



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Monthly Legionella Report

## March 2015

National Surveillance Scheme for Legionnaires' Disease  
in Residents of England and Wales

## About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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## Introduction

The national surveillance scheme for Legionnaires' disease in residents of England and Wales is co-ordinated by PHE.

The main objectives of the scheme are to:

- detect clusters and outbreaks of Legionella in England and Wales or abroad through the surveillance of all reported cases
- identify sources of infection so that control measures can be assessed and where necessary improved upon, to prevent further cases
- as a member state, collaborate with the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet) in the detection, control and prevention of cases, clusters and outbreaks within European countries through the reporting of travel associated cases of Legionnaires' disease

This report provides a summary of data extracted from the national Legionella database for confirmed and suspected cases of Legionellosis in residents of England and Wales, as reported to the national surveillance scheme during the month of March 2015.

The report does not provide an accurate representation of Legionella activity in England and Wales during this time period due to delays in reporting. This means that the data for this month may not be comparable with data for the same period in previous years. Changes as updates reported after the date of this report will be updated in subsequent monthly reports as further data becomes available.

Figures are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.

## Legionella data: March 2015

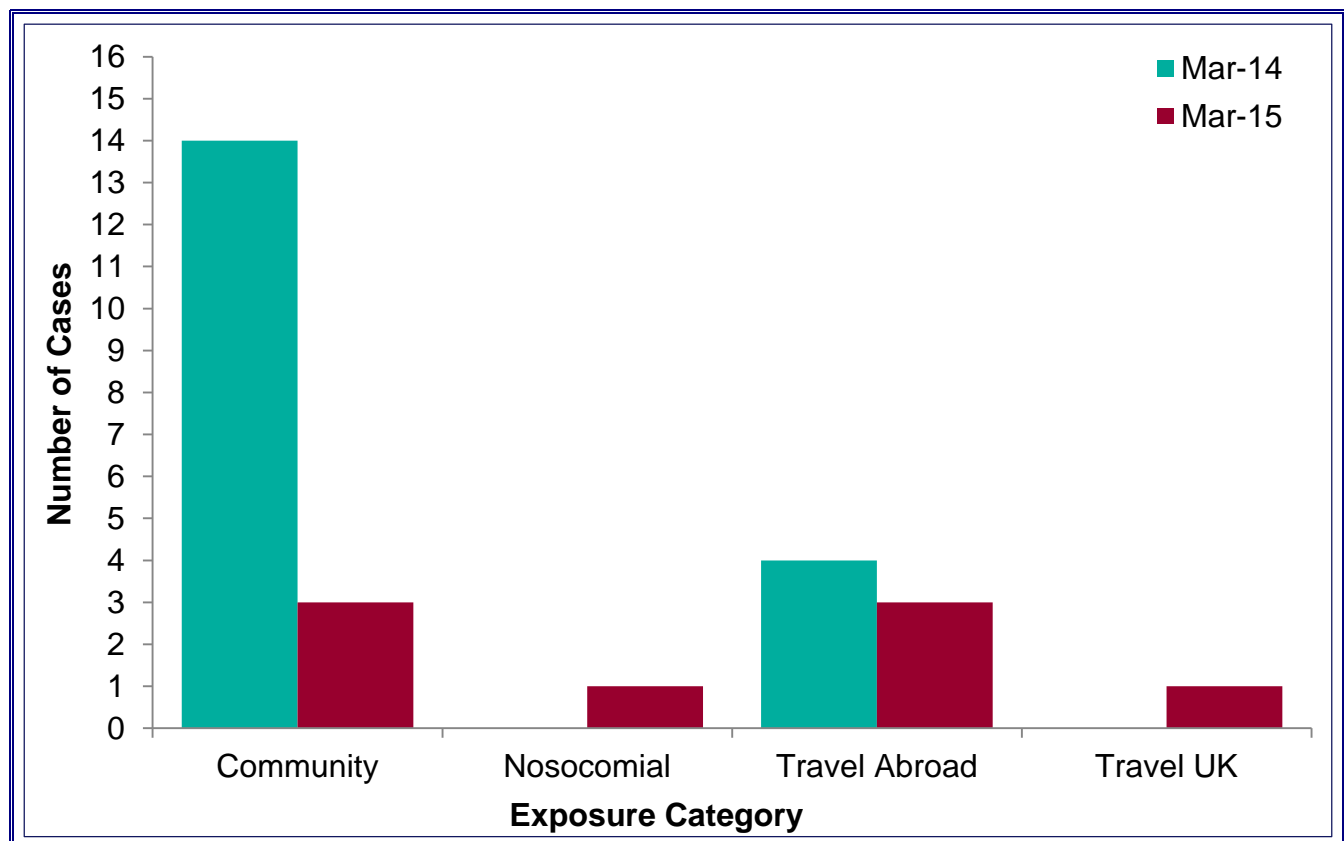
All data presented in this report is correct as at 2 April 2015.

