



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Monthly Legionella Report

December 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, research, 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.

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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 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 December 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: December 2019

All data presented in this report is correct as at 10 January 2020.

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

Number of cases [‡] of Legionellosis reported/notified [†] during December 2019	36
Number of confirmed* cases [‡] of Legionnaires' disease (LD) since 01 January 2019	503

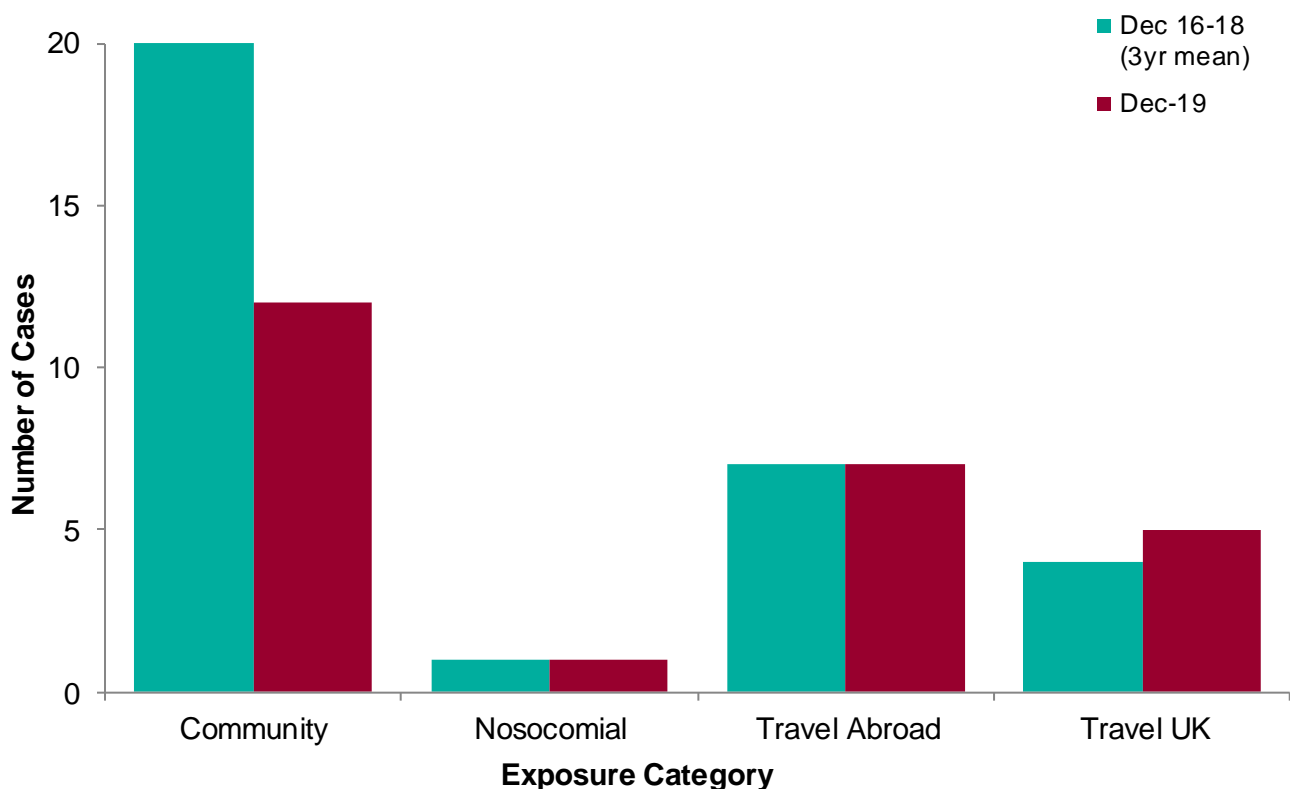
These case numbers are provisional and subject to change.

