Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

IMPORTANT

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Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Project
November 2023

Disease	Cases			Deaths		
	Reported	MoM*	YoY**	Reported	MoM*	YoY**
Plague	1	1.0 (/)	1.0 (/)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Cholera	0	-2.0 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
SARS-CoV	0	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	5,664	454.0 (8.71%)	1,365.0 (31.75%)	1,955	89.0 (4.77%)	497.0 (34.09%)
Hepatitis	156,977	/ (/)	/ (/)	327	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hepatitis A	1,056	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hepatitis B	132,270	/ (/)	/ (/)	35	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hepatitis C	20,280	/ (/)	/ (/)	292	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hepatitis D	19	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hepatitis E	2,751	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Other hepatitis	601	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Poliomyelitis	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Human infection with H5N1 virus	0	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Measles	78	-10.0 (-11.36%)	-4.0 (-4.88%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Epidemic hemorrhagic fever	1,320	/ (/)	/ (/)	3	/ (/)	/ (/)
Rabies	12	-1.0 (-7.69%)	-4.0 (-25.00%)	14	2.0 (16.67%)	6.0 (75.00%)
Japanese encephalitis	12	/ (/)	/ (/)	2	/ (/)	/ (/)
Dengue	1,685	-3,703.0 (-68.73%)	1,511.0 (868.39%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Anthrax	36	-11.0 (-23.40%)	13.0 (56.52%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Dysentery	1,963	/ (/)	/ (/)	1	/ (/)	/ (/)
Tuberculosis	57,432	-1,807.0 (-3.05%)	9,080.0 (18.78%)	320	-34.0 (-9.60%)	-13.0 (-3.90%)
Typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever	377	-103.0 (-21.46%)	-42.0 (-10.02%)	0	-1.0 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Meningococcal meningitis	12	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Pertussis	6,410	1,980.0 (44.70%)	4,250.0 (196.76%)	2	2.0 (/)	2.0 (/)
Diphtheria	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Neonatal tetanus	1	-1.0 (-50.00%)	0.0 (0.00%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Scarlet fever	4,637	2,104.0 (83.06%)	2,741.0 (144.57%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Brucellosis	4,540	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Gonorrhea	10,065	-263.0 (-2.55%)	2,435.0 (31.91%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Syphilis	57,719	738.0 (1.30%)	22,567.0 (64.20%)	1	-2.0 (-66.67%)	-2.0 (-66.67%)
Leptospirosis	25	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Schistosomiasis	3	1.0 (50.00%)	-5.0 (-62.50%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Malaria	183	-10.0 (-5.18%)	109.0 (147.30%)	0	-1.0 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Human infection with H7N9 virus	0	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Monkey pox	80	-47.0 (-37.01%)	/ (/)	0	0.0 (/)	/ (/)
Influenza	1,862,998	1,522,029.0 (446.38%)	1,780,335.0 (2153.73%)	1	0.0 (0.00%)	1.0 (/)
Mumps	7,642	-645.0 (-7.78%)	-1,060.0 (-12.18%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Rubella	89	-21.0 (-19.09%)	-31.0 (-25.83%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis	4,940	-18,171.0 (-78.62%)	3,202.0 (184.23%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Leprosy	34	10.0 (41.67%)	14.0 (70.00%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Typhus	170	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Kala azar	19	0.0 (0.00%)	8.0 (72.73%)	0	-1.0 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Echinococcosis	387	76.0 (24.44%)	290.0 (298.97%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Filariasis	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Infectious diarrhea	73,835	/ (/)	/ (/)	0	/ (/)	/ (/)
Hand foot and mouth disease	92,955	-72,572.0 (-43.84%)	42,322.0 (83.59%)	0	0.0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Total	2,352,301	1,417,130.0 (151.54%)	1,884,328.0 (402.66%)	2,626	125.0 (5.00%)	756.0 (40.43%)

*MoM: Month on Month change, **YoY: Year on Year change.

