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 15 January 2024. 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

Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 63 cases (60 confirmed) of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in December 2023, compared with 41 cases for the same month in 2022. Seven (11.7%) confirmed cases were aged under 5 years, 25 (41.7%) were 5–64 years, and 28 (46.7%) were aged 65 years and over. A serotype was identified in 50 (83.3%) cases; the most common serotype was 8 (12 cases, 16.0%), followed by 19A (22.0%, 11 cases). There were two cases of serotype 19A in children aged under 5 years: one case was partially vaccinated, and the other was unvaccinated. From 1 December 2022 the funded vaccine was changed from PCV10 to PCV13, which gives additional protection against serotypes 3, 6A and 19A.

Legionellosis

There were 36 cases of legionellosis (35 confirmed and 1 probable) notified in December 2023, compared with 31 cases for the same month in 2022. The species was identified in 32 cases: 25 (80.6%) were due to *Legionella longbeachae* which is associated with compost and potting mix, six (19.4%) were due to *L. pneumophila* which is associated with warm water systems, and one was due to *L. sainthelensi*. Twelve (33.3%) cases were reported from Canterbury district. One case aged 70 years and over with *L. longbeachae* died. An increase in legionellosis is expected in the spring and summer months due to [increased gardening activities](#).

Pertussis

There were 22 cases (18 confirmed and 4 probable) of pertussis reported in December 2023, compared with one case for the same month in 2022. Two cases were aged under 1 year, four were 1–4 years, seven were 5–14 years, and nine were aged 15 years and over. Four cases were hospitalised, including one infant aged under 1 year. Three household outbreaks were reported involving 10 cases. More information on trends in pertussis notifications can be found on [ESR's Pertussis Dashboard](#).

Tuberculosis disease

There were 40 cases (30 confirmed, 6 probable and 4 under investigation) of tuberculosis notified in December 2023, compared with 23 cases for the same month in 2022. Thirty-eight (95.0%) were new cases and two were relapses or reactivations. Half (18/36) of the confirmed and probable cases were from the Auckland region. Of the 30 confirmed and probable cases with a site recorded, 21 (66.5%) were extrapulmonary only, eight (26.7%) were pulmonary only, and one (3.3%) had both pulmonary and extrapulmonary disease. The majority (77.8%,28/36) of confirmed and probable cases were of Asian ethnicity. Most (31/35) of the confirmed and probable cases were born outside New Zealand.

OUTBREAKS

Acute gastroenteritis

There were 94 acute gastroenteritis illness outbreaks reported in December 2023 compared with 26 for the same period in 2022. A pathogen was identified in 27 outbreaks: 19 were due to norovirus, five were rotavirus, two were due to sapovirus, and in one outbreak both norovirus and sapovirus were identified. The majority (57.4%,54/94) were in childcare centres followed by long term care facilities (33.0%,31/94).

Mpox

An outbreak of mpox was reported in December 2023 in the Auckland region, involving five cases. None of the cases had travelled overseas during the incubation period. These are the first locally-acquired cases of mpox since November 2022. More information on mpox can be found here.

Respiratory illness

There were seven respiratory illness outbreaks reported in December 2023. All seven outbreaks were due to COVID-19 and were in long term care facilities.

TABLES

Tables for December are available as Excel files on the Ngā Kete Intelligence Hub.