

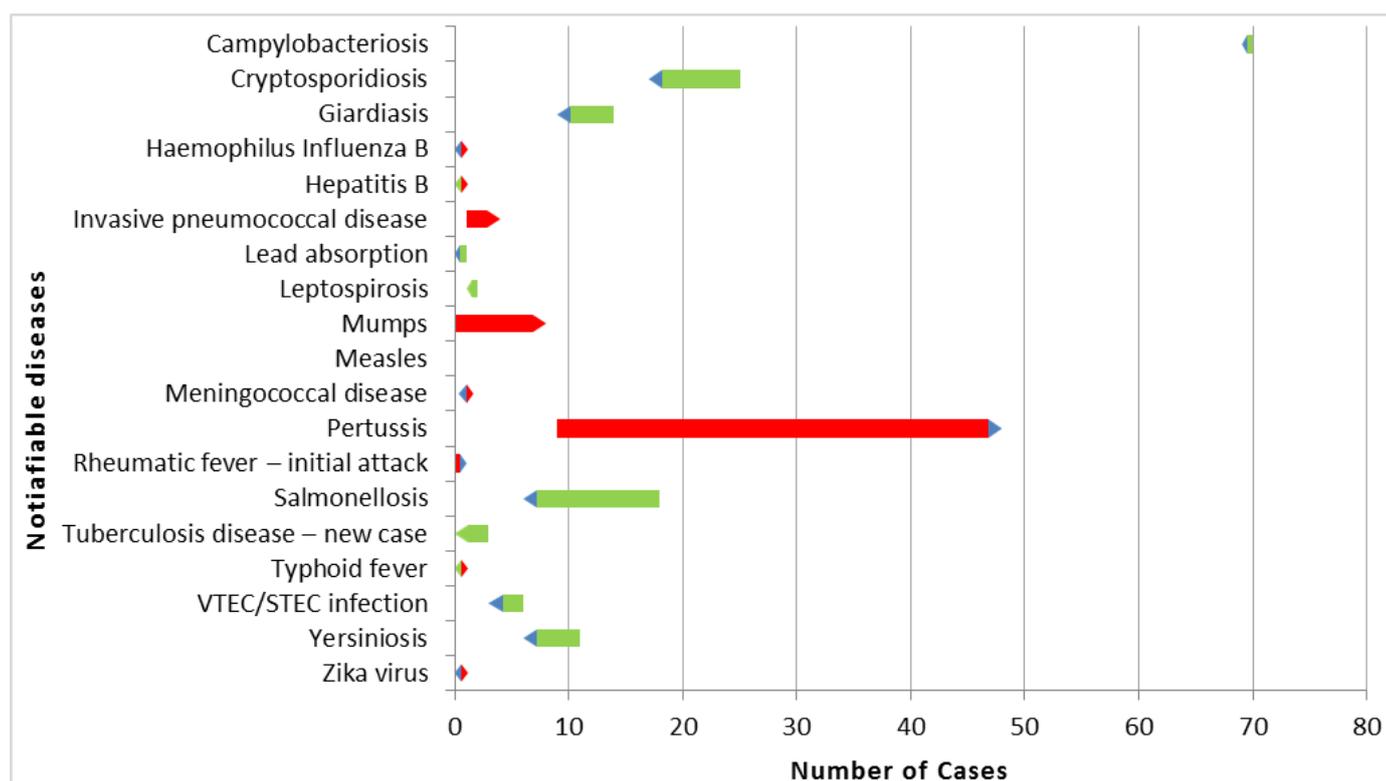
October 2017

**PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN**

**Communicable diseases notified October 2017**

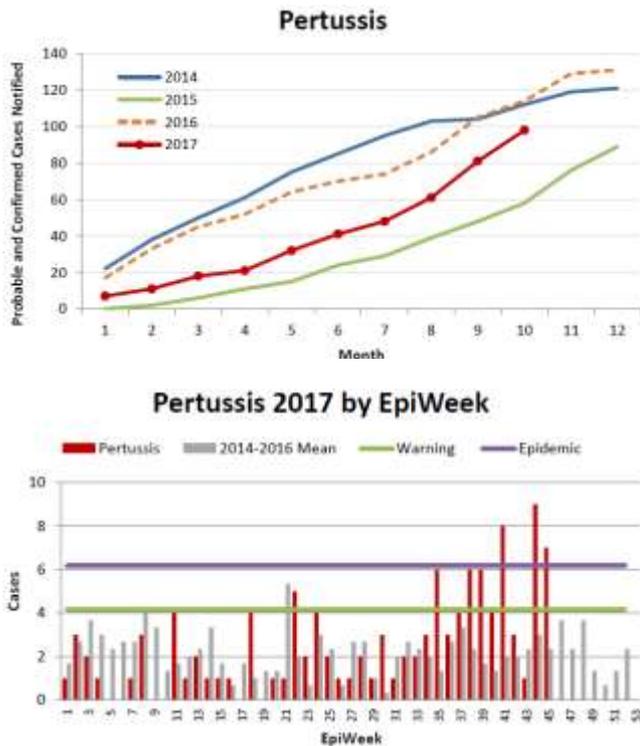
Disease name	Oct 2016	Oct 2017	YTD	Disease name	Oct 2016	Oct 2017	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	70	69	462	Malaria	0	0	3
Cryptosporidiosis	25	17	114	Mumps	0	8	65
Dengue fever	0	0	8	Meningococcal disease	1	1	8
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	0	10	2	Yersiniosis	11	6	54
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	0	0	3	Paratyphoid fever	0	0	1
Giardiasis	14	9	146	Pertussis	9	48	99
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	1	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	1	15
Hepatitis A	0	0	2	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	0	2	Salmonellosis	18	6	91
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	Shigellosis	1	1	4
Invasive pneumococcal disease	1	4	37	Tuberculosis disease - new case	3	0	19
Lead absorption	1	0	8	Tuberculosis disease – relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Latent Tuberculosis	4	1	41	Typhoid fever	0	0	2
Legionellosis	0	0	2	VTEC/STEC	6	3	33
Leptospirosis	2	1	43	Zika virus	0	0	1
Listeriosis	1	0	1				

**Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), October 2017 compared to October 2016, Waikato DHB**



## Pertussis – possible start of next epidemic

Both nationally and locally the number of pertussis cases being notified has increased significantly in the last two months, in addition to the cumulative chart to end October below we have already had 35 more this month, taking the “red line” above any of the previous three years. The second chart shows the dramatic increase since early September.



With high levels about it is important to immunise pregnant women (every pregnancy) and babies on time. The notification forms and flow charts for management are on our website at <http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/public-health-advice/a-z-of-public-health-topics/p-r/pertussis-whooping-cough/> (just type pertussis Waikato into your search engine).

## Regional immunisation rates

It is disappointing that infant immunisation coverage has dropped to 88%, and the number of children not immunised on time has increased from 63 (4.5%) to 81 (5.7%), excluding declines and opt-offs.

