
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 13 January 2021. 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

Campylobacteriosis

There were 858 cases of campylobacteriosis notified in December 2020, compared with 657 cases for the same month in 2019. Compared with the 2016–2019 December average, a higher number of cases was reported among males aged 60–69 and 70+ years, and females aged 50–59 and 60–69 years. The DHBs with the largest increase in cases were MidCentral, Bay of Plenty, Southern, Waikato and Canterbury.

COVID-19

There were 107 cases of COVID-19 reported in December 2020 (101 confirmed and 6 under investigation). All of the 101 confirmed cases were imported cases in managed isolation/quarantine (MIQ) facilities at the time of diagnosis. No cases were hospitalised and no deaths were reported. More information can be found on the [ESR COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection

There were 83 cases of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection (64 confirmed and 19 under investigation) reported in December 2020, compared with 60 cases for the same month in 2019. Almost half (39/83) of the cases were aged 50 years and over. Seventeen cases were hospitalised. No cases of haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) were reported. The serotype was identified for 33 cases and 22 (66.7%) were non O157.

OUTBREAKS

Haemophilus influenzae serotype b disease

An outbreak of *Haemophilus influenzae* serotype b disease was reported from West Coast DHB in December 2020, involving two confirmed cases and one probable case living in an extended Christian community. Two cases were aged under 1 year and one was 1–4 years. All three cases were unvaccinated.

Legionellosis

An outbreak of legionellosis was reported from Northland DHB in December 2020 involving three cases who had used a hotel spa pool. All three cases tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 (Lp1) and Lp1 was identified in samples from the spa pool. The spa pool was emptied and is no longer in use. Guests and staff of the hotel were contacted and informed of the potential exposure.

Listeriosis

A cluster of six listeriosis cases with the same sequence type (ST321) was investigated by Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in December 2020. Four of the cases were reported in 2020, one in 2018 and one in 2016. The recent cases were able to be linked to ham products from Pestell's Rai Valley Bacon Limited through whole genome sequencing. More information can be found in the MPI [media release](#).

Norovirus

There were 24 norovirus outbreaks reported in December 2020, of which 16 (66.7%) were in childcare centres. Auckland Regional Public Health Service issued a [media release](#) in December asking childcare centres to use chlorine bleach products for cleaning in order to inactivate the virus, and for everyone to wash their hands with warm water and soap.

TABLES

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