Overview In November 2023, the Chinese mainland demonstrated a diverse epidemiological profile characterized by chronic infectious diseases with high incidence, sporadic outbreaks of acute conditions, and concerns over emergent infections. Data from the National Notifiable Disease Reporting System reflects a considerable burden of viral hepatitis, with Hepatitis B (HBV) reporting the highest number of cases (96336 with 40 deaths), followed by Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) and other forms of hepatitis, signaling ongoing transmission and the need for intensified control measures. The prominence of Hepatitis C (HCV) with 20245 cases and Hepatitis A also delineate the significant impact of viral liver diseases. Notably, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) accounted for a substantial number of all-cause deaths among cumulative reported AIDS patients, reinforcing the imperative for persistent public health interventions in HIV/AIDS management. The mortality reporting demonstrates both chronicity and acute fatal outcomes from infectious diseases. With AIDS-related deaths peaking (214 deaths), the chronic nature and disease management challenges are underscored. Tuberculosis remains a critical cause of morbidity and mortality, with 83205 cases and a significant death toll (214 deaths), highlighting the persistent public health challenge of tackling TB. While the data emphasizes a relatively lower fatality rate for infectious diseases like dengue fever and measles, the high death count from rabies (46 deaths from 34 cases) and epidemic hemorrhagic fever (17 deaths from 1700 cases) require immediate attention for prevention, control, and treatment strategies. Concerns The consistently high incidence of communicable diseases such as Hepatitis B and Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is troubling. HBV being endemic in China presents a longstanding public health challenge with implications for chronic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma. HFMD, predominantly affecting children, reports a staggering 153086 cases, necessitating attention towards effective public health strategies and interventions targeting vulnerable populations. The persistent prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, particularly syphilis (83205 cases, 214 deaths) and gonorrhea, calls for enhanced sexual health education and services. Of public concern is the emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases and zoonoses. Even with the available vaccines, mumps reported a concerning number of 26717 cases. In addition, the recent inclusion of Monkeypox as a Class B infectious disease may heighten public worry despite the absence of reported cases this month, due to the global context of an ongoing outbreak. The sudden spike in infectious diarrhea cases (108329 cases), though excluding other acute enteric diseases, emphasizes the need for continuous sanitary measures and surveillance to protect population health. Recommendations Public health policies should aggressively tackle the high incidence diseases through vaccination campaigns, education, and access to treatment. Vaccination interventions should prioritize hepatitis B and influenza, given the high cases reported (96336 and 130442 respectively). Importantly, comprehensive measures that include the promotion of safe-sex practices and harm-reduction strategies must be instituted to curve the worrying trends of sexually transmitted infections, particularly syphilis and gonorrhea. The general public should observe strict personal hygiene practices, including hand hygiene, to prevent diseases like HFMD and infectious diarrhea, which exhibit substantial incidence. Additionally, heightened vigilance is required for emerging infectious diseases such as Monkeypox. Even though no cases were reported, the public should be educated about the symptoms, modes of transmission, and prevention strategies for such diseases to curb potential outbreaks. On rabies, the public is advised to avoid contact with stray animals and to seek immediate post-exposure prophylaxis if bitten. Overall, the government should strengthen surveillance systems and improve reporting mechanisms. Coordination between human and veterinary medicine, the One Health approach, is crucial in the timely response to zoonotic diseases. Finally, as influenza and HFMD show, seasonal variations require public health readiness for prompt response through community engagement, awareness campaigns, and readiness of health services to manage the seasonal rise in cases to prevent complications and halt disease spread.

