 cases (13 laboratory confirmed and 1 probable) of meningococcal disease notified in August 2019, bringing the total to 91 for the year to date. The group was identified in 11 cases, with five cases identified as group W, four cases as group B, and two cases as group Y. See the latest [meningococcal disease monthly report](#) for more information.

OUTBREAKS

Influenza-like illness

Eleven outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in August 2019. Influenza A was identified in six outbreaks and influenza B in one outbreak. No pathogen was identified in the remaining four outbreaks. Nine outbreaks were in long-term care facilities (6 influenza A) and two were in schools (1 influenza B).

Norovirus

There were seven outbreaks of norovirus reported in August 2019, involving 117 cases. Three outbreaks were in long-term care facilities, two in childcare centres and one in a hospital (acute care). The setting was unknown for one outbreak.

TABLES

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