

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 (/)	1.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Cholera	0	-2 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
SARS-CoV	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	5,664	454 (8.71%)	1,365.0 (31.75%)	1,955	89 (4.77%)	497.0 (34.09%)
Hepatitis	156,977	4,282 (2.80%)	52,539.0 (50.31%)	327	70 (27.24%)	274.0 (516.98%)
Hepatitis A	1,056	70 (7.10%)	307.0 (40.99%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Hepatitis B	132,270	3,229 (2.50%)	45,899.0 (53.14%)	35	3 (9.38%)	3.0 (9.38%)
Hepatitis C	20,280	814 (4.18%)	5,223.0 (34.69%)	292	68 (30.36%)	272.0 (1360.00%)
Hepatitis D	19	4 (26.67%)	9.0 (90.00%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Hepatitis E	2,751	208 (8.18%)	1,019.0 (58.83%)	0	-1 (-100.00%)	-1.0 (-100.00%)
Other hepatitis	601	-43 (-6.68%)	82.0 (15.80%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Poliomyelitis	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Human infection with H5N1 virus	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Measles	78	-10 (-11.36%)	-4.0 (-4.88%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Epidemic hemorrhagic fever	1,320	881 (200.68%)	425.0 (47.49%)	3	0 (0.00%)	-2.0 (-40.00%)
Rabies	12	-1 (-7.69%)	-4.0 (-25.00%)	14	2 (16.67%)	6.0 (75.00%)
Japanese encephalitis	12	-20 (-62.50%)	11.0 (1100.00%)	2	0 (0.00%)	1.0 (100.00%)
Dengue	1,685	-3,703 (-68.73%)	1,511.0 (868.39%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Anthrax	36	-11 (-23.40%)	13.0 (56.52%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Dysentery	1,963	-1,104 (-36.00%)	-12.0 (-0.61%)	1	1 (/)	0.0 (0.00%)
Tuberculosis	57,432	-1,807 (-3.05%)	9,080.0 (18.78%)	320	-34 (-9.60%)	-13.0 (-3.90%)
Typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever	377	-103 (-21.46%)	-42.0 (-10.02%)	0	-1 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Meningococcal meningitis	12	7 (140.00%)	8.0 (200.00%)	0	0 (/)	-1.0 (-100.00%)
Pertussis	6,410	1,980 (44.70%)	4,250.0 (196.76%)	2	2 (/)	2.0 (/)
Diphtheria	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Neonatal tetanus	1	-1 (-50.00%)	0.0 (0.00%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Scarlet fever	4,637	2,104 (83.06%)	2,741.0 (144.57%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Brucellosis	4,540	63 (1.41%)	1,971.0 (76.72%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Gonorrhea	10,065	-263 (-2.55%)	2,435.0 (31.91%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Syphilis	57,719	738 (1.30%)	22,567.0 (64.20%)	1	-2 (-66.67%)	-2.0 (-66.67%)
Leptospirosis	25	-51 (-67.11%)	15.0 (150.00%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Schistosomiasis	3	1 (50.00%)	-5.0 (-62.50%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Malaria	183	-10 (-5.18%)	109.0 (147.30%)	0	-1 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Human infection with H7N9 virus	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Monkey pox	80	-47 (-37.01%)	/ (/)	0	0 (/)	/ (/)
Influenza	1,862,998	1,522,029 (446.38%)	1,780,335.0 (2153.73%)	1	0 (0.00%)	1.0 (/)
Mumps	7,642	-645 (-7.78%)	-1,060.0 (-12.18%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Rubella	89	-21 (-19.09%)	-31.0 (-25.83%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Acute hemorrhagic conjunctivitis	4,940	-18,171 (-78.62%)	3,202.0 (184.23%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Leprosy	34	10 (41.67%)	14.0 (70.00%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Typhus	170	-45 (-20.93%)	54.0 (46.55%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Kala azar	19	0 (0.00%)	8.0 (72.73%)	0	-1 (-100.00%)	0.0 (/)
Echinococcosis	387	76 (24.44%)	290.0 (298.97%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Filariasis	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Infectious diarrhea	73,835	-16,909 (-18.63%)	22,863.0 (44.85%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Hand foot and mouth disease	92,955	-72,572 (-43.84%)	42,322.0 (83.59%)	0	0 (/)	0.0 (/)
Total	2,352,301	1,417,130 (151.54%)	1,884,328.0 (402.66%)	2,626	125 (5.00%)	756.0 (40.43%)

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

Overview

In November 2023, epidemiological data from mainland China's National Notifiable Disease Reporting System reflects a vast landscape of infectious diseases. The data indicates that some diseases continue to exert a significant health burden, both in terms of case numbers and associated mortality. Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), with 193,230 reported cases, stands out as the disease with the highest incidence, followed closely by infectious diarrhea (excluding cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, and paratyphoid fever) and Hepatitis B. These illnesses demonstrate a persistent prevalence in China's population, highlighting the need for ongoing public health vigilance.

The mortality data for November 2023 reveals a more nuanced situation. While many diseases report zero or single-digit fatalities, certain conditions such as Tuberculosis (TB), with a reported 96106 cases and 171 deaths, and Hepatitis B, with 106985 cases and 40 deaths, remain causes of significant concern. Though the mortality rates for these diseases appear modest relative to their incident cases, they indicate the severity and impact of these infections on the Chinese population. The data underscores the necessity for effective treatment and management strategies to prevent disease progression and reduce mortality.

Concerns

Diseases with high incidence such as HFMD and Hepatitis B reflect persistent public health challenges. HFMD, while often mild, poses significant risk to children and has resulted in rare but unfortunate complications leading to fatalities. The public health system must continue to address the vectors and conditions contributing to these high-incidence diseases through both preventative measures and accessible healthcare services.

