



Infection report

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Zoonoses

Common animal associated infections quarterly report (England and Wales) – first quarter 2015

This quarterly report, produced by the Emerging Infections and Zoonoses Section at Public Health England Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control, and the Health Protection Division of Public Health Wales, summarises confirmed cases of zoonoses reported in England and Wales between January and March 2015 (first quarter; weeks 1-13).

Animal associated infections in England and Wales: laboratory reports to SGSS[†] (unless otherwise specified) by specimen date, Q1 (weeks 1-13/15)

Disease (Organism)	Reports for weeks 01-13	
	2015*	2014
Anthrax (<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>)	–	–
Brucellosis** (<i>Brucella spp.</i>)	1	2
Hepatitis E**	191	217
Hydatid** (<i>Echinococcus granulosus</i>)	9	6
Leptospirosis** (<i>Leptospira spp.</i>)	10	7
Lyme borreliosis** # (<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>)	48	30
Pasteurellosis (<i>Pasteurella spp.</i>)	138	126
Psittacosis (<i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i>)	4	6
Q-fever (<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>)	6	10
Toxoplasmosis**# (<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>)	N/A	N/A

[†]Second Generation Surveillance System has now replaced LabBase

* Provisional data

** Enhanced surveillance system

Based on date specimen received

N/A = Not available

Anthrax

There were no cases reported in the first quarter of 2015.

Brucellosis (data from the Brucella Reference Laboratories)

There was one case of brucellosis reported during the first quarter of 2015, compared with two during the same quarter of 2014. The infection, confirmed as *Brucella melitensis*, was in a 52 year old male from a country where brucellosis is endemic.

Hepatitis E (data from Public Health Laboratory Birmingham, and Blood Borne Virus Unit Colindale)

There were 191 cases of hepatitis E in the first quarter of 2015 compared to 217 in the same quarter of 2014. One hundred and sixteen cases (60.7%) were male (aged 19-88 years, median 60) and 73 (38.2%) were female (aged 24-88 years, median 61) (the gender of the remaining two was not reported). The persisting observation of the predominance of older men (see table below) remains unexplained. Cases were reported from all regions. The majority of cases (88%, n=169) had no apparent travel history.

The number of cases is consistent with the on-going increase observed since 2010 [1].

Laboratory confirmed cases of Hepatitis E infection (week 1-13, 2015)

Age Group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
0-14	–	–	–	–
15-24	3	–	–	3
25-44	21	14	1	36
45-64	42	29	1	72
>64	50	29	–	79
Unknown	–	1	–	1
Total	116	73	2	191

Hydatid disease (data from the Parasitology Reference Laboratory)

Nine cases of hydatid disease were reported during the first quarter of 2015, compared with six cases during the first quarter of 2014. Three of the cases were reported in males aged 29 to 65 years, and six in females aged 19 to 61 years. Six cases reported liver or abdominal cysts. All infections are believed to have been acquired outside the UK.

Leptospirosis (data from the Leptospira Reference Unit)

There were ten cases of leptospirosis reported in the first quarter of 2015, compared with seven in the first quarter of 2014. Eight cases were known to have been indigenously acquired: seven in males aged between 40 and 62 years of age, and one in a female aged 63 years. Two had occupational exposures: one in an Environmental Health Officer (identified as

L. Icterohaemorrhagiae) and one in an abattoir worker for whom the serovar was not determined. The serovar was not determined for seven indigenous infections; risk factors included river immersion, cleaning drains and contact with rats.

Two infections were acquired overseas, one in a male aged 61 years who had visited Thailand and the second in a 65 year old female who had been to the Dominican Republic; the serovars were not determined.

Lyme disease (data from the Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, Porton)

There were 48 confirmed cases of Lyme borreliosis reported through the Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) during the first quarter of 2015, compared with 30 in the first quarter of 2014. There were technical issues with obtaining the first quarter data for 2015 and as such further information will be provided in the next quarterly report.

Note: Specimens sent for Lyme borreliosis referral testing should be accompanied by a completed referral form: <https://www.gov.uk/lyme-borreliosis-service>.

Pasteurellosis

One hundred and thirty eight cases of pasteurellosis were reported in the first quarter of 2015, compared with 126 in the same quarter of 2014: *Pasteurella multocida* (100, 72.5%), *Pasteurella canis* (6, 4.3%), *Pasteurella pneumotropica* (4, 2.9%), and *Pasteurella* sp. (28, 20.3%).

Eighty four of the cases were female (aged 1-97 years, median 64.5) and 53 were male (aged 0-86 years, median 59) (gender was not reported for one case). The Midlands and East of England reported the most cases (45), and Wales reported the fewest (3). Of nine cases giving an animal exposure, four had cat bites, one had been scratched by a cat, and four reported dog bites.

Laboratory confirmed cases of pasteurellosis (week 1-13, 2015)

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown
0-14	3	6	1
15-29	4	4	–
30-39	6	5	–
40-49	9	7	–
50-59	5	13	–
60-69	10	14	–
70-79	11	20	–
80+	5	15	–
Total	53	84	1

Psittacosis

Four cases of psittacosis were diagnosed in the first quarter of 2015, compared with six during the first quarter of 2014. Two of the cases were male (aged 42 and 59 years) and two were female (aged 45 and 59 years). Two of the cases were reported from the Midlands and the East of England, and two from the South of England.

Note: Serological tests for respiratory chlamydia infections cannot consistently distinguish psittacosis. The cases reported above have been identified by reporting laboratories as infection with *Chlamydia psittaci*.

Q fever (data from the Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, Porton, and Bristol Reference Laboratory)

There were six cases of Q fever reported in the first quarter of 2015, compared with 10 during the first quarter of 2014. Three were male (aged 48, 50 and 71 years) and three were female (aged 24, 49, 64 years). Four cases were reported from the south of England, one case from the Midlands and East of England region, and one case from Wales.

Toxoplasma (Data from the Toxoplasma Reference Unit)

Data on Toxoplasma cases for the first quarter of 2015 is not yet available. This data will be included in the next quarterly report.

Other zoonotic organisms

Other zoonotic infections of interest diagnosed in the first quarter of 2015 were as follows:

- Six cases of *Capnocytophaga* infection, all were unspicated bacteraemic infections. Three of the infections were in females aged 84, 87 and 90 years, and three were in males aged 36, 45 and 48 years. Three were reported from the South of England, two from the north of England, and one from Midlands and the East of England;
- One case of *Corynebacterium Ulcerans* in a 69 year old female from the north of England who died following a tissue infection;
- Three cases of *Erysipelothrix Rhusiopathiae* in three males aged 53, 60 and 83 years. The cases were reported by the south of England, the north of England and the Midlands and the East of England. Two of the cases were bacteraemias and in one the organism was isolated from CFS. The 60 year old male died;
- One case of *Mycobacterium marinum* in a 60 year old male from the south of England who had a tissue infection;
- Two cases of *Streptobacillus moniliformis* in a 87 year old female and a 79 year old male, both were bacteraemic infections and both were from the south of England.

Reference

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hepatitis-e-symptoms-transmission-prevention-treatment/hepatitis-e-symptoms-transmission-treatment-and-prevention>
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