



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report

April 2019

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 April 2019.

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: April 2019

All data presented in this report is correct as at 02 May 2019.

Table 1: Reported/notified[†] number of Legionella infection cases

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of cases [‡] of Legionellosis reported/notified [†] during April 2019 | 25 |
| Number of confirmed* cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD) since 01 January 2019 | 84 |

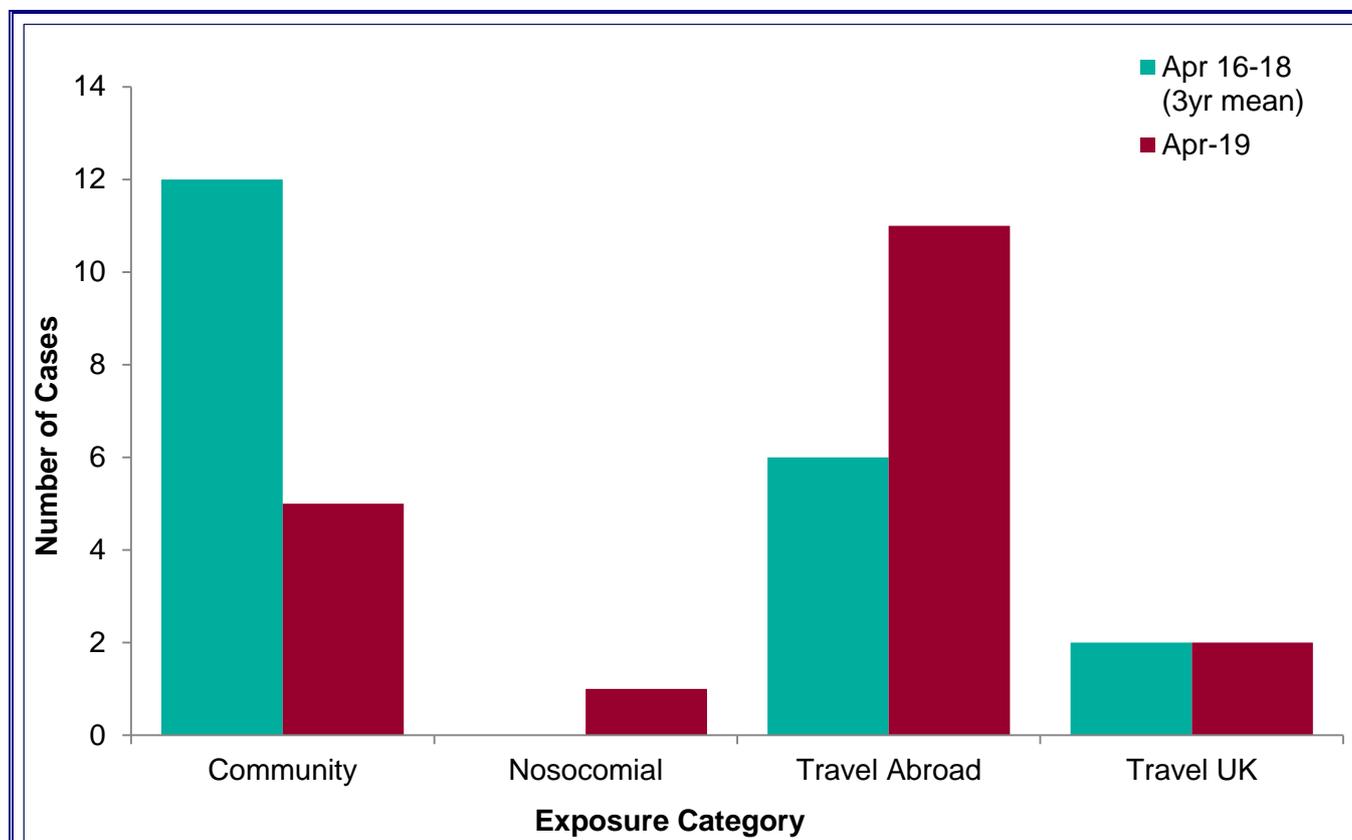
These case numbers are provisional and subject to change

[†] 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 January to 30 April 2019, inclusive.

* cases confirmed to have clinical and/or radiological signs of pneumonia and positive microbiology in the form of culture, urinary antigen and/or nucleic acid detection.

