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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2023

Monica M Lahra, Prashanthi Sai Krishnan and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

Communicable Diseases Intelligence

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CDI is produced by:

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GPO Box 9848, (MDP 6)
CANBERRA ACT 2601

www.health.gov.au/cdi

cdi.editor@health.gov.au

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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2023

Monica M Lahra, Prashanthi Sai Krishnan and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia report data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by culture and or molecular techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases and molecular-based diagnoses are defined as IMD by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units.¹ Data contained in the quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the number of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, when known. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received.

For the second quarter of 2023, IMD notifications in Australia were almost double those of the first quarter (40 notifications versus 23), rising towards levels of IMD reported in 2019 (48 notifications in Q2 2019, 85 notifications for 2019 year-to-date),² prior to the SARS-CoV-2 restrictions that coincided with a reduction in IMD in Australia.³ It is noteworthy that IMD caused by serogroup B (MenB) continues to be the most prevalent nationally, accounting for 91.3% (21/23) and 84% (32/38) of notifications in the first and second quarters of 2023, respectively, where a serogroup could be determined.⁴ This follows the change from monovalent serogroup C to serogroup A, C, W and Y vaccination in 2018 that expanded coverage on the national Immunisation Programme for infants and then adolescents in Australia.³ A full analysis of laboratory-confirmed cases of IMD in each calendar year is contained in the AMSP annual report published in *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*.

Author details

Monica M Lahra^{1,2}

Prashanthi Sai Krishnan¹

Tiffany R Hogan¹

1. The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for STI and AMR, Sydney and Neisseria Reference Laboratory, NSW Health Pathology, Microbiology, The Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW 2031, Australia
2. School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, the University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW 2052, Australia

Corresponding author

Professor Monica M Lahra

The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for STI and AMR, Sydney and Neisseria Reference Laboratory, NSW Health Pathology Microbiology, The Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW 2031, Australia

Telephone: +61 2 9382 3678

Facsimile: +61 2 9382 3720

Email: monica.lahra@health.nsw.gov.au

Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 April to 30 June 2023, by serogroup and state or territory

Jurisdiction	Serogroup														
	A		B		C		W		Y		ND ^a		All		
	Year	Q2	ytd ^b	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd	Q2	ytd
Australian Capital Territory	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
New South Wales	2023	0	0	9	15	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	12	19
	2022	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	9
Northern Territory	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queensland	2023	0	0	11	18	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	13	20
	2022	0	0	4	6	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	8	10
South Australia	2023	0	0	8	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	11
	2022	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Tasmania	2023	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria	2023	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7
	2022	0	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	8
Western Australia	2023	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3
	2022	0	0	3	6	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	6	10
Australia	2023	0	0	32	53	0	0	3	4	3	4	2	2	40	63
	2022	0	0	20	33	0	0	4	4	4	5	0	2	28	44

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 30 June 2023.

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