

June 2019

## PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

### STI notifications

We have had several enquiries recently about how to notify Syphilis, gonorrhoea, AIDS and HIV.

For notification of **syphilis, gonorrhoea** and **AIDS**, go to the ESR STI surveillance web page and follow the relevant instructions (link below) [https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public\\_health\\_surveillance/sti\\_surveillance.php](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php).

Notification must be made through this process, and cannot be made by phone. We recommend that you save this link to your favourites, as it can be difficult to find when needed.

Cases of **HIV infection** are notified directly by laboratories, but the AIDS Epidemiology Group will then send a link to an HIV notification form for completion by notifying health practitioners.

### Dengue fever in the Pacific

We have had a greater than usual number of dengue fever notifications in the Waikato this year. There are currently dengue fever outbreaks in the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

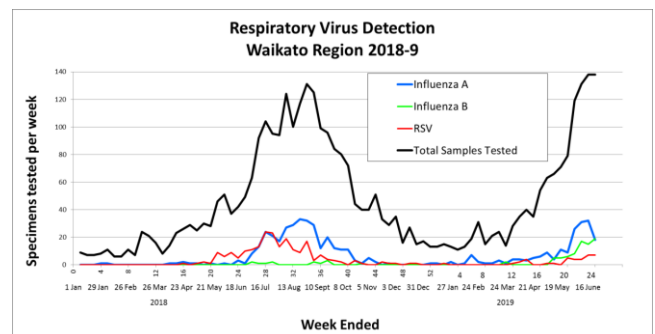
Fiji has not reported a dengue fever outbreak; however the majority of cases notified in the Waikato this year are in travellers returning from Fiji.

Dengue fever is a viral disease spread by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, and cannot be spread from person to person.

Travellers intending to travel to the Pacific should be advised to avoid mosquito bites (see <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/travelling/avoiding-bug-bites-while-travelling>)

### Influenza

The 2019 Influenza season is well underway. Our thanks to those involved in sentinel surveillance for ESR. From the Waikato Respiratory Virus report (Week 24 2019) it appears we could be at the peak for Influenza A, but B is still increasing.



Unfortunately the Ministry of Health have identified issues with vaccine supply:

The distribution of influenza vaccine in New Zealand has reached near record levels. Around 1.3 million doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed already this winter. This number is close to last year's all-time record of 1.326 million doses for the entire season, and exceeds the number of doses distributed each year in 2016 and 2017. We appreciate the hard work that providers have undertaken to deliver influenza vaccine to this extent.

Due to continued high demand for the influenza vaccine, there is no more Influvac Tetra available to order from HCL and your existing orders for Influvac Tetra have had to be cancelled. Strictly limited stocks of Fluarix Tetra can still be ordered, with a maximum order of 5 doses. **Limited stock of Afluria Quad will however also be available for eligible patients.**

The Ministry of Health is asking General Practices and Pharmacists to prioritise vaccinating those at greatest risk of influenza:

