

# Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

## Scarlet fever

March 2024

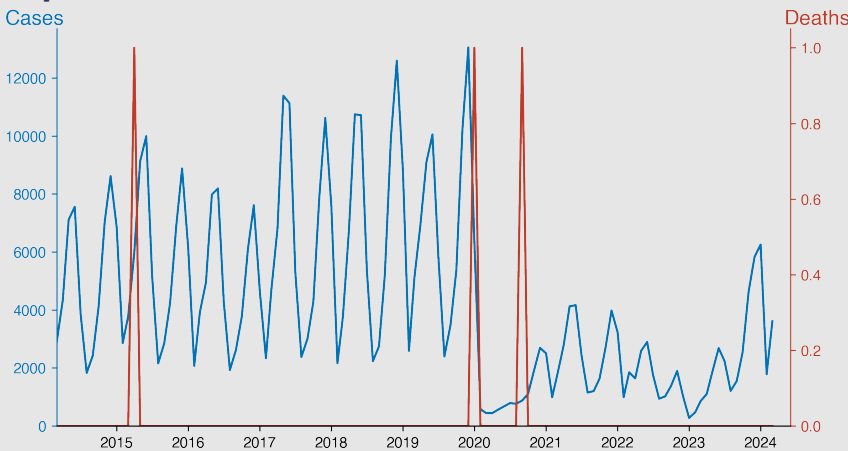
### Introduction

Scarlet fever, also known as Scarlatina, is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pyogenes*. It primarily affects children and is characterized by a distinctive red rash, sore throat, and high fever. Other symptoms may include abdominal pain and a strawberry-like appearance of the tongue. The disease is spread through respiratory droplets and can be treated with antibiotics. Though once fatal, scarlet fever is now much less threatening but can lead to serious complications if left untreated. Prior exposure or vaccination generally provides immunity.

### Highlights

- Scarlet fever in the Chinese mainland presents strong seasonality, with cases peaking between April and June each year from 2014-2024.
- There was a noticeable decrease in cases from 2019 to 2020, with the lowered numbers persisting till 2024. Causes remain unclear.
- Fatality rate for Scarlet fever is low, with only three deaths recorded between 2014 and 2024.
- As of March 2024, the case count is 3610, consistent with expected seasonal increases seen in previous years.

### Temporal Trend



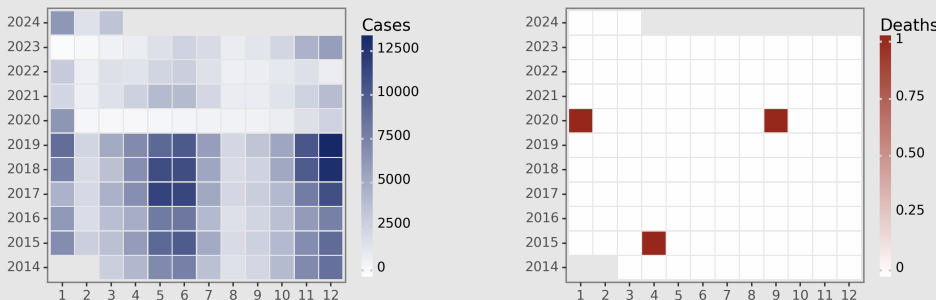
### Cases Analysis

Scarlet fever cases in Chinese mainland have shown noticeable seasonal variations from 2014 to 2024, with peaks recorded during late spring/early summer (May-June) and late autumn/winter (November-December). Cases remain minimal during the winter and early spring months (January-March). A significant decrease in cases was observed in 2020, potentially due to heightened hygiene practices and social distancing measures implemented amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the cases have gradually increased again starting from late 2020.

### Deaths Analysis

Despite the large number of scarlet fever cases, the mortality rate is almost negligible. Over the years, only three deaths are reported with the disease in Chinese mainland in this dataset covering 10 years. This suggests that the healthcare system has effectively managed and controlled the impact of the disease in terms of mortality. It would be interesting to explore the implementation of strategies such as vaccination or notification, which has led to an almost zero mortality rate.

### Distribution



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