

## 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 11 September 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

#### Giardiasis

There were 86 cases of giardiasis notified in August 2023, compared with 48 cases for the same month in 2022. The highest number of confirmed cases were reported from the Auckland region (33 cases), followed by Bay of Plenty/Lakes (12 cases) and Waikato (11 cases). The most commonly reported risk factors were contact with farm animals (13/34, 38.2%), contact with faecal matter (12/33, 36.4%), contact with other symptomatic people (11/32, 34.3%), and attendance at school, preschool or childcare (12/36, 33.3%).

#### Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 97 cases (96 confirmed and 1 under investigation) of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in August 2023, compared with 78 for the same month in 2022. Eight (8.3%) confirmed cases were aged under 5 years, 10 (10.4%) were 5–14 years, 42 (43.8%) were 15–64 years, and 36 (37.5%) were aged 65 years and over. A serotype was identified in 84 (87.5%) cases; the most common serotype was 19A (41.7%, 35 cases), followed by 8 (16.7%, 14 cases).

#### Leptospirosis

There were 17 cases (15 confirmed and 2 under investigation) of leptospirosis notified in August 2023, compared with six cases for the same month in 2022. The 15 confirmed cases ranged in age from 17 to 73 years, 13 were male and two were female. Risk factor information was available for 14 confirmed cases; 13 reported exposure to animals including 10 who were exposed as part of their occupation; one case acquired the disease overseas. A serovar was identified for nine confirmed cases; three were *Leptospira* Hardjo, three were *L. Ballum*, two were *L. Pomona*, and one *L. Tarassovi*. The six remaining cases were confirmed by PCR.

#### Pertussis

There were 34 cases (31 confirmed and 3 probable) of pertussis notified in August 2023, compared with three for the same month in 2022. Five cases were aged under 1 year, four were 1–4 years, eight cases were aged 5–14 years, and 17 cases were aged 15 years and over. Over half (19/32, 62.5%) of the cases with a known ethnicity were Māori. Seven cases were hospitalised, including four infants aged under 1 year. Three household outbreaks were reported involving 21 cases.

## Rheumatic fever

There were 25 cases of rheumatic fever (19 confirmed, 3 probable, 2 suspect and 1 under investigation) notified in August 2023, compared with 10 for the same month in 2022. Twenty-four cases were initial episodes, and one was a recurrent episode. Ten (40.0%) cases were reported from Counties Manukau. Nineteen cases were aged 5–14 years, two were 15–19 years and four were aged 20 years and over. All except one case were Māori or Pacific. For the year to date, there have been 144 notifications of rheumatic fever, which is higher than for the same period in each of the last four years (2019–2022).

## Shigellosis

There were 18 confirmed cases of shigellosis notified in August 2023, compared with 10 for the same month in 2022. Three cases were hospitalised. Information on overseas travel was recorded for 17 cases and 11 were overseas during the incubation period. The countries most commonly visited were India (3) and Mexico (2). Five cases reported contact with other symptomatic people, including four who were MSM, one case had consumed raw sea cucumber and three cases had no identified risk factors.

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# OUTBREAKS

## Cryptosporidiosis

An outbreak of cryptosporidiosis was reported from MidCentral in August 2023, involving seven confirmed cases. The cases were veterinary students at Massey University, and all had contact with calves at various work placement sites.

## Respiratory illness

There were 15 respiratory illness outbreaks reported in August 2023. Thirteen were due to influenza-like illness/acute respiratory infection (three were identified as influenza A and two RSV), and two were due to COVID-19. Nine outbreaks were in long term care facilities, five were in childcare centres, and one was in a hospital.

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# TABLES

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