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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2023

Monica M Lahra and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

Communicable Diseases Intelligence

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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2023

Monica M Lahra 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.

In Australia, IMD notifications in the fourth quarter of 2023 were the same as in the corresponding period in 2022 ($n = 32$); however, the year-to-date notifications increased from 118 in 2022 to 134 in 2023 (Table 1). There has been a gradual resurgence of IMD in Australia since 2021 ($n = 67$).² This follows public health restrictions during the pandemic, and is coincident with expanded coverage of national immunisation programmes; however, IMD notifications remain lower than reported in 2019 ($n = 202$).^{3,4} In 2023, MenB remains the main cause of IMD in Australia, accounting for 82.8% (106/128) of notifications where a serogroup was detected.

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Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 October to 31 December 2023, by serogroup and state or territory

Jurisdiction	Serogroup														
	A		B		C		W		Y		ND ^a		All		
	Year	Q4	ytd ^b	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd	Q4	ytd
Australian Capital Territory	2023	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	2022	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
New South Wales	2023	0	0	4	23	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	4	30
	2022	0	0	10	31	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	11	33
Northern Territory	2023	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	3
	2022	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Queensland	2023	0	0	7	35	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	10	41
	2022	0	0	8	23	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	1	8	31
South Australia	2023	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	20
	2022	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	14
Tasmania	2023	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
	2022	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Victoria	2023	0	0	8	20	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	1	10	26
	2022	0	0	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	15
Western Australia	2023	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	7
	2022	0	0	5	14	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	5	19
Australia	2023	0	0	25	106	0	0	2	11	3	11	2	6	32	134
	2022	0	0	30	99	0	0	0	5	2	10	0	4	32	118

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

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