



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report

March 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.

Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000
www.gov.uk/phe
Twitter: @PHE_uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

For queries relating to this document, please contact: legionella@phe.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2019

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [OGL](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ogl/) or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Published May 2019
PHE publications
gateway number: GW-374

PHE supports the UN
Sustainable Development Goals



Contents

About Public Health England	2
Introduction	4
Legionella data: March 2019	5

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 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: March 2019

All data presented in this report is correct as at 12 April 2019.

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

Number of cases [‡] of Legionellosis reported/notified [†] during March 2019	19
Number of confirmed* cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD) since 1 January 2019	73

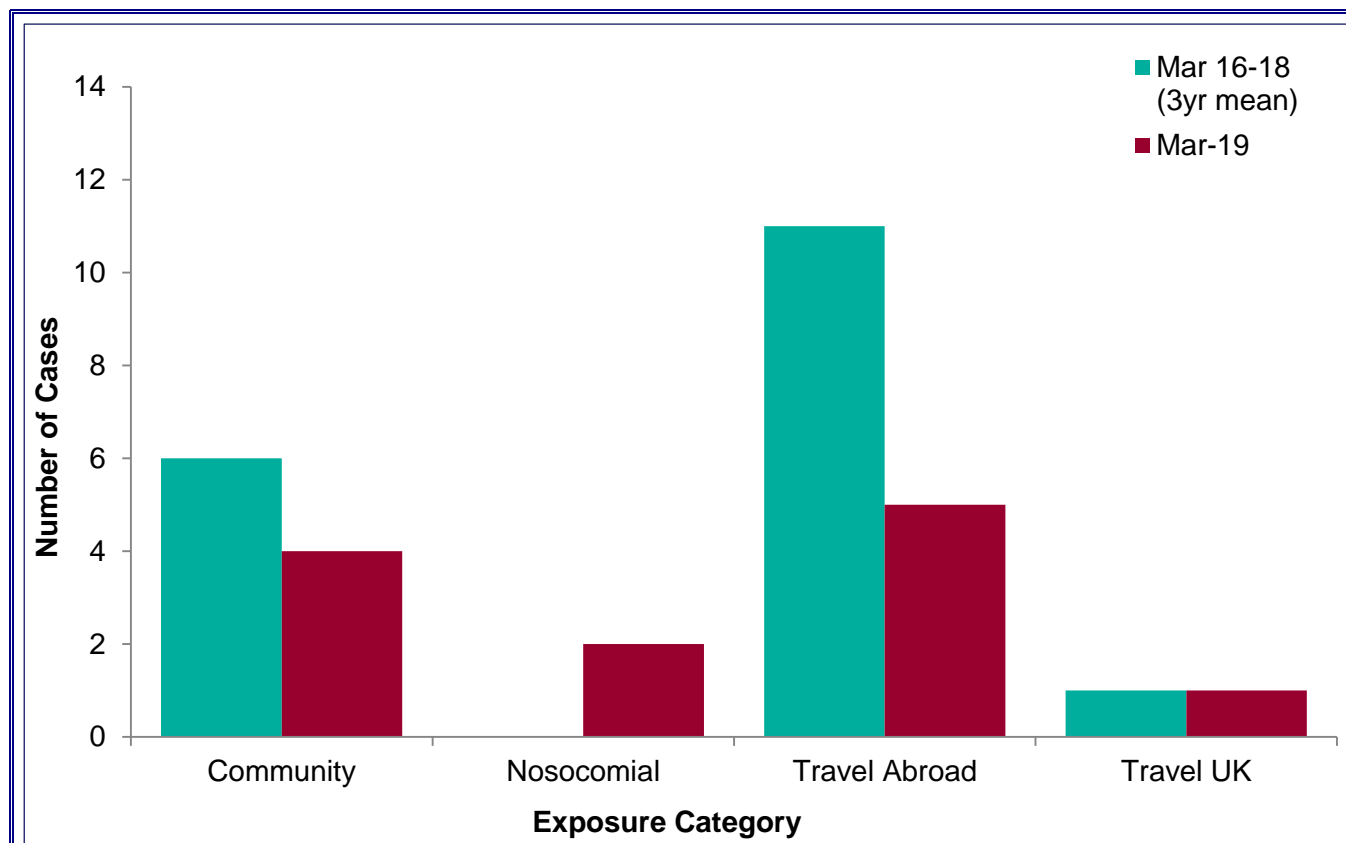
These case numbers are provisional and subject to change.

