



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Monthly Legionella Report January 2017

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-class 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 are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

Public Health England  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG  
Tel: 020 7654 8000  
[www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)  
Twitter: @PHE\_uk  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland](http://www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland)

For queries relating to this document, please contact: [legionella@phe.gov.uk](mailto:legionella@phe.gov.uk)

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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 January 2017.

The report does not provide an accurate 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 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: January 2017

All data presented in this report is correct as at 01 February 2017.

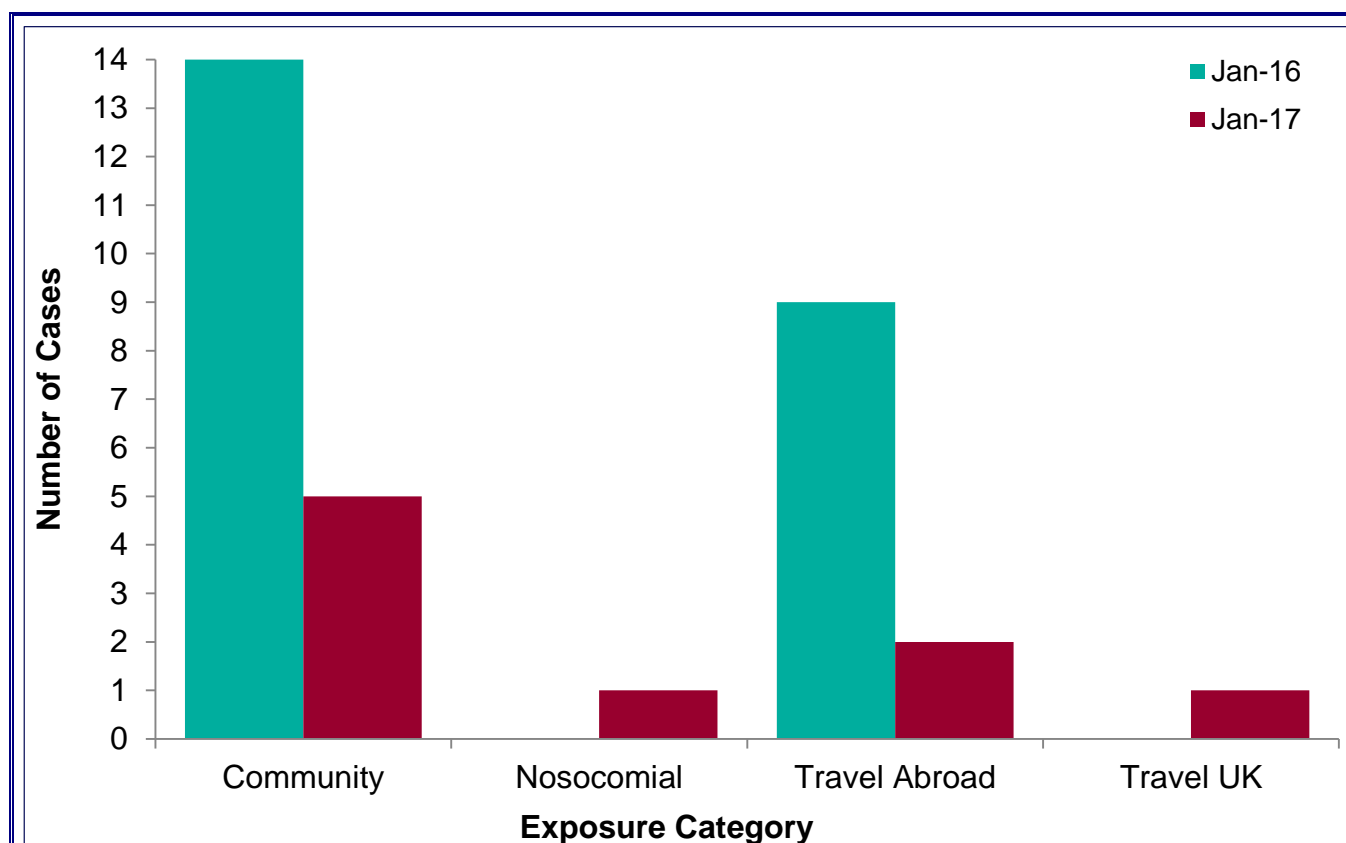
**Table 1:** Cases reported/notified<sup>†</sup>

Number of reported/notified <sup>†</sup> cases <sup>‡</sup> of Legionnaires' disease during January 2017	48
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<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 01 January to 31 January 2017, inclusive.

