

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 10 May 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

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Two confirmed cases of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b were notified in April 2023. The cases were from Waikato and Nelson Marlborough districts. One case was aged under 1 year and was age-appropriately vaccinated, and the other was aged 1–4 years and was not vaccinated. Both cases were hospitalised.

Invasive pneumococcal disease

There were 55 confirmed cases of invasive pneumococcal disease notified in April 2023, compared with 29 cases for the same month in 2022. Seven (12.7%) cases were aged under 5 years, 20 (36.4%) were 5–64 years, and 28 (50.9%) were aged 65 years and over. A serotype was identified in 52 (94.5%) cases; the most common serotype was 19A (34.6%, 18 cases). There were two cases of serotype 19A in children aged under 5 years; one case was age-appropriately vaccinated, and one case had an unknown vaccination status. 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 24 cases of leptospirosis (20 confirmed, 1 probable and 3 under investigation) notified in April 2023, compared with seven cases for the same month in 2022. The 21 confirmed and probable cases ranged in age from 24 to 73 years, 17 were male and four were female. Three cases were from Hawke's Bay. Risk factor information was available for 18 confirmed and probable cases; two reported exposure to flood water (one from Hawke's Bay and one from Northland), and both also reported contact with animals/livestock. In total, 15 cases reported exposure to animals, including 11 (73.3%) who were exposed as part of their occupation, and seven cases reported exposure to streams/rivers/lakes. A serovar was identified for 12 confirmed and probable cases; seven were *Leptospira* Hardjo, two were *L. Ballum*, one was *L. Copenhageni*, one was *L. Pomona* and one was *L. Australis*.

Pertussis

There were 11 cases of pertussis (9 confirmed, 1 probable and 1 suspect) notified in April 2023, compared with no cases for the same month in 2022. Seven cases were reported from Counties Manukau. Four cases were aged under 1 year, one was 1–4 years, one was 10–14 years and five were 20 years and over. Four cases were hospitalised, including three infants aged under 1 year. Ten cases were vaccinated, and one was not vaccinated.

Rheumatic fever

There were 22 cases of rheumatic fever (16 confirmed, 2 probable, 3 suspect and 1 under investigation) notified in April, compared with nine for the same month in 2022. Cases were reported from Counties Manukau (8 cases), Hutt Valley (5 cases), Waitemata (3 cases), Lakes (2 cases), Northland, Auckland, Waikato and MidCentral (1 case each) districts. Fourteen cases were aged 5–14 years, eight were aged 20 years and over. The majority (21/22 cases) were Māori or Pacific. For the year to date, there have been 53 notifications of rheumatic fever, which is higher than for the same period in 2021 and 2022 but lower than 2019 and 2020.

Yersiniosis

There were 97 confirmed cases of yersiniosis notified in April 2023, compared with 66 for the same month in 2022. Adults aged 60 years and over accounted for the highest number of cases (25 cases, 25.8%), followed by children aged under 5 years (20 cases, 20.6%). *Yersinia enterocolitica* biotype 2/3 serotype O:9 was identified in the majority (63/74, 85.1%) of cases that had been typed.

Typhoid fever

There were 10 confirmed cases of typhoid fever notified in April 2023, compared with two cases for the same month in 2019 (pre-COVID-19). Eight cases were hospitalised. All 10 cases were overseas during the incubation period, nine in India and one in Samoa.

OUTBREAKS

Ongoing outbreaks

Three further case of hepatitis A were linked to the outbreak associated with frozen berries, bringing the total to 39 cases. All had identical (or near identical) genetic sequence profiles. New Zealand Food Safety investigations concluded that imported frozen berries from Serbia were the likely source.

Respiratory illness

There were three respiratory illness outbreaks reported in April 2023. Two outbreaks were influenza-like illness (rhinovirus was identified in one) and one was due to COVID-19. All three outbreaks were in long-term care facilities.

TABLES

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