

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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December 2007

This is now the time of year when an increase in meningococcal disease activity can be expected. Five cases were reported during November, three of whom were laboratory confirmed as Group B disease.

A call for papers has been issued by the 5 Nations Health Protection Conference to be held in Cork on 29-30 April 2008. Abstracts are invited on a variety of themed sessions and are required to be submitted by 18 January 2008.

As we approach Christmas we would like to gratefully acknowledge the contribution to our work of our many partners. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Dr Neil Irvine
Regional Epidemiologist



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Enhanced Surveillance of Meningococcal Disease (ESMD) in Northern Ireland: Summary Report January – November 2007 (provisional data)

Cases

Five cases of invasive meningococcal disease were reported during November 2007. Three were laboratory confirmed, and identified as Group B.

A total of 83 cases have been reported between January and November 2007. 76% (63/83) were laboratory confirmed (Table 1).

Deaths

Four deaths were reported between January and November 2007. Two were children in the 1-4 year old age group (both confirmed as Group B disease); one was in a child under 1 year old (not laboratory confirmed); and one in a person in the 15-19 year old age group (not laboratory confirmed).

Table 1: Confirmed and probable cases of invasive meningococcal disease by serogroup and calendar month of onset, January to November 2007

Month	Confirmed			Not Confirmed	Total
	B	C	Other and ungrouped		
Jan	4	0	1	2	7
Feb	7	0	3	5	15
Mar	9	0	2	2	13
Apr	6	0	1	1	8
May	9	0	0	1	10
Jun	3	0	0	2	5
Jul	6	0	1	1	8
Aug	4	0	0	2	6
Sept	1	0	1	2	4
Oct	2	0	0	0	2
Nov	3	0	0	2	5
Total	54	0	9	20	83

5 Nations Health Protection Conference, 2008

Tuesday 29 April and Wednesday 30 April, Fota Island, Cork

A Call for Abstracts has been made. You are invited to submit an abstract/paper for the following sessions:

- **Making Surveillance Work:** What's the best way to count what counts?
- **Environmental Issues** – New challenges for health protection
- **Health Protection in Vulnerable People** – Prisons, schools etc
- **Outbreak and Incidents:** Evidence or intuition?
- **Late Breakers & Hot Topics**
- **Poster Sessions** – Both days

Submission of abstracts will be done via the 5 Nations Health Protection Conference abstract database at www.5nations.org.uk

The closing date for the submission of abstracts will be **Friday, 18 January 2008**, while the closing date for abstracts submitted for the Late Breaker & Hot Topics session will be **Friday, 8 February 2008**.

Positive blood cultures: Laboratory Reports, Weeks 01-40

	2007/01-40	2006/01-40	2005/01-40
Gram negative bacteria			
<i>Acinetobacter sp</i>	31	24	39
<i>Aeromonas sp</i>	1	3	2
<i>Brucella sp</i>	0	1	0
<i>Campylobacter sp</i>	1	0	2
<i>Citrobacter sp</i>	12	16	18
<i>Enterobacter sp</i>	75	61	71
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	598	595	540
<i>Escherichia sp</i>	0	1	1
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (all types)	10	8	10
<i>Haemophilus parainfluenzae</i>	1	2	1
<i>Klebsiella sp</i>	118	135	129
<i>Legionella sp</i>	0	0	0
<i>Leptospira</i>	0	0	0
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	21	13	5
<i>Neisseria sp</i>	0	1	2
<i>Proteus sp</i>	62	44	57
<i>Providencia sp</i>	4	2	2
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	48	53	63
<i>Pseudomonas sp</i>	35	42	47
<i>Salmonella sp</i>	4	2	6
<i>Serratia sp</i>	61	52	69
Other gram negative bacteria	22	33	21
Total	1104	1088	1085
Gram positive bacteria			
<i>Corynebacterium sp</i> & Diphtheroids	11	7	9
Staphylococci:			
<i>S. aureus</i>	435	423	406
coagulase negative	371	354	301
Streptococci*:			
group A	18	18	22
group B	39	42	39
group C	2	3	9
group G	14	6	12
'anguinosus group'	14	16	22
'bovis group'	9	11	6
'mitis group'	16	8	18
'mutans group'	0	2	0
'salivarius group'	9	5	5
'sanguinis group'	9	8	7
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	101	111	104
Other Streptococci	25	24	15
Enterococci:			
<i>E. faecalis</i>	93	103	91
<i>E. faecium</i>	77	82	61
Other Enterococci	14	11	13
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	2	2	3
Other gram positive bacteria	19	25	17
Total	1278	1261	1160
Anaerobic bacteria			
Anaerobic cocci	8	1	9
<i>Bacteroides sp</i>	37	43	39
<i>Clostridium sp</i>	16	29	20
Other anaerobic bacteria	3	5	2
Total	64	78	70
Grand Total	2446	2427	2315

* Pyogenic streptococci have been grouped according to traditional Lancefield serological groupings; non-pyogenic streptococci grouped according to their biochemical and genetic properties and based on current taxonomy.

Foodborne and gastrointestinal tract Infections: Laboratory reports, weeks 41-44

	Number of reports received		Cumulative total	
	07/41-44	06/41-44	07/01-44	06/01-44
<i>Campylobacter</i>	58	84	778	811
<i>C. difficile</i> Toxin	151	121	1123	1296
<i>C. perfringens</i>	1	1	15	24
<i>E. coli</i> O 157	12	1	51	44
<i>Salmonella</i> total	7	12	152	189
<i>S. enteritidis</i> (PT 4)	2 (1)	8 (2)	42 (3)	90 (13)
<i>S. typhimurium</i> (DT 104)	2 (0)	1 (1)	32 (0)	39 (8)
<i>Salmonella</i> other	3	3	78	60
<i>Shigella</i>	1	1	15	9
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	4	9	82	124
<i>Giardia</i>	1	1	4	15
Adenovirus (faeces)	27	13	116	179
Enterovirus (faeces)	8	2	33	6
Rotavirus	0	5	357	420
Norovirus	43	7	315	323

Salmonella (other than *enteritidis* or *typhimurium*):

<i>S. spp</i>	2
<i>S. java</i>	1

Comment:

The following were associated with foreign travel:

Male, age 20 years, *Campylobacter sp*, Spain; Male, age 47 years, *Campylobacter sp*, Germany; Male, age 71 years, *Campylobacter sp*, Spain.

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Comments and contributions are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor.

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