**Figure 1:** Confirmed\* cases of LD by category excluding unassigned cases with onset of symptoms in January 2017



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

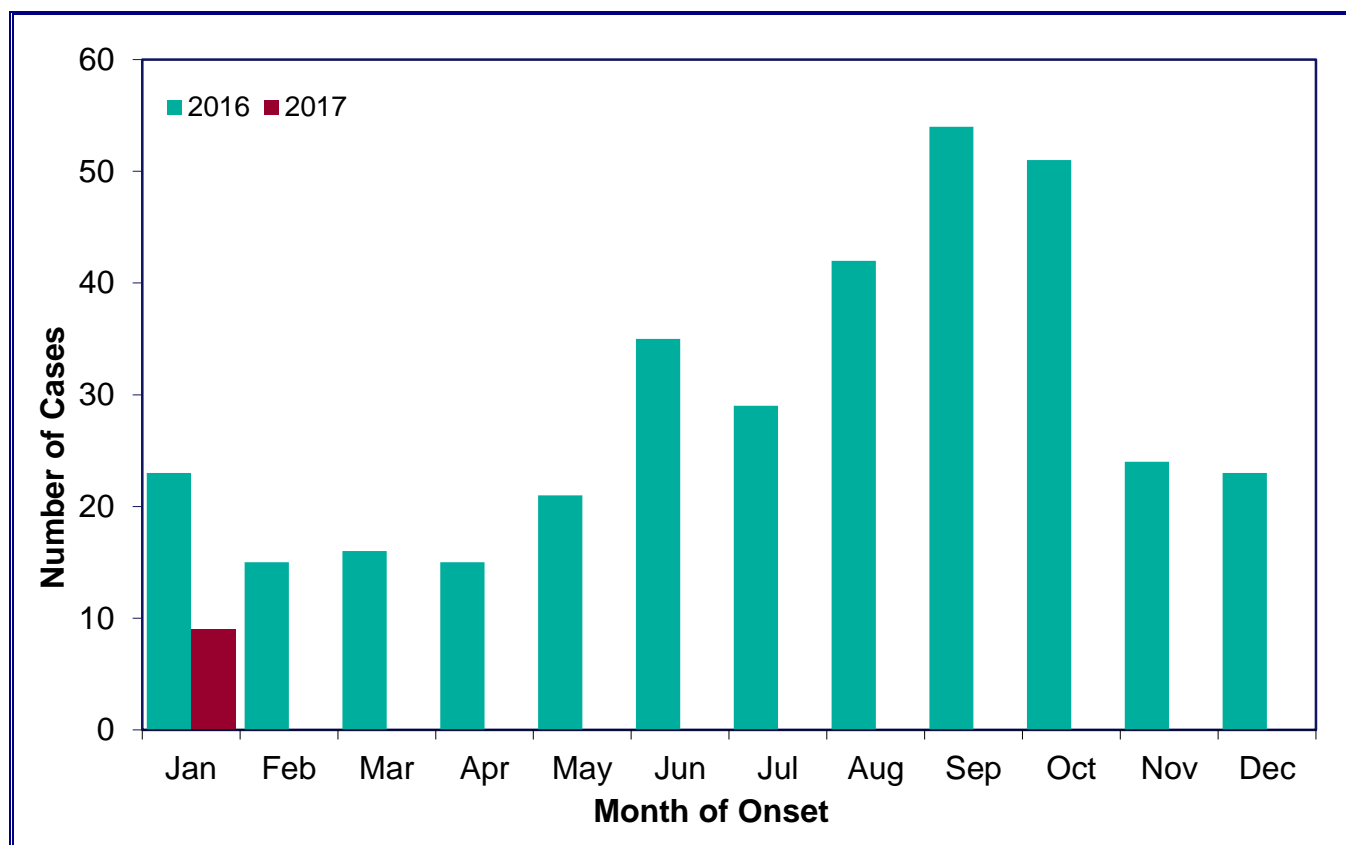
**Table 2:** Number of confirmed\* cases of LD by category with onset in January 2017

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in January 2017
Community	5
Nosocomial	1
Travel abroad	2
Travel UK	1
Unassigned	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</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 January 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 2016 and 2017



\* 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 January 2017	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited
East Midlands	-	-
East of England	1	-
London	2	1
North East	-	-
North West	3	1
South East	-	-
South West	1	1
Wales	-	1
West Midlands	1	-
Yorkshire & Humber	1	-
Other	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</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 since January 2017

	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>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the nine cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme, one (11.1%) case had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection.

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

## Comments

\* Please be advised that as of 01 January 2017 an updated national surveillance form has been brought into use and replaces all previous versions of the national surveillance form. The new form can be downloaded from the PHE website at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme>.

Please ensure all locally held copies of the national surveillance form are replaced with the new form.

\* 01 January 2017 a new guidance document on the investigation of Legionnaires' disease was published called 'Guidance on investigating case, clusters and outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease'. The document is specifically aimed towards PHE health protection teams undertaking public health investigations on incidents of Legionnaires' disease. It provides a framework for a standardised approach to an investigation which can be adapted to a range of scenarios. The guidance document is available on the PHE website at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-legionnaires-disease-cases-clusters-and-outbreaks>.