
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 12 May 2020. 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

Overall decrease in notifications

There was a decrease in the incidence of most notifiable diseases in April 2020, particularly enteric diseases. This is most likely due to behavioural changes as a result of public health messaging about the COVID-19 pandemic, and the national lockdown which began on 25 March. It is likely that exposure to some risk factors decreased during this time, but also that less people sought healthcare and therefore were not tested for many diseases.

COVID-19

There were 742 cases of COVID-19 (463 confirmed, 274 probable, 2 suspect and 3 under investigation) reported in April 2020. The following analysis is restricted to the 737 confirmed and probable cases. The majority of cases were reported from the Auckland region (264/737, 35.8%), and Southern (116/737, 15.7%) and Canterbury (101/737, 13.7%) DHBs. The highest number of cases was in the 20–29 years age group (162, 22.0%). Half (367/737, 49.8%) of the cases were associated with outbreaks. Forty-two cases (5.7%) were hospitalised, and 18 cases (2.4%) died. Three of the cases that died were aged 60–69 years and 15 were aged 70 years and over. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

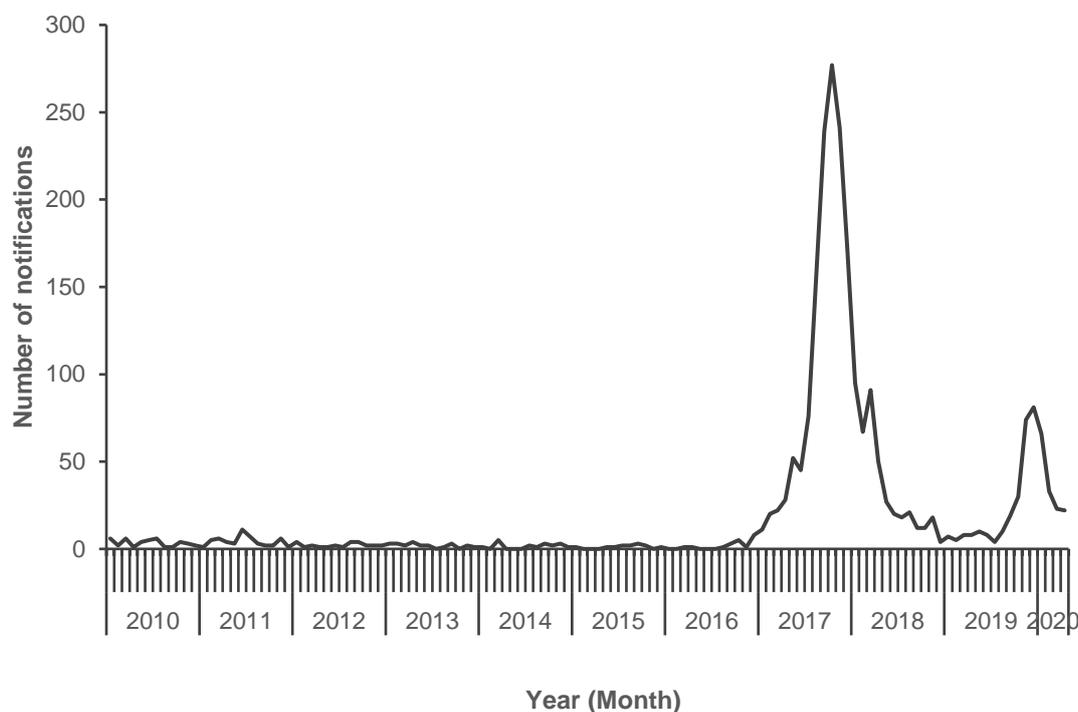
Mumps

There were 22 cases (11 confirmed, 9 probable and 2 under investigation) of mumps notified in April 2020, compared with eight for the same month in 2019. The monthly number of cases has been decreasing since the peak in December 2019 (Figure 1). The majority of cases reported in April were from Southern DHB (11/22, 50.0%) and the Auckland region (9/22, 40.9%). Most cases were aged 15–29 years (20/22, 90.9% cases). Fifteen cases were linked to a mumps outbreak that was reported in March in Southern DHB.

Rheumatic fever

There were 24 cases of rheumatic fever notified in April 2020, compared with 15 for the same month in 2019. Twenty-three were initial episodes (19 confirmed, 3 probable and 1 suspect) and one was a recurrence. The following analysis is restricted to the 22 confirmed and probable initial episodes. The majority were in children 10–14 years (10/22, 45.5%) followed by 5–9 years (6/22, 27.3%). Pacific peoples (13/22, 59.1%), and Māori (8/22, 36.4%) accounted for almost all cases, with one case reported in the European or Other ethnic group. Half of the cases (11/22, 50.0%) were from the Auckland region and six (27.3%) were from Bay of Plenty/Lakes DHBs.

Figure 1. Mumps notifications by month, January 2010–April 2020



Typhoid fever

There were five cases of typhoid fever notified in April 2020, compared with two for the same month in 2019. Two cases were reported from the Auckland region, two from Lakes DHB, and one from Hutt Valley DHB. Four cases had travelled to India during the incubation period. One case, with no history of overseas travel, had been in contact with an overseas visitor from Samoa.

OUTBREAKS

COVID-19

Eighteen outbreaks of COVID-19 were reported in April 2020. Three of the four large outbreaks (over 10 cases) were in aged residential care facilities while the other large outbreak was associated with a social event. For more information, see the [outbreak section on ESR's COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Influenza like illness

Seven outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in April 2020. All seven outbreaks were in long-term care facilities. Ten deaths were reported from three outbreaks. No influenza viruses were identified in any of the outbreaks, however enterovirus/rhinovirus was identified in one outbreak.

Tuberculosis

A household outbreak of tuberculosis was reported in April 2020 from Counties Manukau DHB, involving four cases reported between October 2019 and March 2020. The cases ranged in age from 7 to 68 years and all were of Pacific ethnicity. Three cases were pulmonary (including one that was also extrapulmonary), and one was extrapulmonary.

TABLES

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