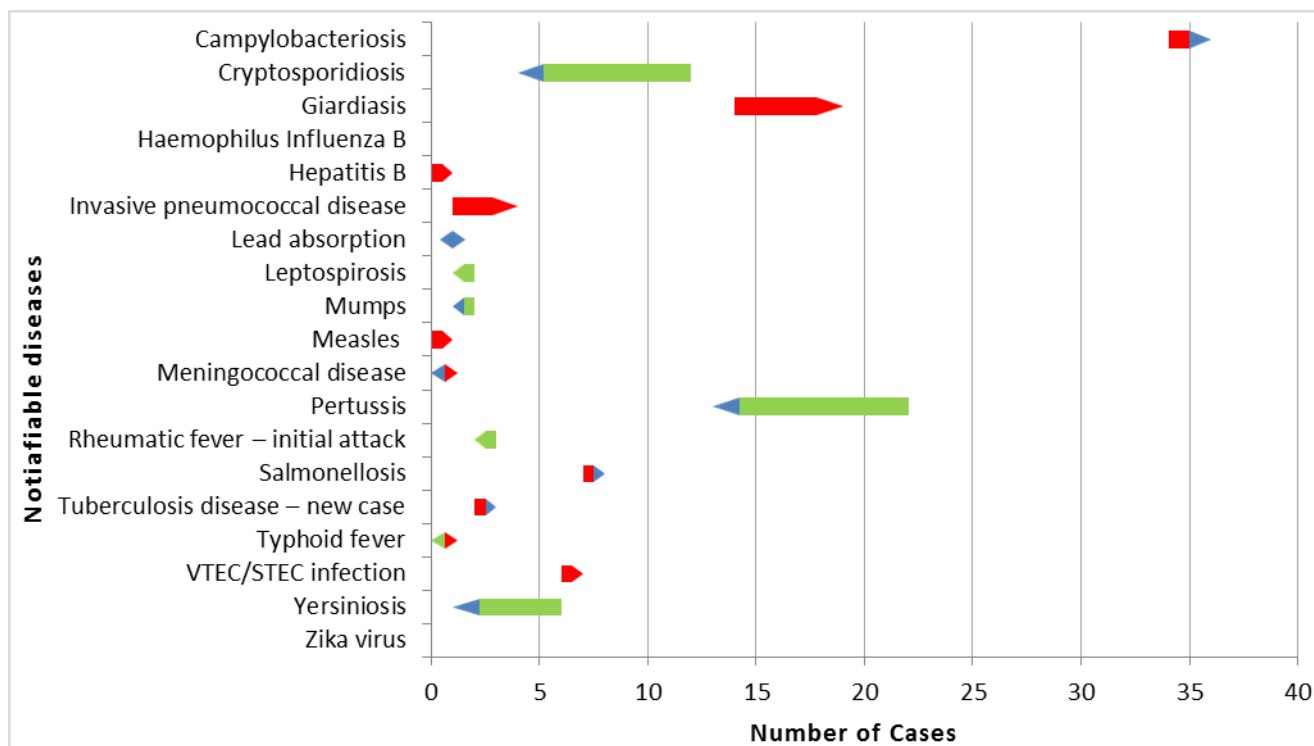
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 4 and under with serious respiratory illnesses
- People with severe asthma, heart disease, diabetes and other serious health conditions that make them more susceptible to influenza
- Those aged 65 and over.

The highest priority groups are pregnant women and young children with structural lung disease.

**Communicable diseases notified May 2019**

Disease name	May 2018	May 2019	YTD	Disease name	May 2018	May 2019	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	34	36	242	Meningococcal disease	0	0	3
Cryptosporidiosis	12	4	17	Mumps	2	1	3
Cysticercosis	1	0	0	Murine Typhus	1	0	0
Dengue fever	2	7	26	Pertussis	22	13	103
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	0	0	2	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	3	2	6
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	0	9	44	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	1	0	3
Giardiasis	14	19	92	Salmonellosis	7	8	43
Hepatitis A	0	1	6	Shigellosis	0	1	7
Hepatitis B	0	1	2	Tetanus	0	0	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	1	4	15	Toxic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0	0
Lead absorption	1	1	11	Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	3	17
Latent Tuberculosis	5	2	9	Tuberculosis disease – relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Legionellosis	1	0	1	Typhoid fever	0	0	2
Leptospirosis	2	1	4	VTEC/STEC infection	6	7	56
Malaria	0	0	1	Yersiniosis	6	1	27
Measles	0	1	14				

**Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), May 2019 compared to May 2018, Waikato DHB**



**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble -- Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins

**After hours:**

**MOoH 021 359 650**

**HPO 021 999 521**

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital’s switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

**During office hours:**

**Population Health (MOoH or HPO) (07) 838 2569**

**Notifications 07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020**

**Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977**

**Fax: 07 838 2382**

**Email: [notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)**