Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2021

Monica M. Lahra, Masoud Shoushtari and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia, report laboratory data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by laboratory testing using culture- and non-culture-based techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases, where Neisseria meningitidis is grown from a normally sterile site or from skin lesions, and non-culture-based diagnoses (nucleic acid amplification testing), are defined as IMD by the Public Health Laboratory Network definitions. Data contained in quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the numbers of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, where known. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received. However, it is noted that there has been a continued reduction in the number of IMD laboratory-confirmed cases in 2021 compared to 2020, coinciding with the public health measures in place during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. 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.

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Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 October to 31 December 2021, by serogroup and state or territory

| Jurisdiction | Year | Serogroup |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | Y | W | ND/othera | All |
| Q4 | *ytdb* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* | Q4 | *ytd* |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| New South Wales | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 18 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 21 |
| Northern Territory | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Queensland | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 27 |
| South Australia | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Tasmania | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Victoria | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Western Australia | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 |
| **Australia** | **2021** | **0** | **0** | **12** | **35** | **0** | **0** | **2** | **13** | **5** | **15** | **0** | **4** | **19** | **67** |
| **2020** | **0** | **0** | **17** | **54** | **1** | **1** | **4** | **14** | **1** | **16** | **0** | **2** | **23** | **87** |

a ND: not determined. Serogroups A, B, C, W and Y not detected.

b year to date (ytd): data as from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

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