



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report December 2018

National Surveillance Scheme for Legionnaires' disease
in Residents of England and Wales

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

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Introduction

The national surveillance scheme for Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales is co-ordinated by PHE.

The main objectives of the scheme are to:

- detect clusters and outbreaks of Legionella in England and Wales or abroad through the surveillance of all reported cases
- identify sources of infection so that control measures can be assessed and where necessary improved upon, to prevent further cases
- as a member state, collaborate with the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet) in the detection, control and prevention of cases, clusters and outbreaks within European countries through the reporting of travel associated cases of Legionnaires' disease

This report provides a summary of data extracted from the national Legionella database for confirmed and suspected cases of Legionellosis in residents of England and Wales, as reported to the national surveillance scheme during the month of December 2018.

The report only provides an interim representation of Legionella activity in England and Wales during this time period due to delays in reporting. This means that the data for this month may not be comparable with previously published data for the same period in previous years. Changes as updates reported after the date of this report will be updated in subsequent monthly reports as further data becomes available.

Figures are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

Legionella data: December 2018

All data presented in this report is correct as at 15 January 2019.

Table 1: Cases reported/notified[†]

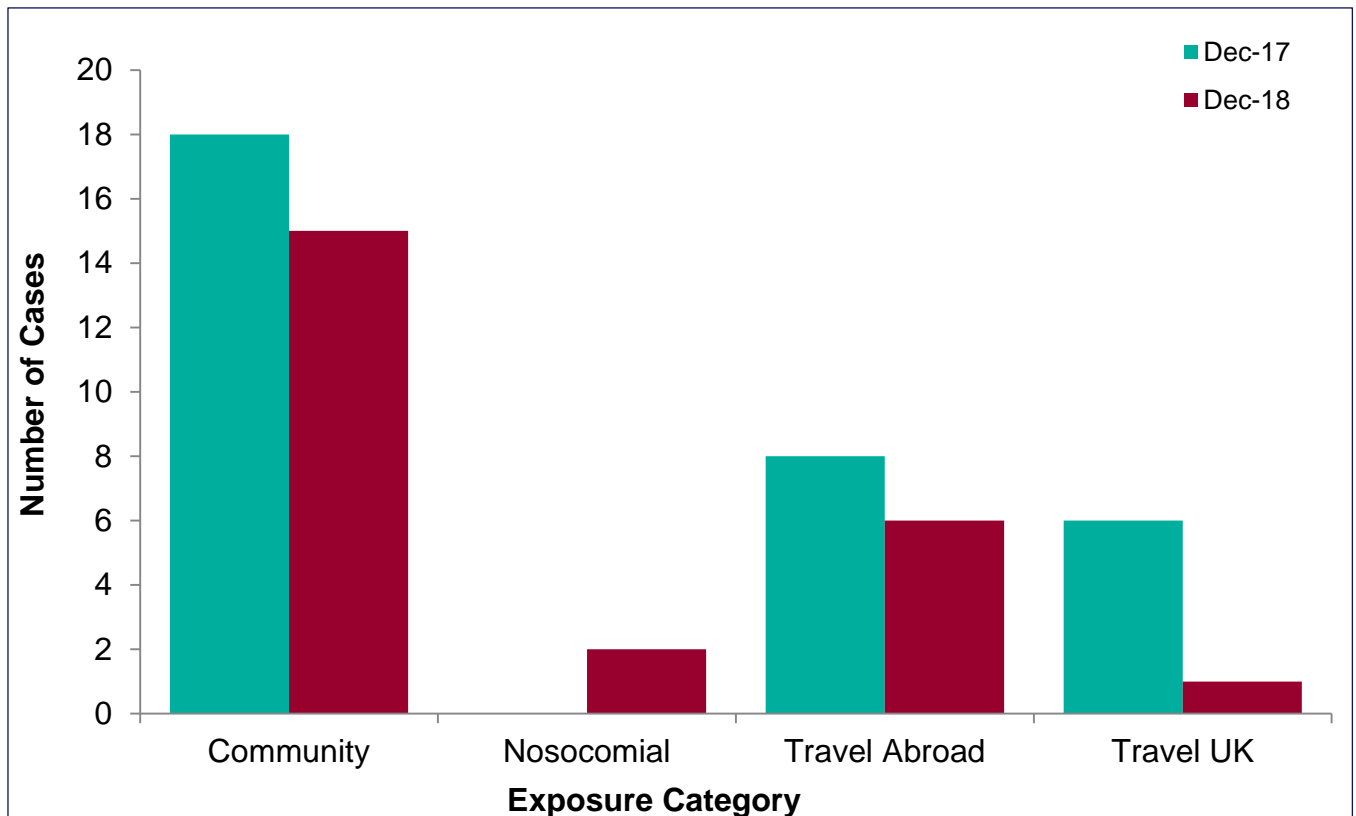
| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of reported/notified [†] cases [‡] of Legionnaires' disease during December 2018 | 63 |
| Number of reported/notified [†] cases of LD since 01 January 2018 | 814 |

These case numbers are provisional and subject to change:

[†] reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications (including all confirmed and non-confirmed cases).

[‡] cases reported with onset of symptoms between 01 December to 31 December 2018, inclusive.

