Communicable Diseases Intelligence

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia
Reporting period 1 July to 30 September 2023

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

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The journal aims to disseminate information on the epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases of relevance to Australia.

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Communicable Diseases Network Australia
Communicable Diseases Intelligence contributes to the work of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia.
Quarterly report

Meningococcal Surveillance Australia
Reporting period 1 July to 30 September 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. 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 the first three quarters of 2023, IMD notifications in Australia increased by 18.6% (n = 102) compared to the same period in 2022 (n = 86). However, the number of IMD notifications is less than that reported in 2019 (n = 162; Q3 2019). Factors contributing to a reduction in IMD in Australia since 2019 include the change from monovalent serogroup C to serogroup A, C, W and Y vaccination in 2018; expanded coverage on the National Immunisation Programme for infants and then adolescents in Australia; and the public health restrictions during the pandemic.

Of the 102 IMD notifications for 2023 to date, 98 have a serogroup determined at the time of report. MenB disease is the most prevalent in Australia, currently accounting for 83% (81/98) of notifications in the first three quarters of 2023 and 85% (100/117) in 2022 in IMD where a serogroup was detected.

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

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* ND: not determined.

† ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 30 September 2023.
References


