Science for Communities
He Pūtaiao, He Tāngata

January 2024

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 February 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

Cryptosporidiosis

There were 67 cases (65 confirmed and 2 under investigation) of cryptosporidiosis notified in January 2024, compared with 42 cases for the same month of 2023. The cases were geographically dispersed. The highest number of cases were reported from Te Waipounamu region (Canterbury (20 cases)) and the Northen region (Waitemata (9 cases). Of the cases where risk factor information was recorded, 39.1% (9/23) had recreational water contact, 25.0% (7/28) were overseas, and 19.0% (4/21) had contact with farm animals during the incubation period.

Hepatitis A

There were nine confirmed cases of hepatitis A notified in January 2024, compared with two cases for the same month in 2023. Three cases were aged 5–14 years, three were 20–29 years, and one each were aged 30–39, 40–49 and 60–69 years. The cases were reported from the Central region (Capital and Coast (4 cases) and Hawke's Bay (2 cases)), the Northern region (Counties Manukau (2 cases)), and Te Waipounamu region (Southern (1 case)). Six cases were hospitalised. Eight cases were overseas during the incubation period. The countries visited were India (5 cases), Australia and Fiji (2 cases each). One case reported travel to more than one country. Three of the cases from Capital and Coast were part of an outbreak associated with travel to India.

Mosquito-borne diseases

A total of 17 (confirmed) cases of mosquito-borne diseases were notified in January 2024, as follows:

Chikungunya fever
A confirmed case of chikungunya fever was notified in January 2024. The case was aged 30–39 years and had travelled to Philippines during the incubation period.

Dengue fever
Eight confirmed cases of dengue fever were notified in January 2024, compared with three cases for the same month in 2023. Four cases were aged 20–29 years and two each were aged 15–19 and 30–39 years. Six cases were hospitalised. The cases had travelled to Philippines (2 cases), Indonesia (2 cases), Argentina, India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam (1 case each). One case reported travel to more than one country.

Malaria
There were seven confirmed cases of malaria notified in January 2024, compared with five cases for the same month in 2023. Five were hospitalised. Three cases each were aged 20–29 and 30–39 years, and one was aged 50–59 years. The cases had been in Papua New Guinea (3 cases), Solomon Islands (2 cases), Pakistan and Zambia (1 case each).

Zika virus
A confirmed case of Zika virus infection was notified in January 2024. The case was aged 40–49 years and had travelled to Thailand during the incubation period.

Mpox

There were two cases of mpox (1 confirmed and 1 probable) notified in January 2024. Both cases were locally acquired. This brings the total number of mpox cases reported in New Zealand to 51, since it became notifiable on 9 June 2022. More information on mpox can be found here.

Pertussis

There were 14 cases (12 confirmed, 1 probable and 1 suspect) of pertussis notified in January 2024, compared with one case for the same month in 2023. Four cases were aged under 1 year, four were 1–4 years, two were 5–14 years, and four were aged 15 years and over. Six cases were hospitalised, including all four infants aged under 1 year. One household outbreak was reported involving two cases. More information on trends in pertussis notifications can be found on ESR's Pertussis Dashboard

Rheumatic fever

There were 22 cases of rheumatic fever (13 confirmed, 5 probable and 4 suspect) notified in January 2024, compared with 11 cases for the same month in 2023. All of the cases were initial episodes. Over half (63.6%, 14/22) of the cases were from the Northern region. Thirteen cases were aged 5–14 years, and nine were aged over 20 years. The majority (86.4%, 19/22 cases) were of Māori or Pacific ethnicity.

Shigellosis

There were 20 confirmed cases of shigellosis notified in January 2024, compared with seven for the same month in 2023. Nine cases were hospitalised. Information on overseas travel was recorded for 20 cases and 14 were overseas during the incubation period. The countries most commonly visited were Samoa (5 cases) and Australia (2 cases). Three cases identified MSM as risk factor. Four cases had no identified risk factors.

OUTBREAKS

Respiratory illness

There were nine outbreaks reported due to COVID-19 in January 2024, eight in long term care facilities and one in a childcare centre.

Two influenza A outbreaks were reported, one in the Central region (Capital and Coast) and one in the Te Manawa Taki region (Waikato) in January 2024. Both outbreaks were in long term care facilities. The Capital and Coast district outbreak involved 18 cases and one associated death. The Waikato district outbreak involved 28 cases and six associated deaths. More information can be found here.

Yersiniosis

An outbreak of yersiniosis was reported from the Te Waipounamu region (Canterbury district) in January 2024, involving 18 cases in a long term care facility. The mode of transmission was person-to-person. The source was not identified.

TABLES

Tables for January are available as Excel files on the ESR Digital Library.