

PUBLIC HEALTH POST

Public Health for Primary Care in Wellington, Wairarapa and the Hutt Valley

Also available online at www.rph.org.nz

Issue 36 - March 2019



GOOD NEWS FOR SWIMMERS AND SPLASHERS! CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS NOTIFICATIONS LOW COMPARED TO EARLY 2018

After a large peak in cryptosporidiosis notifications in early 2018, there was public health concern of a sustained high baseline for cryptosporidiosis in our population, either due to a larger number of infections in the community or as a result of changes in testing practice. However, indications from the later parts of 2018 and early 2019 suggest that the trend for increased levels of cryptosporidiosis has not been perpetuated: levels are back at a similar baseline as in years prior to 2018.

This will be a relief to public health officers and to swimming pool and splash pad operators alike. Data will continue to be monitored to see if this trend continues. The 2018 peak was at least in part due to cases associated with a local splash pad (see The Public Health Post, Issue

32, Feb 2018, <http://www.rph.org.nz/resources/newsletters/the-public-health-post/issue-32-february-2018.pdf>). The resulting response included additional cleaning measures at the time, and subsequent installation of a UV treatment filtration system in the splash pad.

Others common enteric infections including campylobacteriosis, giardiasis, salmonellosis and yersiniosis have shown similar trends to previous years.

Sources:

1. EpiSurv database of notifiable conditions 2019 [accessed 18/3/2019].
2. Regional Public Health. Notifiable condition surveillance records.

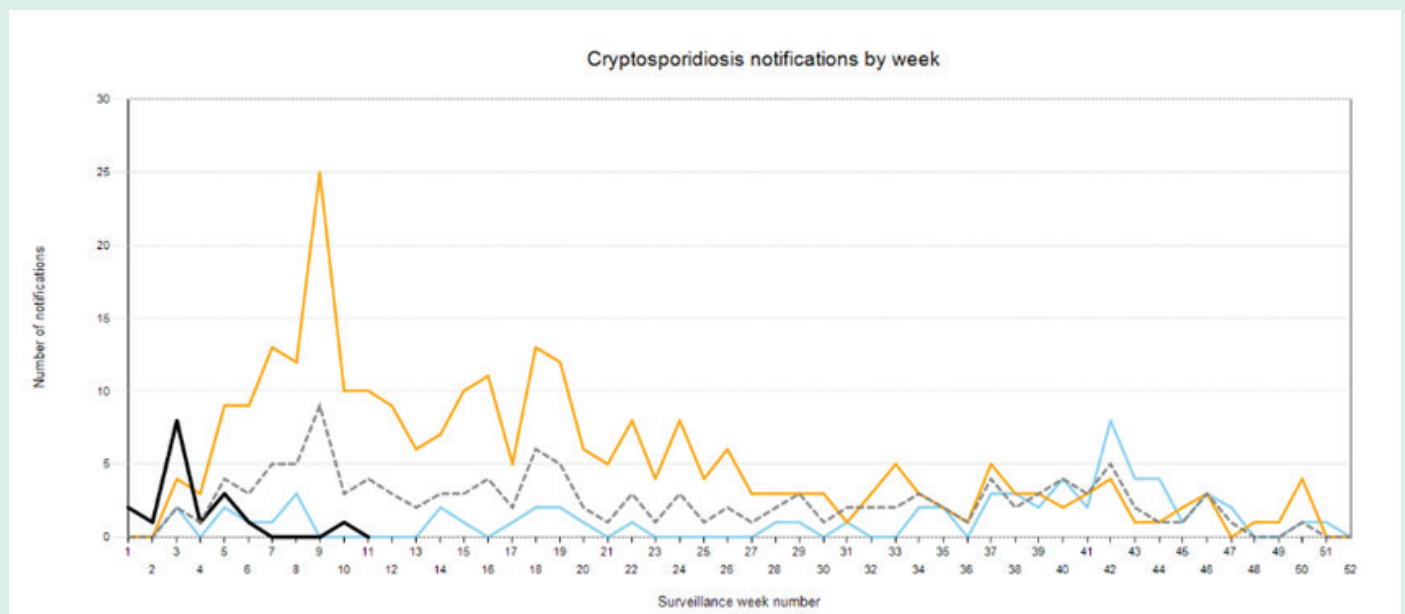


Figure: Cryptosporidiosis notifications by week Source: EpiSurv database on notifiable conditions 2019 (accessed 18/03/2019)

WHAT ARE YOU REPORTING?

