

# SITUATION UPDATE ON LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK, SOUTH AFRICA

Date of issue: 20 February 2018. Issued by: Centre for Enteric Diseases and Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response

## Summary

- The outbreak continues, with 43 additional cases recorded since the last update.
- Outcome data is now available for 67% (617/915) of cases, of which 28% (172/617) 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 20 February 2018, 915 laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases have been reported to NICD since 01 January 2017 (Figure 1). Most cases have been reported from Gauteng Province (59%, 541/915) followed by Western Cape (12%, 112/915) and KwaZulu-Natal (7%, 66/915) provinces. Cases have been diagnosed in both public (64%, 587/915) and private (36%, 328/915) healthcare sectors. Diagnosis was based most commonly on the isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in blood culture (73%, 669/915), followed by CSF (22%, 198/915). Where age was reported (n=886), ages range from birth to 92 years (median 20 years) and 41% (361/886) are neonates aged ≤28 days (Figure 2). Of neonatal cases, 97% (351/361) had early-onset disease (birth to ≤6 days). Females account for 56% (499/886) of cases where gender is reported. Final outcome data is available for 67% (617/915) of cases, of which 28% (172/617) 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.

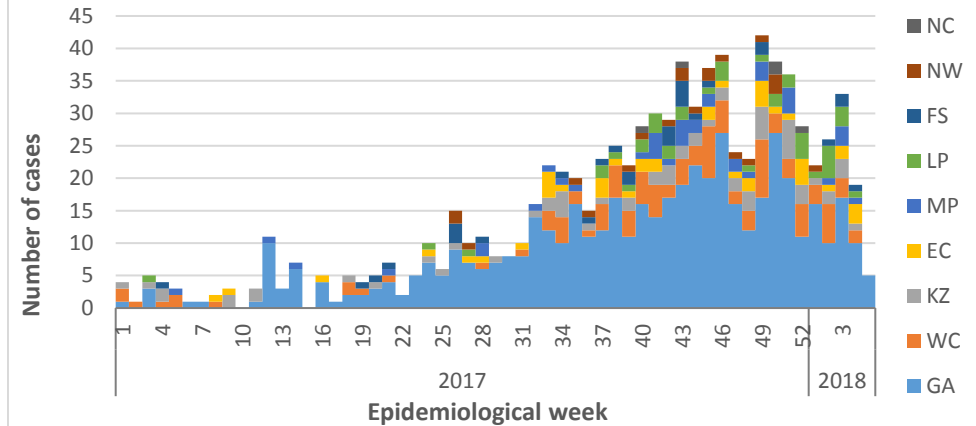


Figure 1: Epidemic curve of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases by epidemiological week and date of sample collection and province, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 20 February 2018 (n=915)

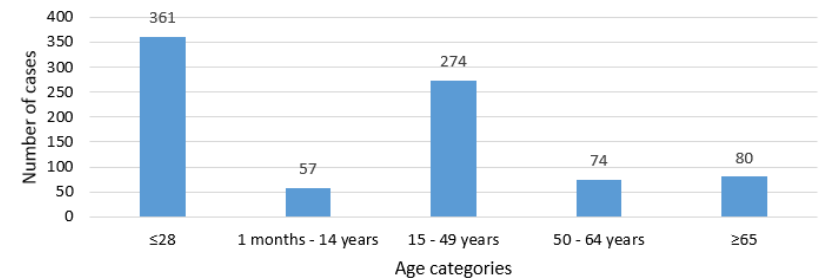


Figure 2: Age distribution of laboratory-confirmed listeriosis cases, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 20 February 2018 (n=886, where age is known)

Table 1: Outcome of laboratory-confirmed cases of listeriosis, South Africa, 01 January 2017 to 20 February 2018 (n=915) (Incomplete=outcome unknown or patient still admitted)

	EC	FS	GA	KZ	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	Total
Died	8	8	97	10	7	8	2	4	28	172
Discharged	17	16	255	24	10	29	2	14	78	445
Incomplete	20	8	189	32	28	6	1	8	6	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>915</b>