



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Monthly Legionella Report

## March 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 to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

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Published: May 2018

PHE publications

gateway number: 2018017

PHE supports the UN

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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 March 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: March 2018

All data presented in this report is correct as at 6 April 2018.

**Table 1:** Cases reported/notified<sup>†</sup>

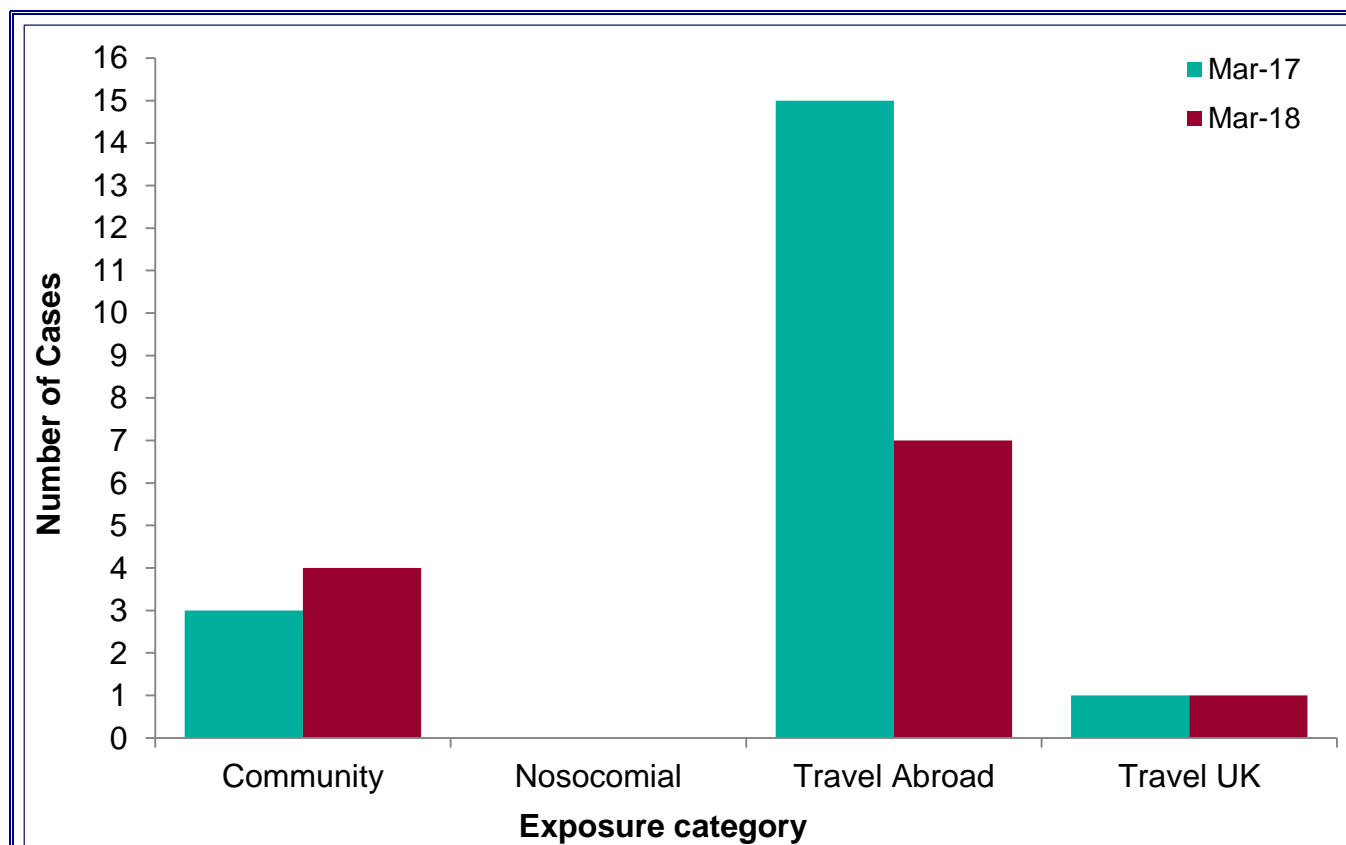
Number of reported/notified <sup>†</sup> cases <sup>‡</sup> of Legionnaires' disease during March 2018	49
Number of reported/notified <sup>†</sup> cases of LD since 1 January 2018	138

These case numbers are provisional and subject to change

<sup>†</sup> 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).

<sup>‡</sup> cases reported with onset of symptoms between 1 March to 31 March 2018, inclusive.

