



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# **Legionella monthly reports - January to October 2020 aggregate report**

## **1 January to 31 October 2020**

National surveillance scheme for Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and  
Wales

## 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 control measures can be assessed and, where necessary, improved upon to prevent further cases
- collaborate with the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet) in the detection, control and prevention of cases, clusters and outbreaks 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 Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales, as reported to the national surveillance scheme from 1 January to 15 November 2020.

For purposes of comparison, where appropriate, provisional data from previous years have been presented in this report; specifically the mean number of confirmed cases for years with symptom onset between 2017 to 2019.

The report only provides an interim representation of Legionella activity in England and Wales during this time period due to delays in reporting. Therefore the data may not be comparable with previously published data for the same period in previous years. Changes and updates reported after the date of this report will be reflected in subsequent reports as further data is submitted and verified as it becomes available.

Figures are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

# Provisional data: 1 January to 31 October 2020

All data presented in this report is correct as at 15 November 2020.

All data in this report is provisional and subject to change.

Reported cases are those reported to the national surveillance scheme for Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications with symptom onset from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2020, inclusive. Cases included are only those with sufficient information submitted and verified by the national surveillance team - includes some cases with incomplete data.

Confirmed cases of Legionellosis are cases confirmed to have positive microbiology in the form of culture, urinary antigen and/or nucleic acid detection.

Confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease are those reported to have clinical and/or radiological signs of pneumonia and positive microbiology in the form of culture, urinary antigen and/or nucleic acid detection.

The equivalent 3-year mean number of confirmed cases have been presented for comparison in cases with symptom onset during 2017 to 2019.

Number of cases with symptom onset in 2020 include only those cases confirmed and with sufficient information submitted by 15 November 2020, inclusive.

**Table 1: Number and proportion (%) of confirmed cases of Legionellosis by category of exposure for cases with symptom onset from 1 January to 31 October 2020**

Exposure category	Symptom onset (January to October)	
	3-year mean 2017 to 2019 (%)	2020 (%)
Community	216 (47.0)	220 (74.6)
Nosocomial	9 (1.9)	14 (4.7)
Travel abroad	186 (40.6)	38 (12.9)
Travel UK	48 (10.5)	22 (7.5)
Unassigned	-	1 (0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>295</b>

**Figure 1: Confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease by month of symptom onset from 1 January to 31 October for all non-travel abroad cases**

