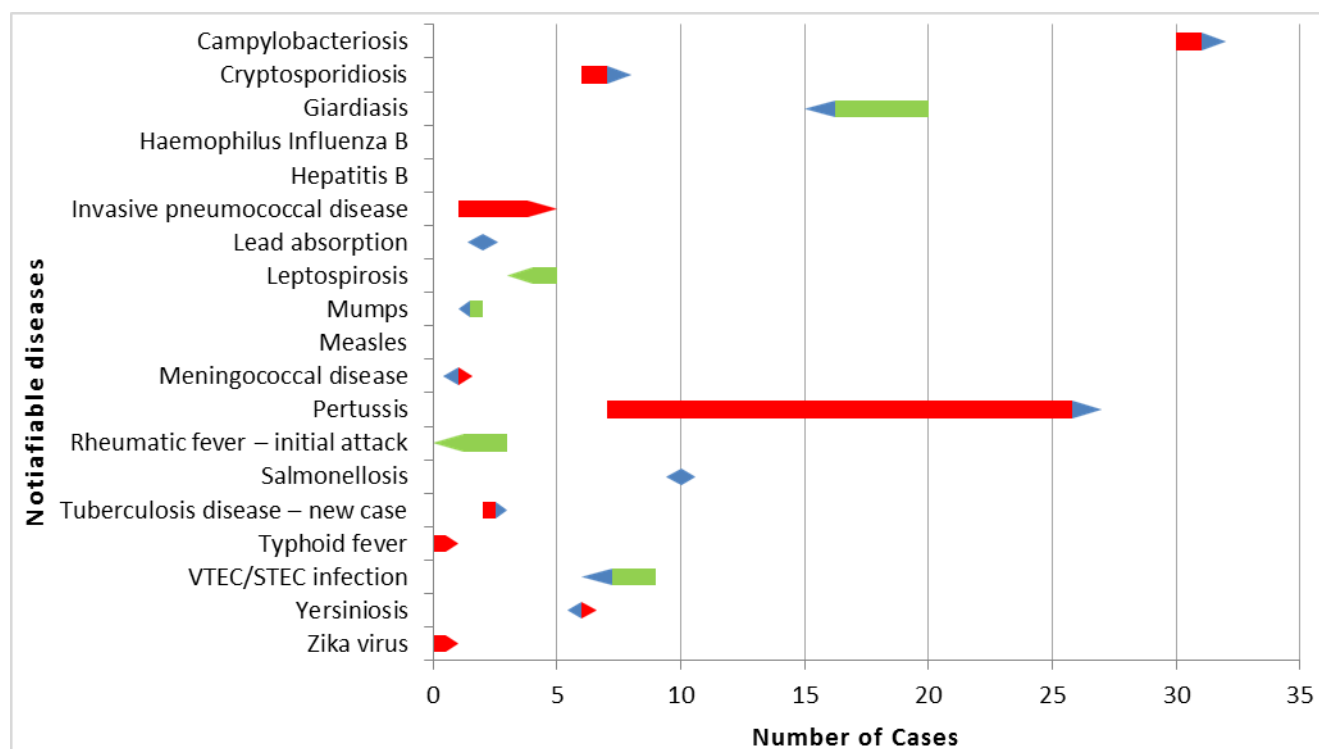


April/18

**PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN**
**Communicable diseases notified March 2018**

Disease name	March Year 2017	March Year 2018	YTD	Disease name	March Year 2017	March Year 2018	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	30	32	137	Malaria	0	0	1
Cryptosporidiosis	6	8	16	Meningococcal disease	1	1	0
Dengue fever	0	5	15	Mumps	2	1	6
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	0	1	2	Pertussis	7	27	153
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	1	1	1	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	3	0	1
Giardiasis	20	15	41	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	1	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	2	Salmonellosis	10	10	29
Invasive pneumococcal disease	1	5	7	Shigellosis	0	2	8
Latent Tuberculosis	4	3	11	Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	3	6
Legionellosis	0	1	1	Typhoid fever	0	1	2
Leptospirosis	5	3	6	VTEC/STEC infection	9	6	15
Lead absorption	2	2	4	Yersiniosis	6	6	14
				Zika virus	0	1	1

**Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), March 2018 compared to March 2017, Waikato DHB**


**Breaking news – Measles alert:** Please read the Ministry of Health media release and be vigilant for cases of measles with links to the cases mentioned, also if you can please also look at your high school and young adult populations for potential measles (MMR) catch up immunisation if they are not documented as fully immunised. <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/school-holidays-prompt-measles-immunisation-reminder>

### Investigation into PFAS contamination

Emerging organic contaminants are a class of contaminants which are becoming apparent in the environment and raising concerns about their potential effect on the environment and human health. One class of emerging contaminant are Poly- and Per-Fluoro-Alkyl Substances (PFAS). The focus of concern are two compounds in this class, Perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS), and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), historically used in the manufacture of fire-fighting foams. These foams were used widely internationally from the 1970s as they were very effective in suppressing liquid fuel fires, however if ingested have the potential to accumulate in the human body.

There is currently no consistent evidence that non occupational exposure to PFOS and PFOA causes adverse human health effects but as this is an emerging contaminant, the evidence around the health risks is still unclear. The Ministry of Health advises that there are no acute human health risks. The Ministry of Health is working with the Ministry for the Environment and NZ Defence Force to further investigate.

No water supplies in the Waikato are known to be contaminated with PFAS, however should any patients present/enquire about PFAS or request to be tested there is extensive information here: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/hazards/hazardous-substances/pfas>

### Pertussis Epidemic

In addition to the information in our table and graph on the first page, you can find details from national surveillance of the pertussis epidemic published fortnightly on the ESR website at <https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/PertussisRpt.php>.

The most up to date report will be at the top of the list of reports... the latest report (to 23 March 2018) indicates that the epidemic might be starting to abate (or might just be delays in reporting of data).

**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 07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977 Fax: 07 838 2382 Email: [notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)

### Updated WDHB Website and Public Health Guidance/Forms

You will probably already have seen the new Waikato DHB website at <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/>

Public Health Guidelines and forms (for instance for notification on suspicion) are not yet available via the Map of Medicine, but some can now be found elsewhere in the "For Health Professionals" section just above the link to these bulletins under "Notifiable and communicable diseases" at <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/your-health/public-health-services-and-alerts/notifiable-and-communicable-diseases/>

Just scroll to the bottom of the page and expand the "accordions" to find advice, guidelines and/or notification forms.

### Current outbreaks in the Pacific region and Australia

- Dengue fever in American Samoa (Denv-2), Fiji (Denv-2), New Caledonia (Denv-2), Samoa (Denv-2), Tonga (Denv-2), Vanuatu (Denv-2) and Wallis and Futuna (Denv-1).
- Meningococcal disease in Fiji.
- Mumps in Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu and Hawaii

Source: PacNet as of 09 April 2018

Also worth noting that in addition to the local media reports about small (so far) **measles outbreaks** in other parts of NZ, international surveillance in recent weeks has reported outbreaks in USA (California, Nevada, Reno, Oklahoma, Michigan), Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Romania, Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, UK, Pakistan, Armenia, Uganda, Philippines, and Australia (Brisbane).

So, it is always worth considering measles in people with fever, rash, respiratory symptoms and recent travel, particularly if they are not documented as fully immunised. It is also worth recommending immunisation catch up, particularly in the young adult age group where most cases occur and where system failure or parental decisions to decline immunisation can now be addressed.