Public concern, interestingly, may not always align with the diseases of highest incidence or mortality. For instance, while diseases like HFMD and Hepatitis B might register high within epidemiological data, emerging infectious diseases or those with a high-profile global presence—such as the new inclusion of Monkeypox into category B infectious diseases management—could draw significant public attention. Even if the numbers are comparatively lower, the perceived threat or novelty of such diseases can engender substantial concern, prompting the need for public education and preventive measures.

Recommendations

To address the outlined diseases effectively, public health recommendations should be multifaceted:

For HFMD, vaccination programs targeting the causative viruses (Enteroviruses such as EV71 and Coxsackievirus) should be emphasized and coupled with public education campaigns about the importance of hygiene, especially in settings with young children. Efforts to enhance sanitation in schools, nurseries, and public spaces should be a priority, along with guidelines to manage outbreaks.

Hepatitis B, due to its high incidence and routes of transmission, warrants a continued and strengthened vaccination effort, especially for newborns and high-risk groups. Similarly, public awareness campaigns on safe practices to prevent transmission and the need for screening and early treatment should be intensified. Ensuring the availability of antiviral treatments can contribute to managing chronic infections and reducing the mortality associated with liver disease and hepatic carcinoma.

The recent addition of Monkeypox to category B infectious diseases management mandates a prompt establishment of surveillance systems and protocols for rapid identification, contact tracing, and isolation of cases to prevent outbreaks. Importantly, comprehensive communication strategies to inform the public about the symptoms, modes of transmission, and prevention techniques are necessary to alleviate undue fear or stigma and promote informed protective behaviors. To summarize, these recommendations require collaboration between health authorities, healthcare providers, educators, and the community. Engagement and investment are vital to strengthen disease surveillance, vaccination programs, public education, and healthcare infrastructure to counter the prevalent and concerning diseases in China's diverse health landscape.

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, the Chinese mainland has seen significant infectious disease events primarily involving a considerable rise in respiratory illnesses, particularly among children. This increase has been largely attributed to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and the onset of the colder season, as reported by China's National Health Commission. In addition, surveillance data has indicated outbreaks of known pathogens including influenza, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Outbreaks of Known Diseases

Data from September 2023 shows that multiple infectious diseases have been reported across the Chinese mainland. These include but are not limited to cases of hepatitis B (123,495 cases, 20 deaths), hepatitis C (20,022 cases, 157 deaths), dengue fever (6,494 cases, 1 death), tuberculosis (61,859 cases, 324 deaths), pertussis (4,517 cases), scarlet fever (1,546 cases), and syphilis (55,767 cases, 5 deaths). Additionally, high numbers of cases were reported for influenza (168,963 cases), infectious diarrhea (102,559 cases), and hand, foot, and mouth disease (166,980 cases).

Emergence of Novel Pathogens

To date, there have been no reports concerning the emergence of novel pathogens. Monitoring by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Chinese health authorities indicates that the recent rise in respiratory diseases is predominantly due to known pathogens. The WHO is closely observing the situation in China and maintains a rigorous communication line with Chinese health authorities to monitor the unfolding situation.

References

Reports from the China National Health Commission and WHO surveillance data, including the WHO's Disease Outbreak News on the upsurge of respiratory illnesses among children in Northern China.

"Nature" magazine's article discussing the mysterious fluctuations in cases of childhood pneumonia in China.

China CDC Weekly's report on the data of the national notifiable infectious diseases in China for September 2023.

News information since November 2023 around world

Summary

The recent months since November 2023 have seen a persistent challenge posed by infectious diseases across the globe. The period has been marked by continued outbreaks of known diseases, some showing a geographical concentration, whereas others have been reported more widely. While the landscape of infectious diseases is under constant surveillance, there has been no significant emergence of novel pathogens during this time. Public health authorities remain vigilant, particularly in the wake of respiratory disease surges coinciding with seasonal changes and altered public health measures.

Outbreaks of Known Diseases

Avian Influenza A(H7N9) and A(H5N1) Viruses: These avian flu strains were primarily encountered in Asia, with the majority of human cases stemming from China. There has been an international spread of A(H5N1) with cases noted in Spain, the United States, United Kingdom, Ecuador, and Chile.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV): This respiratory illness continues to be a concern in the Arabian Peninsula, although no new cases have been reported since October 2023.

Mpox (Clade I): With Central Africa as its epicenter, countries like the Central African Republic, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Gabon, and Republic of the Congo have been dealing with Mpox outbreaks.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Mexico: Reported in December 2023, this tick-borne disease has been identified in Mexico.

Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): Another outbreak of Mpox was specifically recorded in the DRC in December 2023.

Chikungunya in Burkina Faso: This mosquito-borne virus was reported in November 2023 in Burkina Faso.

Diphtheria in Guinea: An outbreak of this bacterial infection was reported in Guinea in September 2023, underscoring the disease's presence beyond traditional endemic areas.

Global Measles: This highly contagious virus persists, with cases accruing globally since May 2023.

Emergence of Novel Pathogens

The monitoring of infectious diseases has not flagged the emergence of new pathogens. Despite this, there has been a notable uptick in respiratory illness among children in Northern China, which began in mid-October 2023. This upsurge aligns with the easing of COVID-19 measures and the start of the colder season, leading to increased transmission of existing respiratory viruses such as influenza, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2. There have been no reports of unusual pathogen activity tied to these incidents.

In conclusion, while there have been no new pathogens detected, the presence of known infectious diseases requires continuous surveillance and adaptive responses to manage outbreaks and safeguard public health. The referenced sources provide updated and authoritative information on the ongoing global infectious disease events, and should be consulted for the latest developments.