



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Routine reports of gastrointestinal infections in humans, England and Wales: March and April, 2019

Health Protection Report

Volume 13 Number 16

13 May 2019

Common gastrointestinal infections in England and Wales

Table 1: Laboratory reports of common gastrointestinal infections in England and Wales reported to Public Health England: weeks 14 – 17 (1 April – 28 April 2019)

Laboratory reports *	14/19	15/19	16/19	17/19	Total Reports 14-17/19	Cumulative total to 17/19	Cumulative total to WW/YY
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	787	845	758	842	3232	13642	17725
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.	59	62	39	59	219	784	1566
<i>Giardia</i> spp.	99	67	79	80	325	1538	1743
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	84	90	87	103	364	1604	2045
<i>Shigella</i> spp.	49	47	41	60	197	819	588
STEC O157 [†]	1	3	2	6	12	79	75
Rotavirus	119	120	102	116	457	1333	685
Norovirus	166	170	203	158	697	2982	3487

* Results are derived from Public Health England's Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) and are a composite of initial results from primary diagnostic laboratories (not yet subtyped) and results that have been subtyped at the relevant national reference laboratories. [†] Shiga toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O157 results are derived from Public Health England's National Enhanced Surveillance System for STEC.

Less common gastrointestinal infections in England and Wales

Table 2: Quarterly laboratory reports of less common gastrointestinal infections in England and Wales reported to Public Health England: weeks 1 – 13 (1 January- 31 March 2019)

Laboratory reports *	Total Reports 1-13/19	Cumulative total to 13/19	Cumulative total to 13/18
Astrovirus	163	163	161
Sapovirus	113	113	171
<i>Shigella boydii</i>	21	21	13
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	8	8	6
<i>Plesiomonas</i>	24	24	10
<i>Vibrio</i> spp.	9	9	10
<i>Yersinia</i> spp.	27	27	35
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	35	35	16
<i>Blastocystis hominis</i>	31	31	19
<i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>	13	13	7

* Results are derived from Public Health England's Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) and are a composite of initial results from primary diagnostic laboratories (not yet subtyped) and results that have been subtyped at the relevant national reference laboratories.

Notes: All data are provisional.

Salmonella infections in England and Wales

Details of 500 *Salmonella* infections stratified by serotype reported in the previous period (weeks 9 – 13, 2019) are given in the table below. In the current reporting period (weeks 14 – 17, 2019), 364 *Salmonella* infections were reported.

Table 3: *Salmonella* infections (faecal specimens) in England and Wales stratified by serotype: weeks 9 – 13 (25 February – 31 March 2019)[‡]

Serotype	Total
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	123
<i>Salmonella</i> Typhimurium	104
<i>Salmonella</i> Newport	18
<i>Salmonella</i> Virchow	16
<i>Salmonella</i> Infantis	15
Other <i>Salmonella</i> serovars	224
Total <i>Salmonella</i> infections (provisional data)	500

Shigella infections in England and Wales

Details of 248 *Shigella* infections stratified by species reported in the previous period (weeks 9 – 13, 2019) are given in the table below. In the current reporting period (weeks 14 – 17, 2019), 197 *Shigella* infections were reported.

Table 4: *Shigella* infections (faecal specimens) in England and Wales stratified by species: weeks 9 – 13 (25 February – 31 March 2019)[‡]

Serotype	Total
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	63
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	53
<i>Shigella boydii</i>	13
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	5
<i>Shigella</i> not speciated	114
Total <i>Shigella</i> infections (provisional data)	248

[‡] Subtyping results in Tables 2 and 3 are derived from data generated by Public Health England's Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit (GBRU). They are presented a month in arrears to allow for the lag between initial diagnosis at primary diagnostic laboratories and confirmatory (sub) typing at the reference laboratory.

Notes: Please note that phage typing for *Salmonella* spp. and *Shigella* spp. ceased as of 1 November 2015. From 1 December 2014, data for these reports has been derived from a new laboratory reporting system (Second Generation Surveillance System, SGSS); direct comparisons between reports prior to and following this period may therefore not be valid. All data are provisional.

Outbreaks of foodborne illness in England and Wales

Table 5: Quarterly reports of outbreaks of foodborne illness in England and Wales reported to Public Health England: weeks 1 – 13 (1 January – 31 March 2019)

PHE Centre	Organism	Number ill	Laboratory confirmed cases	Suspect vehicle	Evidence [§]
South East	Norovirus	14	1	No food identified None given	M
North East	Clostridium perfringens	16	3	Carvery	D
North East	Norovirus Genogroup 2	28	8	Not known	Not known
West Midlands	Norovirus Genogroup 2	42	3	No food identified None given	M
South East	Norovirus	15	3	No food identified None given	M
East of England	Clostridium perfringens	36	Not known	Roast dinner	D

[§] **Descriptive epidemiological evidence:** suspicion of a food vehicle in an outbreak based on the identification of common food exposures, from the systematic evaluation of cases and their characteristics and food histories over the likely incubation period by standardised means (such as standard questionnaires) from all, or an appropriate subset of, cases. **Microbiological evidence:** detection of a causative agent in a food vehicle or its component or in the food chain or its environment combined with detection in human cases, or clinical symptoms and an onset of illness in outbreak cases compatible with / pathognomonic to the causative agent identified in the food vehicle or its component or in the food chain or its environment. **Analytical epidemiological evidence:** a statistically significant association between consumption of a food vehicle and being a case in an outbreak demonstrated by studies such as a cohort study, a case-control study or similar studies

Notes: Outbreaks are reported once complete / information has been received from teams. Data are provisional.

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

About Health Protection Report

Health Protection Report is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.

Tel: 020 7654 8000 www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Queries relating to this document should be directed to:

EEDD@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.ogil.io) 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: 2018814

PHE supports the UN

Sustainable Development Goals