**Table 1: Cases reported/notified<sup>†</sup>**

Number of reported/notified <sup>†</sup> cases of Legionnaires' disease during March 2015	23
Number of reported/notified <sup>†</sup> cases of LD since January 2015	76

<sup>†</sup> reported/notified cases are any cases reported to the national surveillance scheme via regional colleagues, laboratories and statutory notifications.

**Figure 1: Confirmed\* cases of LD by category excluding unassigned cases with onset of symptoms in March 2015**



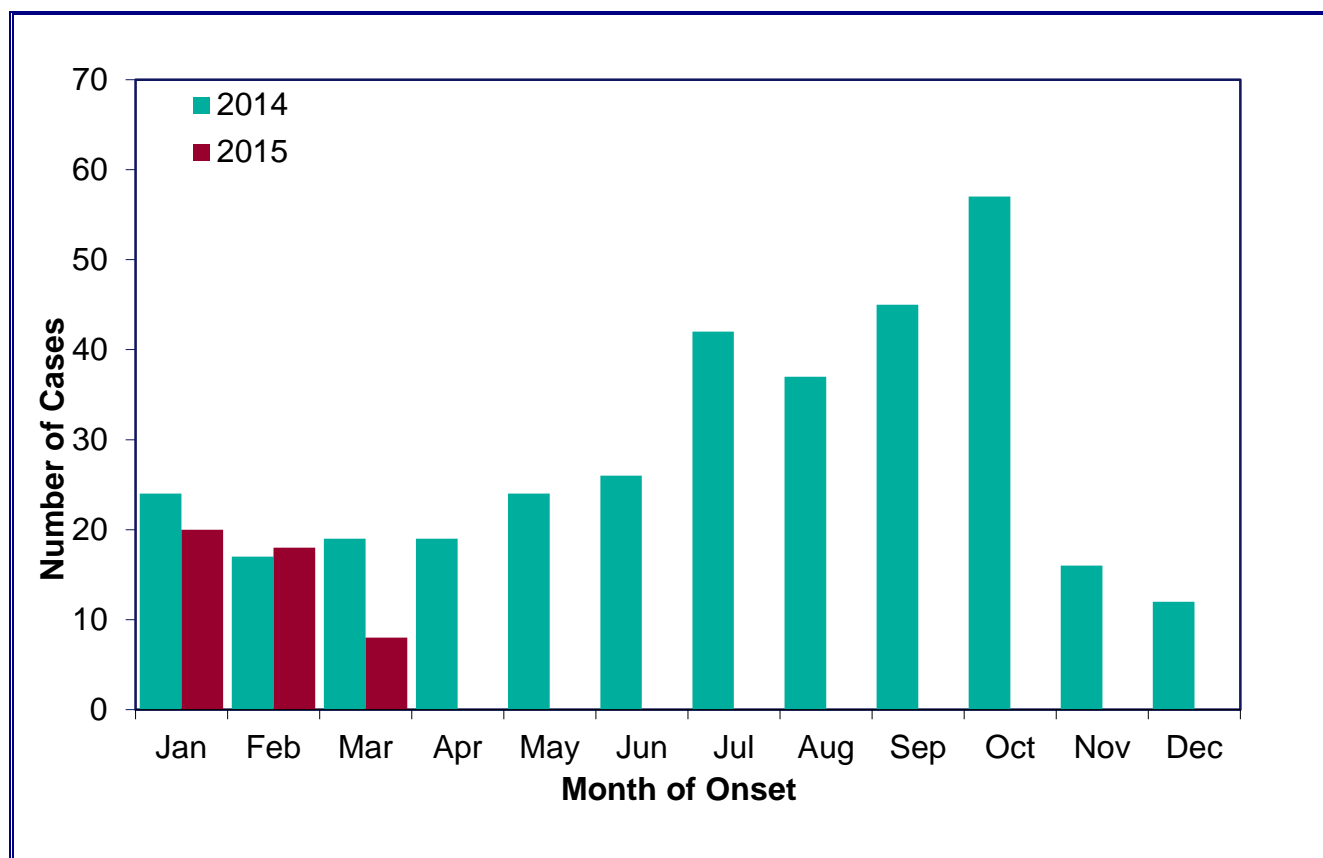
\* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

