



December 2018

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

The Public Health Unit wishes everyone and their whanau a safe, happy and healthy festive season.

Welcome to Kelly

Our new Clinical Nurse Specialist, Kelly Reddington, joined the team in late November, replacing Michelle Morley. Kelly was a Public Health Nurse for nearly 10 years in the Huntly and Hamilton areas and prior to that worked in the medical paediatric ward. She will be working in the Rheumatic Fever area and more generally on some notifiable Communicable Diseases.

Vaccinations for year 7 and 8 students

This is a reminder that these vaccinations are administered through the annual school based vaccination programme here in the Waikato. The public health nurses who run this programme are requesting that GPs only recall their patients who have missed these vaccinations at school (and are now overdue for their year 7 and 8 vaccinations) once they have turned 14 years of age. This will avoid duplication and confusion.

Notification of sexually transmitted infections

The new system for the notification of AIDS, HIV infection, syphilis and gonorrhoea, using non-identifiable data, is now in operation.

For **syphilis, gonorrhoea** and **AIDS**, go to the [ESR STI surveillance web page](#)¹ and follow the relevant instructions.

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.

Meningococcal Disease

There has been a significant increase in *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup W (MenW) in New Zealand since mid-2017 as well as a steady increase in the overall number of cases of all serogroups throughout the country. Northland has been badly affected by the W strain and recently started a three week free targeted vaccination programme to halt the strain of meningococcal disease. This programme is only available to Northland residents, and is not

available to those travelling to Northland for the summer holidays.

We do not currently have a meningococcal disease outbreak in the Waikato region. We have not had any reported cases of the W strain so far this year, and the overall number of meningococcal cases remains similar to recent years. However, we recognise that your practices may have experienced an increased number of families requesting meningococcal vaccinations as a result of media coverage. The Ministry of Health advises that outside of Northland the recommendations and criteria for publicly funded (free) meningococcal vaccine remain unchanged from those listed in the Immunisation handbook.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immshandbook-12-meningococcal-disease-mar18-v3.pdf>

It's important to keep a high level of suspicion for meningococcal disease, and to be aware that the W strain can present atypically. The Ministry of Health has updated its guidance on antibiotic treatment of suspected meningococcal infections presenting in primary care, with ceftriaxone now being the recommended first choice. See the Ministry of Health website for further information:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/meningococcal/meningococcal-disease-information-general-practitioners-and-emergency-departments>

Campylobacter

There has been a significant increase in the notification of Campylobacter in the Waikato and Auckland in recent weeks. No common cause has yet been identified, however please consider Campylobacter infection as we enter BBQ season, or following the usual risk factors (raw milk consumption, livestock ownership, drinking untreated water), and remind people to wash their hands!

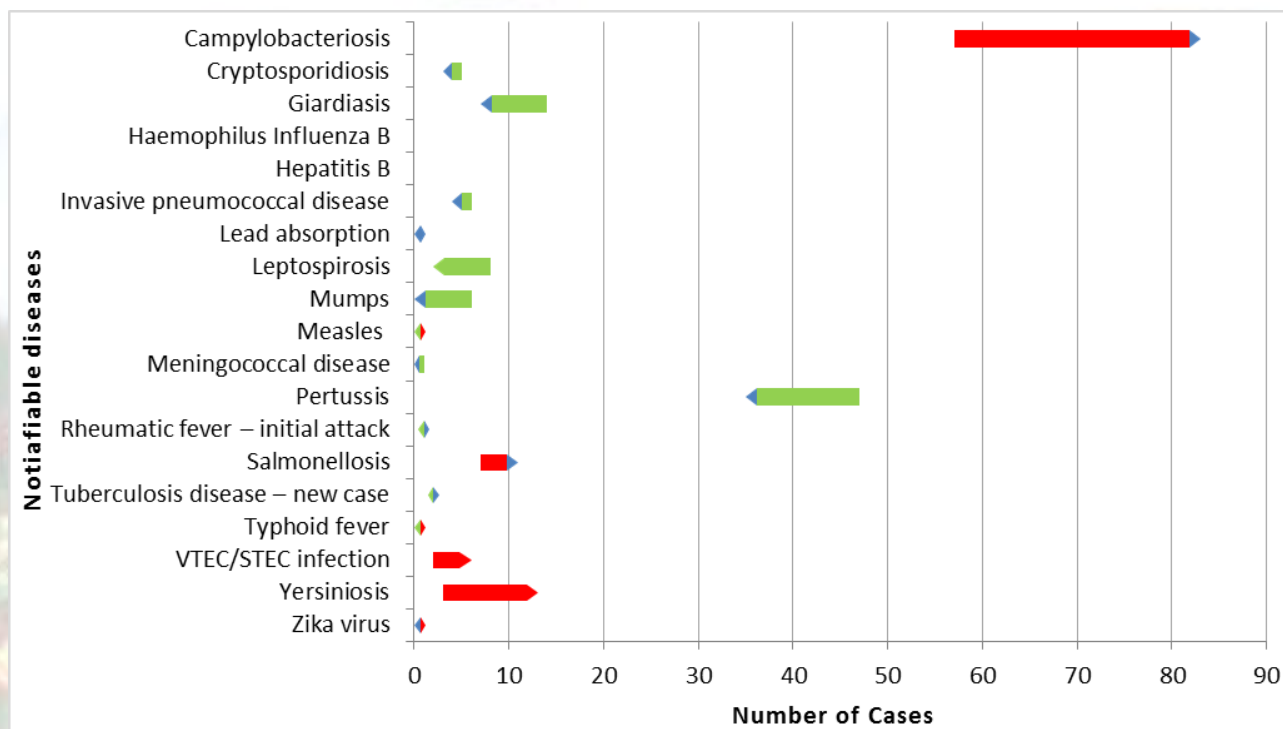
¹ ESR STI surveillance page

https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php

Communicable diseases notified November 2018

Disease name	Nov 2017	Nov 2018	YTD	Disease name	Nov 2017	Nov 2018	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	57	83	562	Meningococcal disease	1	0	8
Cryptosporidiosis	5	3	128	Mumps	6	0	9
Cysticercosis	0	0	1	Murine Typhus	0	0	1
Dengue fever	0	0	22	Pertussis	47	35	312
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	4	0	2	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	1	9
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	0	0	3	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	0	0	1
Giardiasis	14	7	141	Rickettsial Disease	0	0	1
Invasive pneumococcal disease	6	4	42	Salmonellosis	7	11	104
Latent Tuberculosis	11	2	46	Shigellosis	1	1	14
Lead absorption	0	0	5	Toxic Shellfish	0	0	1
Legionellosis	4	1	6	Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	2	16
Leptospirosis	8	2	21	Tuberculosis disease – relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Listeriosis	0	1		Typhoid fever	0	0	3
Malaria	0	0	3	VTEC/STEC infection	2	6	46
Measles	0	0	1	Yersiniosis	3	13	81
				Zika virus	0	0	1

Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), November 2018 compared to November 2017, 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