

# SITUATION UPDATE ON LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK, SOUTH AFRICA

Date of issue: 16 January 2018. Issued by: Centre for Enteric Diseases and Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response

## Summary

- The outbreak continues, with 19 additional cases recorded since the last update.
- At present, the source of the outbreak is not known.
- Cases of listeriosis will continue to be investigated, with trace back and further investigation of any positive food/environmental samples.
- Outcome data is now available for 30% (235/767) of cases, of which 34% (81/235) died.

As of 16 January 2018, a total of 767 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (60%, 462/767) followed by Western Cape (13%, 101/767) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 55/767) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (66%, 507/767) and private (34%, 260/767) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (71%, 542/767), followed by CSF (24%, 181/748). Where age was reported (n=735), ages range from birth to 93 years (median 26 years) and 41% (303/735) are neonates aged  $\leq 28$  days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 96% (291/303) had early-onset disease (birth to  $\leq 6$  days). Females account for 55% (405/731) of cases where gender is reported. Final outcome data is available for 30% (235/767) of cases, of which 34% (81/235) died.

## Note:

- Case data is the best available at time of publication.
- Due to challenges with NHLS laboratory information system data (since epidemiological week 47) and a possible lag in reporting as a result of the public holidays, case numbers are likely to change and trends must be interpreted with caution.

- ❖ All healthcare workers are requested to complete case investigation forms (CIFs – available on the website) for case-patients with listeriosis, and submit these to the NICD ([outbreak@nicd.ac.za](mailto:outbreak@nicd.ac.za)).
- ❖ Clinical listeriosis management guidelines are available on the website ([www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)).
- ❖ Where clinicians suspect listeriosis but specimens (including CSF and blood) are culture negative, a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test can be performed at the NICD. PCR can also be performed on placenta samples for investigation of stillbirths/miscarriages. Please contact the Centre for Enteric Diseases on (011) 555 0343 for further details
- ❖ The NICD continues to operate its 24-hour hotline for healthcare workers.

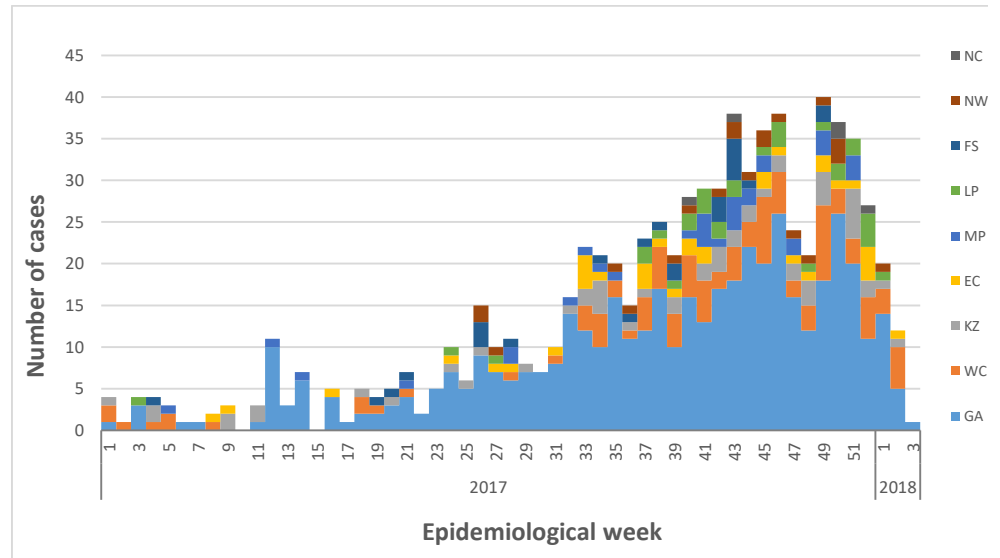


Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases by epidemiological week and date of sample collection and province, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 16 January 2018 (n=767)

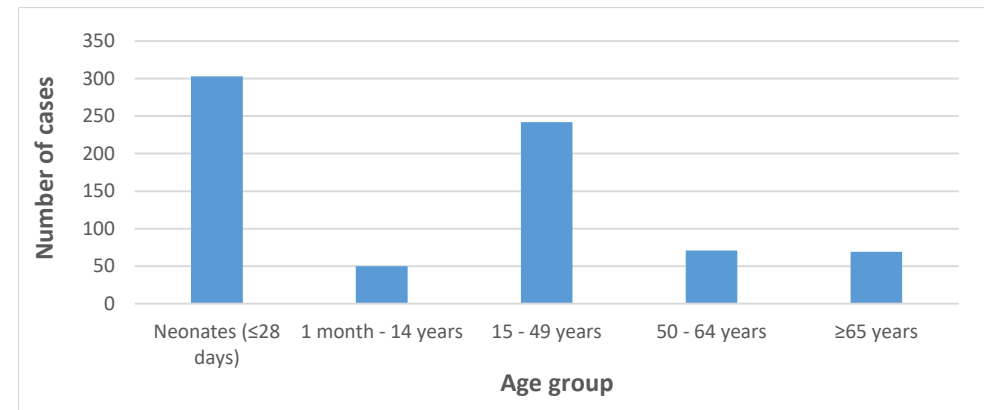


Figure 2: Age distribution of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 16 January 2018 (n=735)