[†] 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 1 January to 31 March 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 March 2019



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

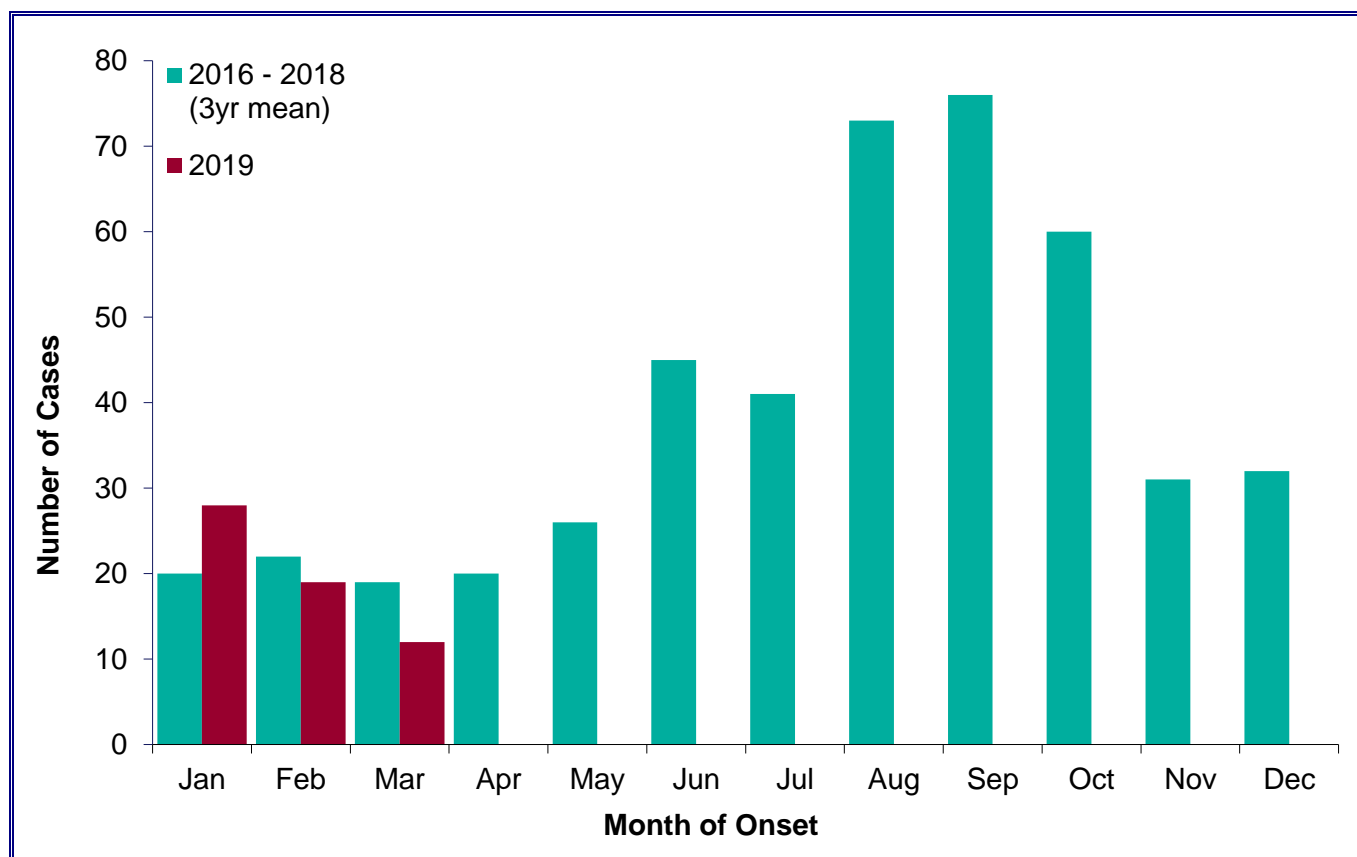
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in March 2019

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in March 2019	Confirmed* cases with onset since 01 January 2019
Community	4	31
Nosocomial	2	4
Travel abroad	5	20
Travel UK	1	4
Unassigned	-	-
Total	12	59

* 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 March 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 (March 2019 against monthly mean for previous 3 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 March 2019		Confirmed* cases with onset since 01 January 2019	
	Total cases	Cases with LRT (%)	Total cases	Cases with LRT (%)
East Midlands	1	-	8	-
East of England	1	-	4	-
London	1	-	13	5 (38.5)
North East	-	-	-	-
North West	3	1 (33.3)	6	3 (50.0)
South East	3	1 (33.3)	7	2 (28.6)
South West	1	1 (100.0)	8	6 (75.0)
Wales	-	-	2	-
West Midlands	2	-	7	-
Yorkshire & Humber	-	-	4	4 (100.0)
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	12	3 (25.0)	59	20 (33.9)

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 1 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	59	19	15	11

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 59 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 19 (32.2%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 19 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 15 (79.0%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. A partial sequence type has been determined for 3 (20.0%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases and a complete sequence type was determined for 11 (73.3%) cases.

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

Comments

Please be advised that the 2016 annual PHE Centre Summaries have been published in the Legionnaires' disease section of the PHE website at the following location:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-local-summaries-for-england-and-wales-2016