

## SITUATION UPDATE ON LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK, SOUTH AFRICA

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### Summary

- The outbreak continues, with 32 additional cases recorded since the last update.
- Outcome data is now available for 42% (355/852) of cases, of which 30% (107/355) died.
- At present, the source of the outbreak is not known.
- Municipal Environmental Health Practitioners in all provinces have embarked on systematic inspection and sampling of diverse food production, processing, and packaging facilities.
- Cases of listeriosis will continue to be investigated, with trace back and further investigation of any positive food/environmental samples.

As of 05 February 2018, a total of 852 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59%, 505/852) followed by Western Cape (13%, 107/852) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 63/852) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (66%, 558/852) and private (34%, 294/852) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (71%, 609/852), followed by CSF (22%, 191/852). Where age was reported (n=823), ages range from birth to 93 years (median 19 years) and 42% (344/823) are neonates aged  $\leq 28$  days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 96% (331/344) had early-onset disease (birth to  $\leq 6$  days). Females account for 55% (457/825) of cases where gender is reported. Final outcome data is available for 42% (355/852) of cases, of which 30% (107/355) died.

### Note:

- Case data is the best available at time of publication.
- Due to the inherent lag in laboratory reporting, 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.

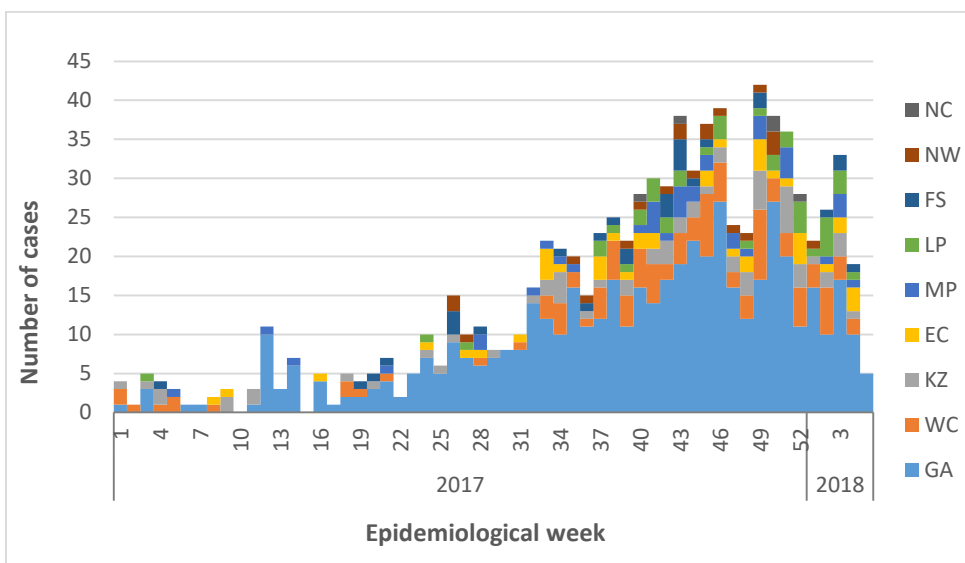


Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases by epidemiological week and date of sample collection and province, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 05 February 2018 (n=852)

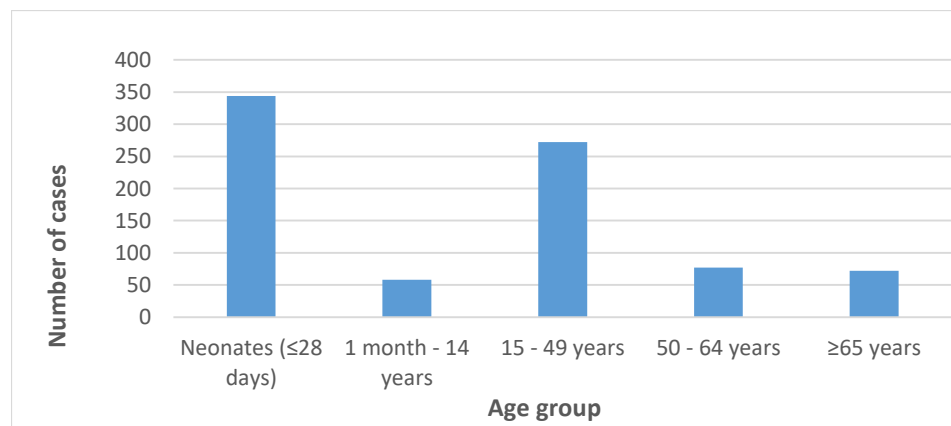


Figure 2: Age distribution of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 05 February 2018 (n=823)