THREE MONTHS OF NOTIFIED CASES IN THE HUTT VALLEY, WAIRARAPA, WELLINGTON

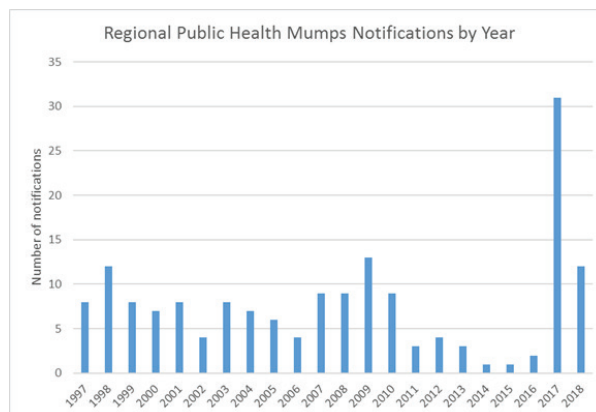
Dr Jonathan Kennedy, Medical Officer, Regional Public Health

Table 1. Notified cases by DHB in the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa and Wellington 01/10/2018-31/12/2018.
Table includes 'confirmed' cases with additional 'probable' cases in brackets.

Notifiable Condition	Number of cases (confirmed cases only)			
	Hutt	Wairarapa	Wellington	Total
Campylobacteriosis	69	126	27	222
Cryptosporidiosis	5	13	2	20
Dengue fever		1(1)		1(1)
Gastroenteritis	0(4)	3(5)	0(2)	3(11)
Giardiasis	6	31	7	44
Hepatitis C		1		1
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	8	3	16
Leptospirosis			1	1
Listeriosis		1	1	2
Malaria		0(1)		0(1)
Meningococcal disease	1	4	1	6
Mumps		0(1)		0(1)
Paratyphoid fever		1		1
Pertussis	30(3)	86(6)	19(4)	135(13)
Rheumatic fever	2	0(1)		2(1)
Salmonellosis	7	21	1	29
Shigellosis		2(1)		2(1)
Tuberculosis disease	1(2)	8(2)	0(1)	9(5)
VTEC/STEC infection	8	19	6	33
Yersiniosis	17	25	2	44
Grand Total	151(9)	350(18)	70(7)	571(34)

Notes (1-2)

1. Dengue fever cases all had visited countries with endemic dengue fever during their incubation periods.
2. Listeria was notified in an immunosuppressed 80 year old woman who also had positive tests for yersinia and STEC infections.
3. Mumps cases dropped back in 2018 compared to 2017 with sporadic notification such as the one 'probable' case reported in a 4 year old boy from Porirua in October 2018.



Source: ESR. EpiSurv N018 Report. Excludes 'not a case' notifications. Accessed 4/2/2019

4. Confirmed paratyphoid fever was reported in a 27 year old woman who had visited China, and Cambodia during the incubation period.
5. Rheumatic fever was notified for a 15 year old female from Porirua and a 13 year old male from Lower Hutt.
6. Culture positive shigellosis cases had visited countries with endemic shigella during their incubation periods.

References

1. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd. EpiSurv database of notifiable conditions. 2018.
2. Regional Public Health. Notifiable condition surveillance records. 2018.