[†] reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications (includes confirmed and non-confirmed cases)

[‡] cases reported with symptom onset between 01 January to 30 December 2019 inclusive with sufficient information submitted and verified by the national surveillance scheme

* 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 December 2019



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

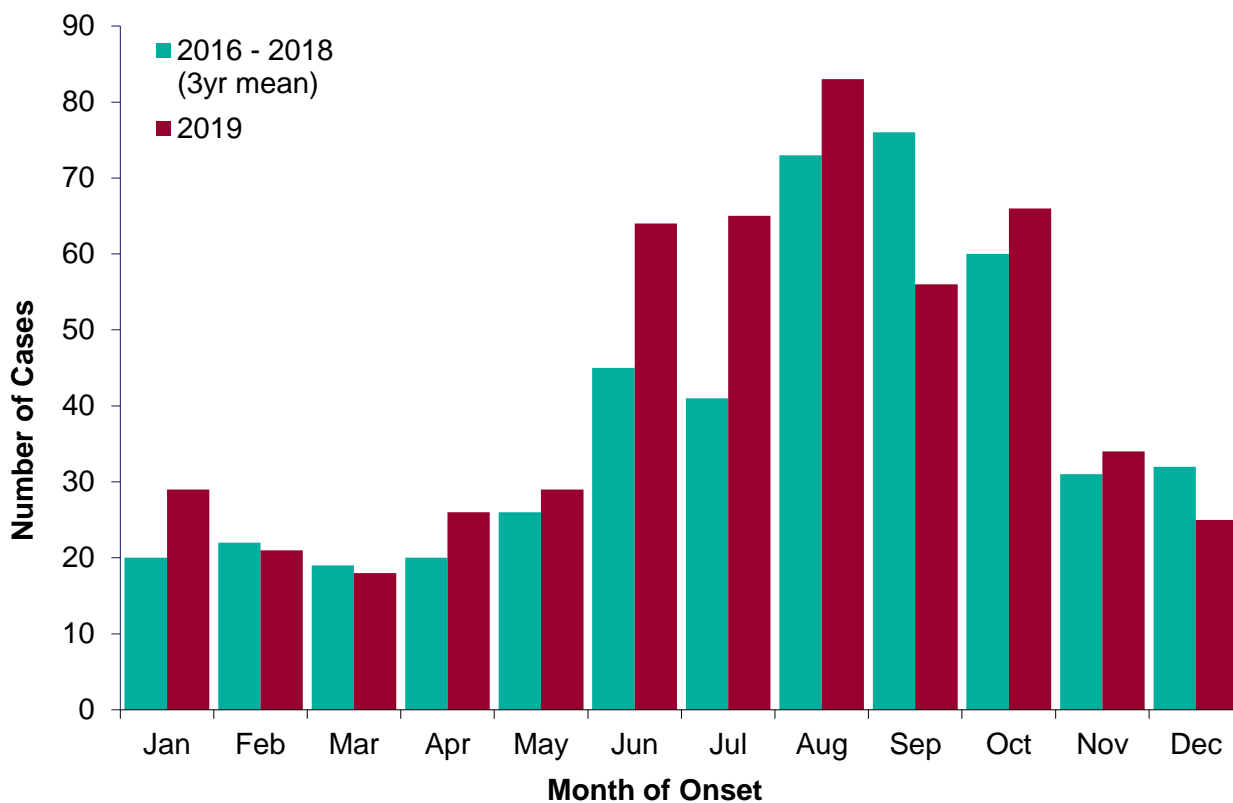
Table 2: Number of confirmed* cases of LD by category with onset in December 2019

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in December 2019	Confirmed* cases with onset since 01 January 2019
Community	12	247
Nosocomial	1	11
Travel abroad	7	207
Travel UK	5	51
Unassigned	-	0
Total	25	516

* 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 December 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 (December 2019 against monthly mean for previous three 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 December 2019		Confirmed* cases with onset since 1 January 2019	
	Total cases	Cases with LRT (%)	Total cases	Cases with LRT (%)
East Midlands	2	-	49	20 (40.8)
East of England	-	-	41	11(26.8)
London	4	2 (50.0)	79	31 (39.2)
North East	-	-	9	3 (33.3)
North West	5	4 (80.0)	65	31 (48.0)
South East	3	-	58	25 (43.1)
South West	2	1 (50.0)	59	36 (61.0)
Wales	2	1 (50.0)	36	8 (22.2)
West Midlands	7	1 (14.3)	74	27 (36.5)
Yorkshire and Humber	-	-	44	24 (54.5)
Other	-	-	2	-
Total	25	9 (36.0)	516	216 (41.9)

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 and/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
Total number of cases	516	216	179	162

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 516 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme 216 (41.9%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the 216 cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, 179 (82.9%) specimens tested positive for *Legionella spp.* A partial sequence type has been determined for 48 (26.8%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases and a complete sequence type was determined for 114 (63.7%) cases.

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

Comments

None for December 2019