**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble -- Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins

### After hours

MOoH 021 359 650

HPO 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

### During office hours

Population Health (MOoH or HPO) 07 838 2569

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977

Email: [notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)

Notifications

07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020

Fax:

07 838 2382

Increasing immunisation coverage for Māori infants is the key priority area for Waikato. The Ministry is currently carrying out work to identify how the current downwards trend in immunisation rates for Māori infants that is evident in many regions can be addressed.

It is encouraging that there has been some improvement in the decline/opt-off rates for the Waikato region, although they remain around 1% higher than this time last year. Across the country as a whole, we have seen a return to previous levels of decline rates, and it is reassuring that the impact of negative publicity around vaccination appears to have been contained in most regions by promotion of positive immunisation messages.

We encourage all health providers to ensure they are familiar with vaccine preventable diseases and the available vaccines so advice given to your patients is well informed including the true contraindications to vaccination. *Generally* if an infant or child is well enough to go home from their GP or hospital they are well enough to be vaccinated.

## Onset date and occupation – what's the big deal?

Ever wondered why we'll ask specifically for onset date of symptoms and occupation when you notify cases of infectious disease? Here are some reasons:

### Onset date:

- Allows us to calculate when infected
- Allows us to advise on infectious period and thus isolation period
- Allows us to advise contacts regarding prophylaxis and/or quarantine

### Occupation:

- Education workers and attendees, food industry and health workers needs careful attention as these are the settings where transmission is more likely (depending on the bug) and more restrictions and/or contact investigation might be necessary.