Figure 1: Confirmed* cases of LD by category excluding unassigned cases with onset of symptoms in December 2018



* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

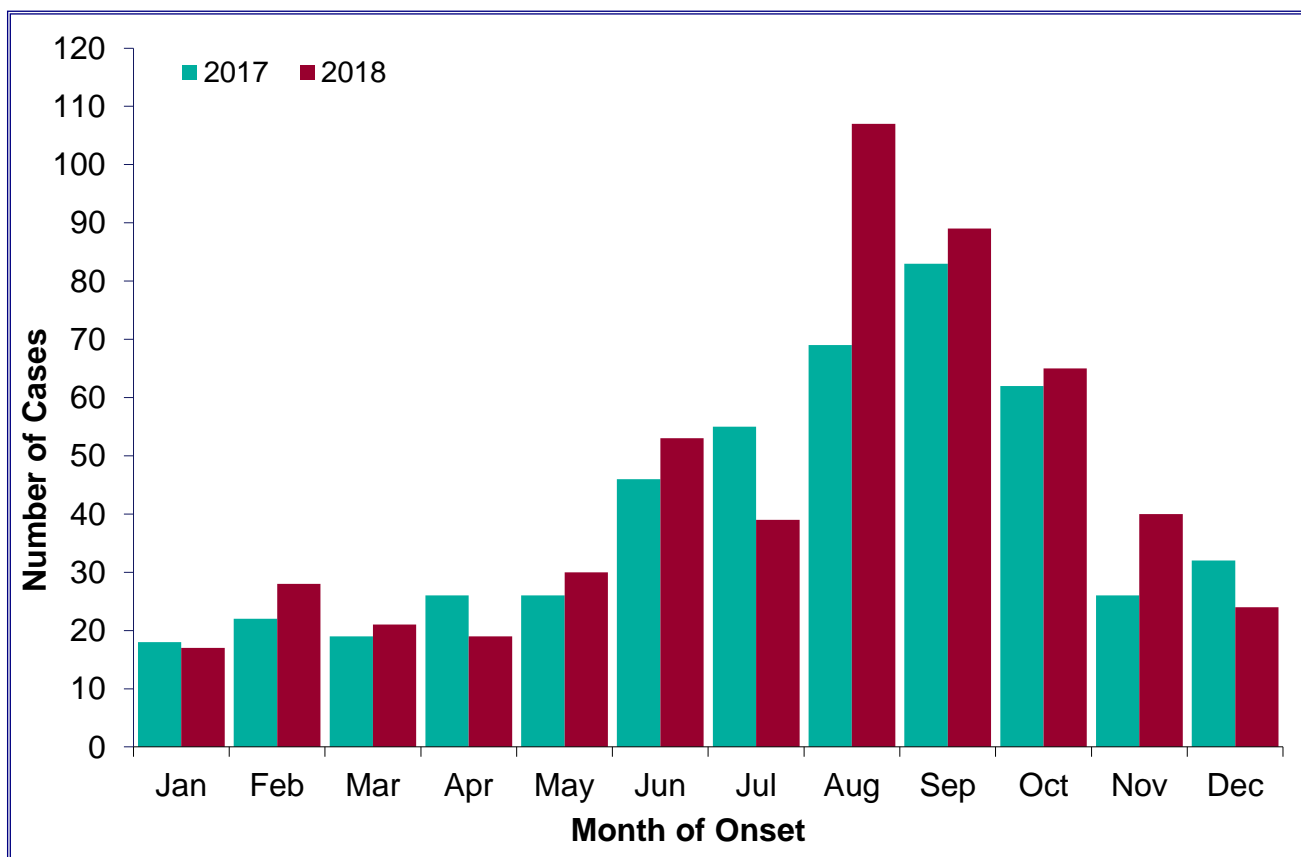
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in December 2018

| Category | Confirmed* cases with onset in December 2018 | Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2018 |
|---------------|--|--|
| Community | 15 | 273 |
| Nosocomial | 2 | 11 |
| Travel abroad | 6 | 187 |
| Travel UK | 1 | 61 |
| Unassigned | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 24 | 532 |

* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

nb: figure in this table are not equivalent to table 1 as cases reported in December may have earlier onset dates or reported cases may later prove to be negative or probable.

Figure 2: Confirmed* cases of LD by month of onset in 2017 and 2018



* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

Table 3: All confirmed* cases by region of residence

| Region of residence | Confirmed* cases with onset in December 2018 | Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2018 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| East Midlands | 1 | 61 |
| East of England | - | 60 |
| London | 5 | 89 |
| North East | 2 | 16 |
| North West | 2 | 50 |
| South East | 4 | 63 |
| South West | 2 | 45 |
| Wales | 2 | 33 |
| West Midlands | 3 | 64 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 3 | 50 |
| Other | - | 1 |
| Total | 24 | 532 |

* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

Table 4: Positive clinical tests of confirmed* cases of LD with onset of symptoms since 01 January 2018

| | Number of confirmed cases | Number of cases with respiratory samples | Number of culture &/or PCR positive cases | Number of cases with SBT identified |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Total number of cases | 532 | 206 | 166 | 143 |

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the 532 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 206 (38.7%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 206 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 166 (80.6%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. A partial sequence type has been determined for 36 (21.7%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases and a complete sequence type was determined for 107 (64.5%) cases.

(Please note that some results may still be pending at the time of this report.)

Comments

None for December 2018