

Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Mental Health, Public Health and Dental Services

2020

Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control

Notifiable diseases in Perth: Snapshot

Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control has responsibility for the public health management of notifiable infectious diseases to protect the community and prevent disease outbreaks.



23 130

infectious disease notifications in metropolitan Perth in 2020 (down 46% from 2019)



On the rise:

Syphilis Cryptosporidiosis



94 5 %

of 12-month-olds fully immunised in metropolitan Perth; benchmark 95%



New and Emerging:

Vector-borne diseases: 321

- Dengue virus 48
- Malaria 22
- Ross river virus 236

Blood-borne viruses: 1119

- Hepatitis B 437 (11 newly-acquired)
- Hepatitis C 680 (71 newly-acquired)

Sexually transmitted infections: 11319

- Infectious syphilis 466
- Chlamydia 8384
- Gonorrhoea 2280

Enteric: 4298

- Campylobacter 2283
- Salmonella **1369**
- Cryptosporidiosis 425

Vaccine-preventable diseases: 5323 Influenza – 981

- Measles − 4
- Meningococcal disease 5
- Pertussis 98

Other diseases (including zoonotic diseases): 750

• COVID-19 - 544 (including 38 historical cases)

Selected infectious diseases listed only; disease category totals may be more than the sum of the listed individual diseases.

Notifications by

disease category

Key issues

- Infectious syphilis continues to increase and affects vulnerable and priority populations people experiencing homelessness (4.9% of notifications), Aboriginal people (15.9%), women of childbearing age (19.5%) and pregnant women (3.9%). A syphilis outbreak was declared in Perth in July 2020.
- Testing, treatment, contact tracing and monitoring are vital to reduce cases of congenital and tertiary syphilis.
- In 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic emerged. Statewide, there were 871 notifications for confirmed COVID-19; 55.2% acquired their infection overseas, 33.4% at sea and 11.4% locally. Daily notifications peaked on 20 March. There were 544 notifications for confirmed COVID-19 (including 38 historical cases) in residents of metropolitan Perth.
- WA **suppressed community transmission of COVID-19** using a coordinated multiagency response, involving social distancing, border closures, and test, trace, isolate and quarantine processes.
- Measures taken in response to COVID-19 likely contributed to the decrease in several other communicable diseases including influenza, measles and pertussis.



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