



Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control

# Notifiable diseases in Perth: Snapshot

Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control has responsibility for the public health management of notifiable infectious diseases to protect the community and prevent disease outbreaks.



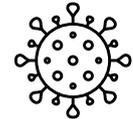
**23 130**  
infectious disease  
notifications in metropolitan  
Perth in 2020  
(down 46% from 2019)



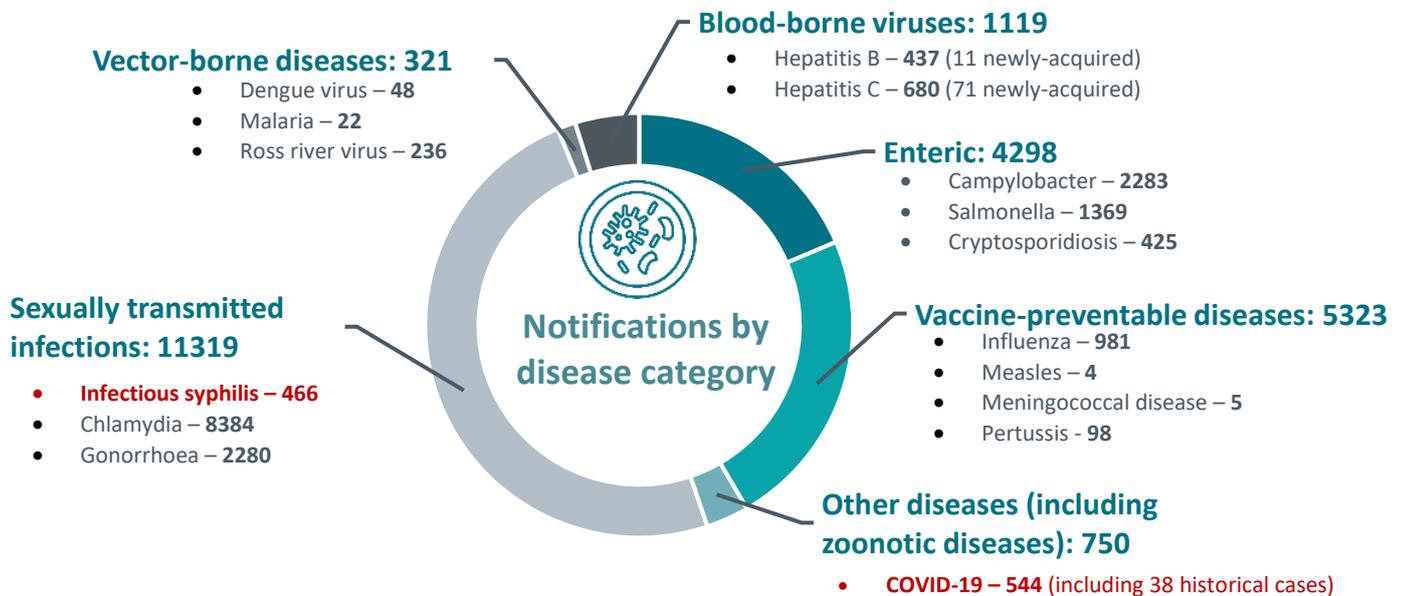
**On the rise:**  
Syphilis  
Cryptosporidiosis



**94.5 %**  
of 12-month-olds  
fully immunised in  
metropolitan Perth; benchmark  
95%



**New and Emerging:**  
COVID-19



*Selected infectious diseases listed only; disease category totals may be more than the sum of the listed individual diseases.*

## Key issues

- Infectious syphilis continues to increase** and affects vulnerable and priority populations – people experiencing homelessness (4.9% of notifications), Aboriginal people (15.9%), women of childbearing age (19.5%) and pregnant women (3.9%). A syphilis outbreak was declared in Perth in July 2020.
- Testing, treatment, contact tracing and monitoring are vital to reduce cases of congenital and tertiary syphilis.
- In 2020, the global **COVID-19 pandemic** emerged. Statewide, there were **871 notifications for confirmed COVID-19**; 55.2% acquired their infection overseas, 33.4% at sea and 11.4% locally. Daily notifications peaked on 20 March. There were **544 notifications for confirmed COVID-19** (including 38 historical cases) in residents of metropolitan Perth.
- WA **suppressed community transmission of COVID-19** using a coordinated multiagency response, involving social distancing, border closures, and test, trace, isolate and quarantine processes.
- Measures taken in response to COVID-19 likely contributed to the **decrease in several other communicable diseases** including influenza, measles and pertussis.