Notation from Data Source:
* According to the National Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, not included coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
† The number of deaths of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the number of all-cause deaths reported in the month by cumulative reported AIDS patients.
§ Since September 20, 2023, Monkey pox was included in the management of Class B infectious diseases.
¶ Infectious diarrhea excludes cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever.
The number of cases and cause-specific deaths refer to data recorded in National Notifiable Disease Reporting System in China, which includes both clinically-diagnosed cases and laboratory-confirmed cases. Only reported cases of the 31 provincial-level administrative divisions in Chinese mainland are included in the table, whereas data of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macau Special Administrative Region, and Taiwan, China are not included. Monthly statistics are calculated without annual verification, which were usually conducted in February of the next year for de-duplication and verification of reported cases in annual statistics. Therefore, 12-month cases could not be added together directly to calculate the cumulative cases because the individual information might be verified via National Notifiable Disease Reporting System according to information verification or field investigations by local CDCs.

News information since November 2023 in Chinese Mainland

Summary Since November 2023, an increase in respiratory illnesses has been noted in mainland China, primarily affecting children. These incidents are linked to known pathogens. Authorities and health organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) are closely monitoring the situation, although no novel pathogens have been identified. Outbreaks of Known Diseases A noticeable uptick in respiratory illnesses among children in northern China has followed the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and the colder weather in the region. The Chinese National Health Commission reported cases involving influenza, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and SARS-CoV-2, particularly noted for their increased prevalence in children. Mycoplasma pneumoniae and RSV have a more pronounced impact on this demographic. Beijing and Liaoning have reported clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia cases in children; however, the WHO, having analyzed data from Chinese health authorities, confirmed these as instances of known respiratory pathogens. The healthcare system has coped with the surge without exceeding hospital capacities. China's State Council has called for enhanced monitoring and resource preparation, especially in critical areas such as borders, schools, and nursing homes. Emergence of Novel Pathogens To date, there have been no indications or reports of emerging novel pathogens responsible for the surge in respiratory diseases in China. The WHO has requested from Chinese officials more detailed data about the outbreaks with a focus on the trends of the known circulating pathogens. Consensus among health experts and the WHO suggests that the current wave of infections is linked exclusively to pathogens previously recognized and understood within the scientific community. Despite this, vigilance is maintained through close observation of the disease trends to swiftly identify any potential new threats. In essence, the rise in respiratory illnesses in China’s pediatric population since November 2023 is attributable to familiar infections without evidence of new pathogen emergence.

News information since November 2023 around world

Summary Since November 2023, the world has faced multiple infectious disease events, including enduring struggles with established diseases and the advent of new viral variants. These health challenges have prompted continuous monitoring and response efforts by global health organizations. Outbreaks of Known Diseases Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus: This virus has affected several countries around the globe, with significant outbreaks in Southeast Asia and reports of cases also in the United States, the UK, Spain, Ecuador, and Chile. One notable case resulted in a fatality in Cambodia in October 2023. The infection is typically acquired through direct contact with infected birds, posing a minimal risk of human-to-human transmission. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV): Although no new cases were reported in October 2023, MERS-CoV remains a health concern, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula. Transmission can occur via airborne particles or through close contact with infected camels. Mpox (Clade I): Mainly seen in Central Africa, mpox continues to be a concern due to transmission through proximity to infected individuals or animals. COVID-19: The pandemic persists, marked by the emergence of new variants. Current vaccines are effective against these new strains. Public health authorities such as the CDC stress the importance of vaccination, especially for individuals at higher risk. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): Particularly highlighted in the CDC's seasonal outlook, RSV remains a notable threat, especially for children and the elderly. Global Measles: The CDC is actively addressing measles outbreaks occurring around the world. Respiratory Illness in Northern China: An increased incidence of respiratory illnesses among children in northern China has been documented, correlating with lifting COVID-19 restrictions and colder weather. The illnesses have been associated with familiar pathogens, including influenza viruses, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2. Emergence of Novel Pathogens The period in review has not identified any completely new pathogens; however, attention has been given to novel variants of existing viruses, such as those of COVID-19. Continued vigilance is directed towards tracking and managing known infectious diseases and their evolving strains. In conclusion, the global health community remains diligent in observing these events, ready to alter response strategies to effectively control and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. (Sources include information from WHO, GOV.UK, CDC, ECDC)