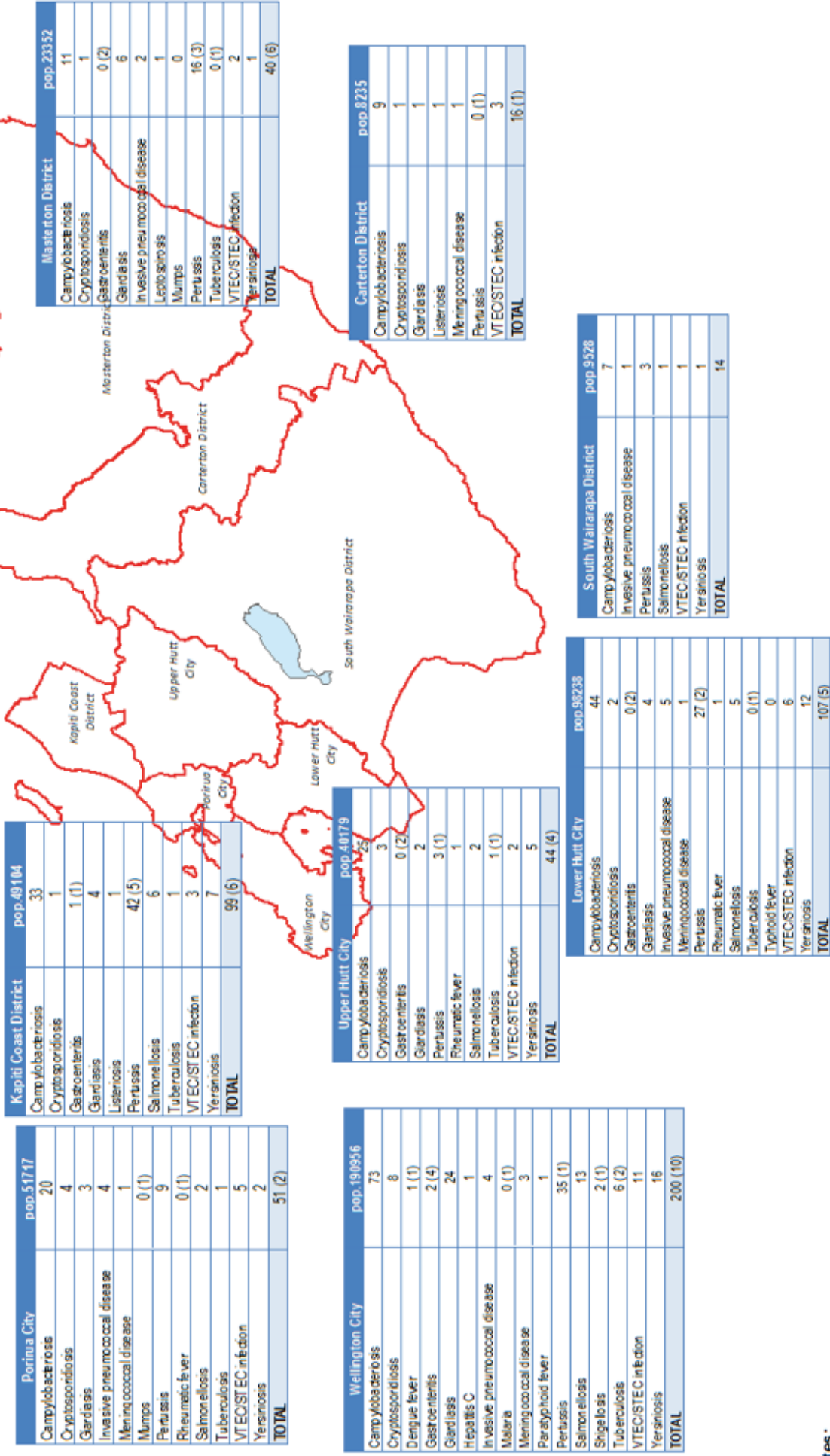
HEAT HEALTH PLANS

There is conclusive evidence that extreme heat and heatwaves have negative impacts on health. Even modest increases above average temperatures can have negative impacts on those most vulnerable to heat, but effective planning can reduce the effects of heat on health. On 21 January 2019, Hon Julie Ann Genter, Associate Minister of Health, released a media statement launching the Heat Health Plan Guidelines published on the Ministry's website <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/heat-health-plans>.

These guidelines are intended to raise awareness of the risks of hot weather to health, and to encourage and support the development of Heat Health Plans. Heat Health Plans outline the actions and systems in place to support those most at risk during periods of extreme heat and it is recommended that individuals, health and community service providers, district health boards, public health units and local government prepare their own Heat Health Plans as part of their emergency planning.

Regional Public Health Notifications

1st October 2018 to 31st December 2018



Notes:

1. Population data from Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census 'usually resident population'.
2. Tables present the number of 'confirmed cases', with additional 'probable cases' in brackets.
3. Notification data from: The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd. EpiSurv database of notifiable conditions. 2018. Accessed 25/2/2019

HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCES

The Regional Public Health Resource Room stocks public health resources to educate the community about keeping well and preventing disease. They are sourced from the Ministry of Health and other public health agencies around New Zealand.

Order Ministry of Health resources free online through the HealthEd website (www.healthed.govt.nz), or contact Laurina Francis on 04 570 9691, fax: 04 570 9211, or email laurina.francis@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.



DISEASE NOTIFICATION – HOW YOUR GENERAL PRACTICE CAN HELP

To enable our staff to promptly initiate disease follow up we need your help in the following ways:

1. Inform your patient of the illness they have been diagnosed with or exposed to and that public health staff may be in contact.
2. Notify Regional Public Health of the disease within a timely fashion (after the case has been informed) - by phone for urgent notifications (as soon as you are aware), or by faxing a case report form for non-urgent (within one working day). You can find a list of [urgent](#)

[vs. non-urgent notifications](#) on the Regional Public Health website under Health Professionals > Notifiable Diseases.

3. Complete all sections of the [form](#), especially:
 - work/school/early childhood centre information
 - name of parent or guardian for a child under 16 years old.

The 3D HealthPathways includes a pathway on reporting notifiable diseases: <http://3d.healthpathways.org.nz>

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERTS

Regional Public Health communicates public health alerts to primary care practices by fax and by email. These communications often contain information that needs to be urgently taken on board by general practitioners and primary care nurses.

Please contact Regional Public Health on (04) 570 9002 if you have not been receiving alerts, or to check and confirm that we have your correct details.

If you are not yet receiving alerts by email, and would like to, then you can provide your email address via phoning the number above.

Ordering pamphlets and posters:

To order any Ministry of Health resources, please contact the Health Information Centre on (04) 570 9691 or email laurina.francis@huttvalleydhb.org.nz

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