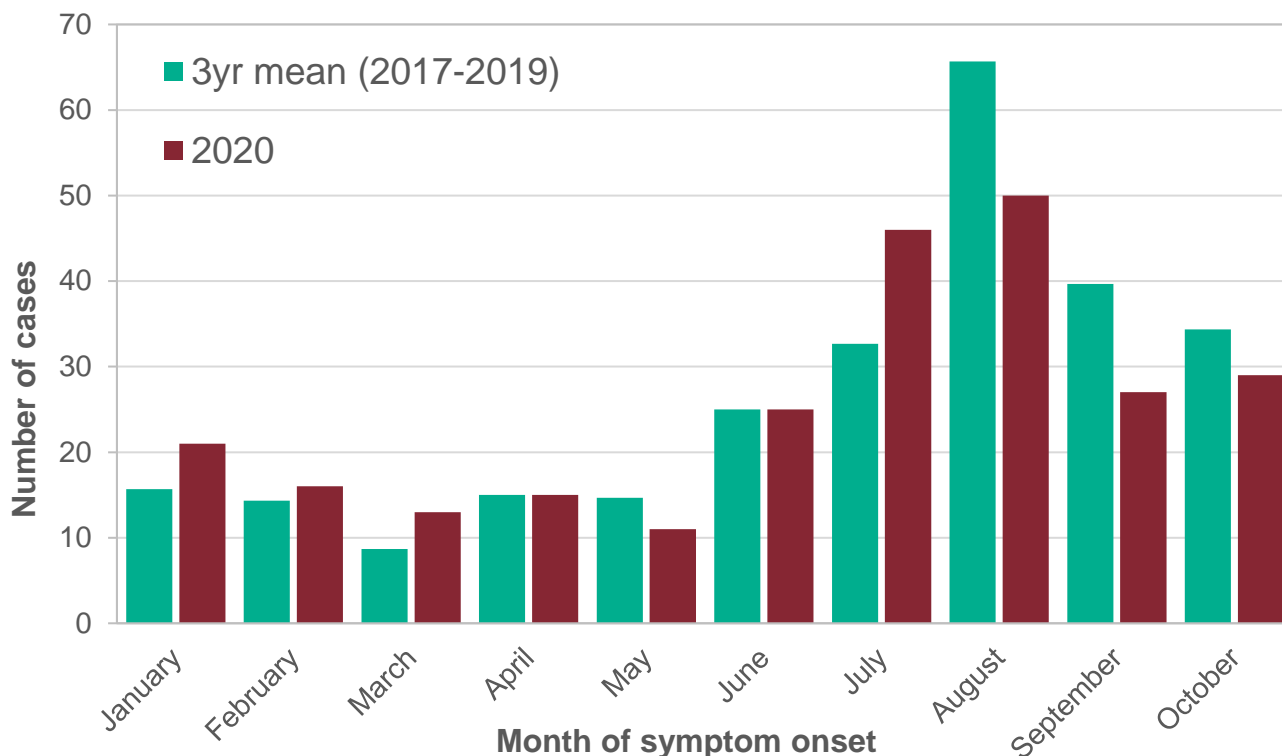


Figure 1 shows the number of cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the national surveillance scheme by the month in which the case experienced symptom onset and where the case did not travel abroad during their 2 to 10 day incubation period. The number of cases reported in 2020 by 15 November 2020 is compared with the equivalent mean number of cases reported in 2017 to 2019. That is, the mean number of cases who experienced symptom onset in the specific month and who did not travel abroad during their 2 to 10 day incubation period.

**Figure 2: Confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease by category of exposure for non-travel abroad cases with symptom onset from 1 January to 31 October**

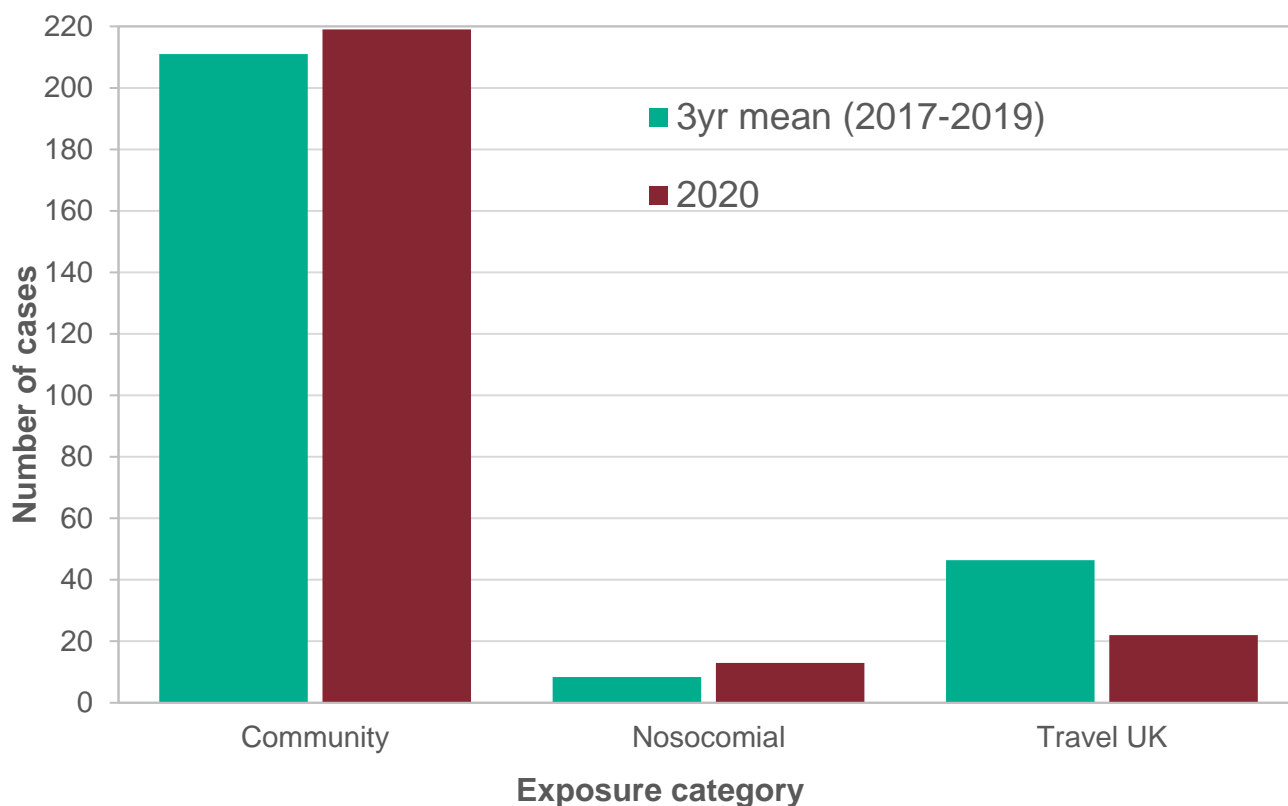


Figure 2 shows the number of cases reported to the national surveillance scheme by 15 November 2020 who experienced symptom onset from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2020. Cases have been presented by the most likely category of exposure. That is, the category in which investigations suggest the case is most likely to have been exposed to the source of infection. Figures for cases with onset during 2020 are compared against the equivalent mean number of cases reported with onset of symptoms from 1 January to 31 October for the years 2017 to 2019.

**Table 2: Confirmed non-travel abroad cases of Legionnaires' disease with symptom onset from 1 January to 31 October by region of residence**

<b>Region of residence</b>	<b>3-year mean 2017 to 2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
East Midlands	32	30
East of England	24	31
London	46	33
North East	3	4
North West	24	25
South East	30	45
South West	28	19
Wales	20	9
West Midlands	36	36
Yorkshire and Humber	22	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>254</b>

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