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



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

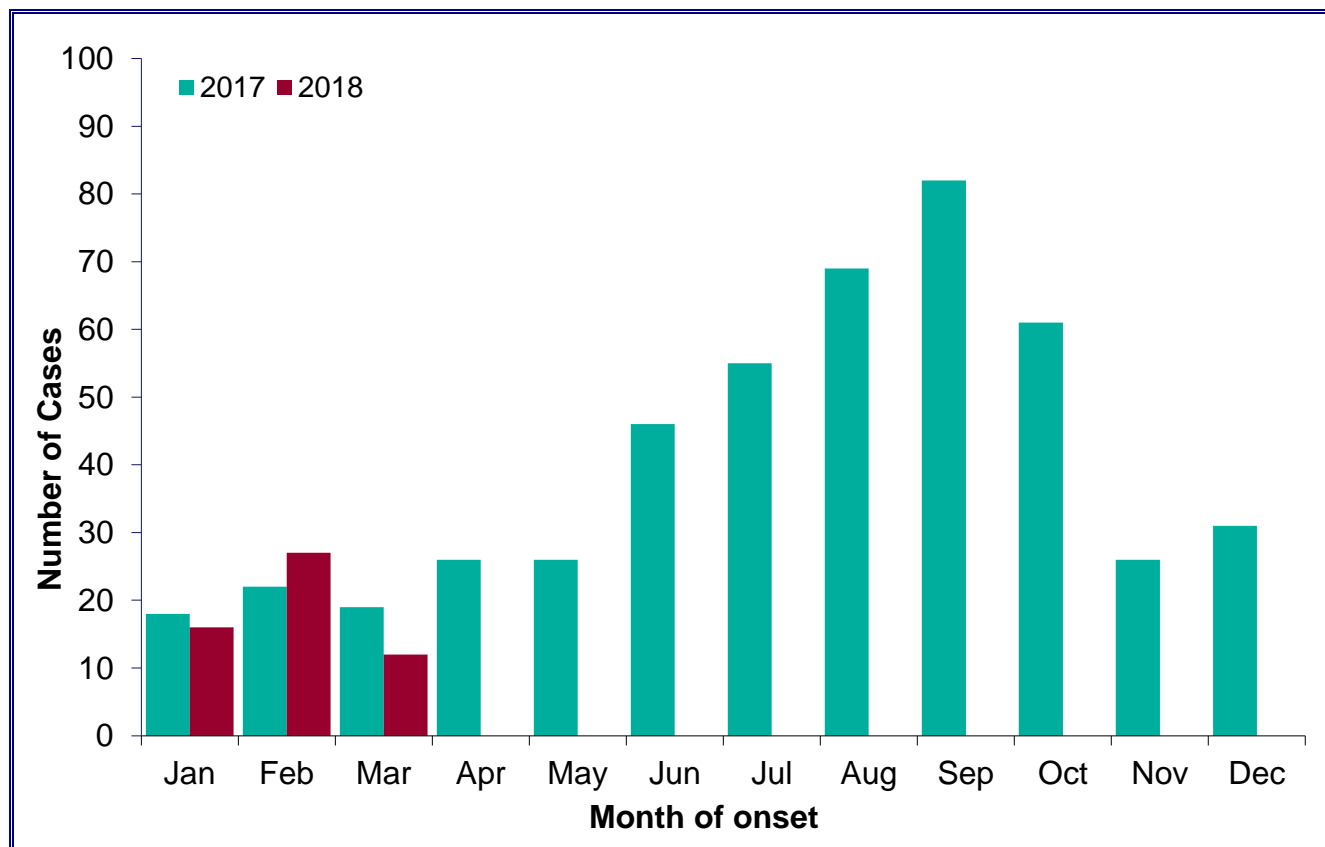
**Table 2:** Number of confirmed\* cases of LD by category with onset in March 2018

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in March 2018	Confirmed* cases with onset since January 2018
Community	4	27
Nosocomial	0	2
Travel abroad	7	20
Travel UK	1	6
Unassigned	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>

\* 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 March 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\* and incomplete cases by region of residence

Region of residence	Onset in March 2018		Onset since January 2018	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data are still awaited
East Midlands	2	1	6	1
East of England	1	-	7	-
London	3	1	11	1
North East	1	-	2	-
North West	1	-	7	-
South East	1	-	5	-
South West	1	-	4	-
Wales	-	-	1	1
West Midlands	2	1	7	1
Yorkshire & Humber	-	1	5	1
Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>

\* 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 during March 2018

	Number of confirmed cases	Number of cases with respiratory samples	Number of culture &/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>

**PCR:** polymerase chain reaction

**SBT:** sequence based typing

Of the 55 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 21 (38.2%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 21 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 17 (81.0%) specimens tested positive for Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1. A complete sequence type was determined for 13 (76.5%) cases.

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

## Comments

Please be advised of the following publications from the National surveillance scheme:

### **Legionnaires' disease in England and Wales – 2016**

(Annual review of Legionella dataset for cases of Legionnaires' disease with onset of symptoms during 2016):

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-in-residents-of-england-and-wales-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-in-residents-of-england-and-wales-2016)

### **Investigation of Legionnaires disease: cases, clusters and outbreaks**

(Minor updates for clarity):

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-legionnaires-disease-cases-clusters-and-outbreaks](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-legionnaires-disease-cases-clusters-and-outbreaks)

### **National Surveillance Scheme Reporting Form**

(Please **replace any locally held copies** including any provided to EHOs)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme)