

## 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 April 2023. 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 previous years should be treated with caution.

### KEY NOTIFIABLE DISEASE TRENDS

#### Enteric Diseases

There was an increase in notifications for several enteric diseases in March 2023, compared with the same month in 2022. Lower numbers in March 2022 were likely due to public health measures implemented against COVID-19.

#### Haemophilus influenzae type b

A confirmed case of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b was notified in March 2023. The case was a seasonal worker, aged 15–19 years, and was living in communal accommodation. The case was admitted to ICU with pneumonia. The immunisation status of the case was unknown. No susceptible close contacts were identified.

#### Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 36 confirmed cases of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in March 2023, compared with 28 cases for the same month in 2022. Eight (22.2%) cases were aged under 5 years, 20 (55.6%) were 5–64 years, and eight (22.2%) were aged 65 years and over. One death was reported in an adult. A serotype was identified in 35 (97.2%) cases; the most common serotype was 19A (34.2%, 12 cases). There were four cases of serotype 19A in children aged under 5 years; two cases were age-appropriately vaccinated with PCV10 and the vaccination status was unknown for two cases. From 1 December 2022 the funded vaccine was [changed from PCV10 to PCV13](#), which gives additional protection against serotypes 3, 6A and 19A.

#### Leptospirosis

There were 44 cases of leptospirosis (28 confirmed and 16 under investigation) notified in March 2023, compared with 11 cases for the same month in 2022. The 28 confirmed cases ranged in age from 18 to 73 years, 24 were male and four were female. Thirteen (46.4%) confirmed cases were from Hawke's Bay. Risk factor information was available for 27 confirmed cases; 11 reported exposure to flood water (eight in Hawke's Bay, two in Waikato and one in Tairāwhiti), and all 11 cases also reported contact with animals/livestock. In total, 27 confirmed cases reported exposure to animals, including 22 (81.5%) who had occupational exposure. Eighteen (64.3%) confirmed cases were hospitalised. A serovar was identified for eight confirmed cases, four were due to *Leptospira* Pomona, two were *L. Hardjo*, one was *L. Ballum* and one was *L. Tarassovi*.

## Listeriosis

There were four cases of listeriosis notified in March 2023, compared with no cases for the same month in 2022. Two cases were aged 70 years and over, one was 50–59, and one was 60–69 years. All four cases were hospitalised, and one died. Information on underlying illness was recorded for three cases and all three had an underlying illness. The serotype was identified in three cases: two were due to serotype O1/2 and one was serotype O4.

## Pertussis

There were nine cases of pertussis (8 confirmed and 1 probable) notified in March 2023, compared with two cases for the same month in 2022. Seven cases were reported from Counties Manukau, one from Waikato, and one from Whanganui district. One case was aged under 1 year, one was 1–4 years, three were 5–14 years and four were 20 years and over. Two cases were hospitalised, including an infant aged under 1 year who subsequently died. Vaccination history was known for six cases and three were unvaccinated. Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) issued a [media release](#) on 4 April encouraging vaccination and advising people to be aware of the symptoms of pertussis.

## Rabies

The first case of rabies in New Zealand was reported in March 2023. The case was an overseas traveller who contracted the disease overseas. The case was hospitalised in New Zealand and subsequently died. More information can be found in the Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) [media release](#).

## Typhoid fever

There were 11 confirmed cases of typhoid fever notified in March 2023, compared with six cases for the same month in 2019 (pre-COVID-19). All 11 cases were hospitalised. Eight cases were overseas (India (6), Fiji (1), and Pakistan (1)) during the incubation period. Of the three cases with no overseas travel, one consumed imported seafood, one had occupational exposure in a microbiology laboratory and for one case the investigation is ongoing.

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# OUTBREAKS

## Gastroenteritis

There were 97 gastroenteritis illness outbreaks reported in March 2023. A pathogen was identified in 27 outbreaks, and 26 of these were due to norovirus. The majority (68/97, 70.1%) were in childcare centres, including 18/26 (69.2%) norovirus outbreaks, and 12 were in long term care facilities.

## Respiratory Illness

There were four respiratory illness outbreaks reported in March 2023. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was identified in three and rhinovirus in one. The three RSV outbreaks were in childcare centres and several children were hospitalised. The rhinovirus outbreak was in a long-term care facility.

## Tuberculosis

An outbreak of tuberculosis was reported from Waitemata in March 2023, involving three cases. The cases ranged in age from 2 to 14 years and were part of an extended family. Two cases were hospitalised.

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# TABLES

Tables for March are available as Excel files on the [Ngā Kete Intelligence Hub](#).