Figure 1: Confirmed* cases of LD by category of exposure, excluding unassigned cases, with onset of symptoms in April 2019



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

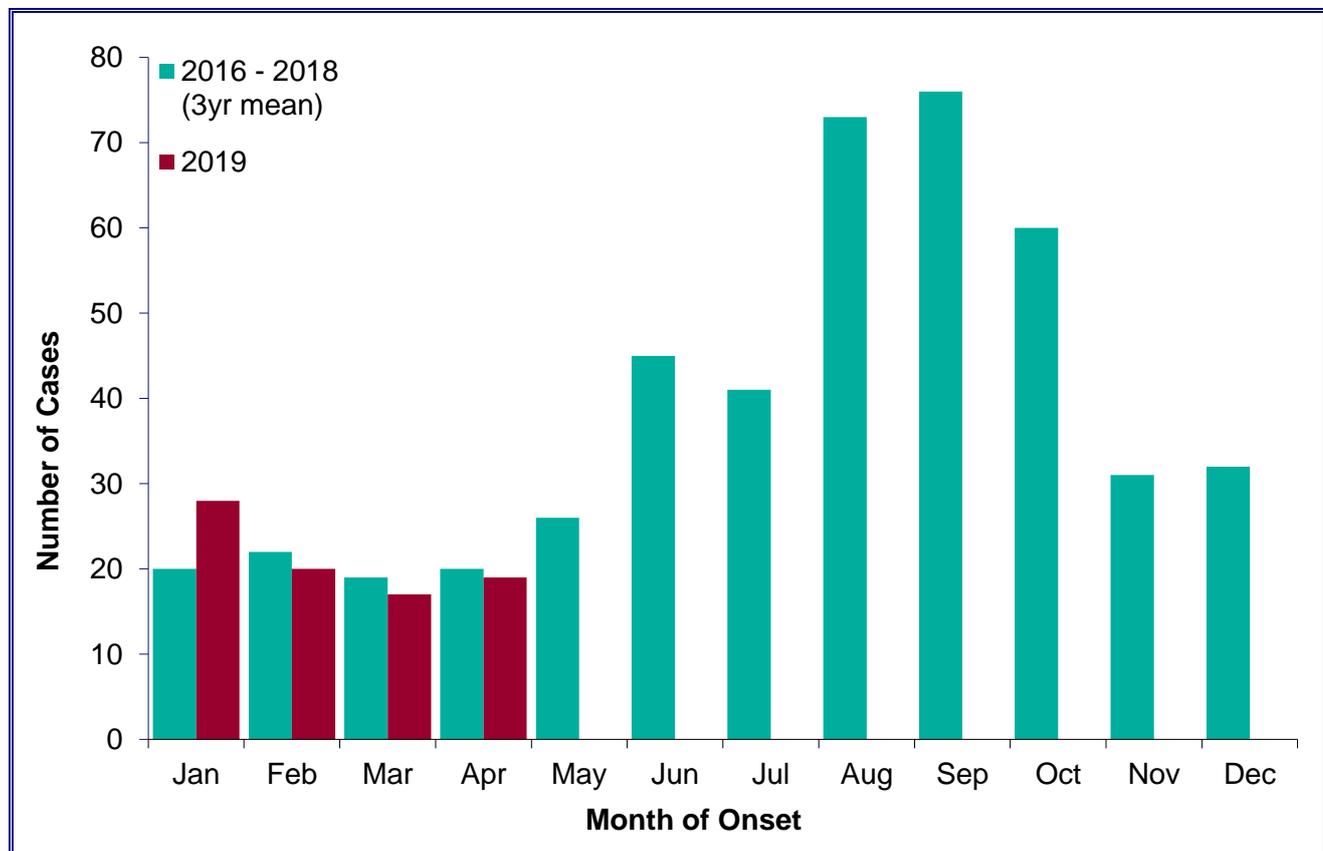
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in April 2019

| Category | Confirmed* cases with onset in April 2019 | Confirmed* cases with onset since 01 January 2019 |
|---------------|---|---|
| Community | 5 | 39 |
| Nosocomial | 1 | 5 |
| Travel abroad | 11 | 34 |
| Travel UK | 2 | 6 |
| Unassigned | - | - |
| Total | 19 | 84 |

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

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

Figure 2: Confirmed* cases of LD by month of onset (April 2019 against monthly mean for previous three years)



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

Table 3: All confirmed* cases by region of residence

| Region of residence | Confirmed* cases with onset in April 2019 | | Confirmed* cases with onset since 01 January 2019 | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Total cases | Cases with LRT (%) | Total cases | Cases with LRT (%) |
| East Midlands | 3 | - | 12 | - |
| East of England | 1 | - | 5 | - |
| London | 3 | - | 17 | 6 (35.3) |
| North East | - | - | - | - |
| North West | 5 | 2 (40.0) | 12 | 5 (41.7) |
| South East | - | - | 7 | 3 (42.9) |
| South West | 4 | - | 13 | 6 (46.2) |
| Wales | 1 | 1 (100.0) | 3 | 1 (33.3) |
| West Midlands | 1 | 1 (100.0) | 10 | 2 (20) |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 1 | 1 (100.0) | 5 | 5 (100.0) |
| Other | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 19 | 5 (26.3) | 84 | 28 (33.3) |

LRT – lower respiratory tract sample

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

Table 4: Positive clinical tests of confirmed* cases of LD with onset of symptoms since 01 January 2019

| | 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 | 84 | 28 | 19 | 15 |

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

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

Of the 84 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 28 (33.3%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 28 (33.3%) cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 19 (67.9%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. A partial sequence type has been determined for three (15.8%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases and a complete sequence type was determined for 12 (63.2%) cases.

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

Comments

None for April 2019