**Table 2: Number of confirmed\* cases of LD by category with onset in March 2015**

Category	Confirmed* cases with onset in March 2015	Confirmed* cases since January 2015
Community	3	24
Nosocomial	1	1
Travel abroad	3	15
Travel UK	1	5
Unassigned	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>

\* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with incomplete data.

**Figure 2: Confirmed\* cases of LD by month of onset in 2014 and 2015**



\* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

**Table 3: All confirmed\* and incomplete cases by region of residence**

Region of residence	Onset in March 2015		Onset since January 2015	
	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data is still awaited	Confirmed* cases	Cases where data are still awaited
East Midlands	1	-	3	-
Anglia & Essex	-	-	3	-
South Midlands & Hertfordshire	1	-	6	-
London	1	-	10	-
North East	-	-	2	-
Cumbria & Lancashire	1	-	2	-
Cheshire & Merseyside	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	2	-
Surrey, Sussex & Kent	-	-	2	-
Thames Valley	-	-	2	-
Wessex	-	-	1	-
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	1	-	1	-
Avon, Gloucs. & Wiltshire	1	-	2	-
Wales	-	1	-	1
West Midlands	1	1	6	3
Yorkshire & Humber	1	-	3	-
Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>

\* cases confirmed to have pneumonia and laboratory confirmation of Legionella infection; includes some with outstanding data.

**Table 4: Positive clinical tests of confirmed\* cases of LD with onset of symptoms since January 2015**

Region of residence	Number of confirmed cases	Number of respiratory samples	Number of culture and/or PCR positive cases	Number of cases with SBT identified
East Midlands	3	2	2	2
Anglia & Essex	3	-	-	-
South Midlands & Hertfordshire	6	3	2	2
London	10	3	3	1
North East	2	2	2	-
Cumbria & Lancashire	2	1	1	-
Cheshire & Merseyside	-	-	-	-
Greater Manchester	2	2	2	1
Surrey, Sussex & Kent	2	1	1	-
Thames Valley	2	-	-	-
Wessex	1	-	-	-
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	1	-	-	-
Avon, Gloucs. & Wiltshire	2	-	-	-
Wales	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	6	1	1	1
Yorkshire & Humber	3	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>

PCR: polymerase chain reaction

SBT: sequence based typing

Of the 45 cases of Legionnaires' disease reported to the National Surveillance Scheme fifteen (33.3%) cases had a respiratory specimen taken and tested for Legionella infection. Of the fifteen cases where a respiratory specimen was tested by culture and/or PCR, fourteen specimens tested positive for Legionella spp. and a complete or partial sequence type has been determined for seven (50.0%) of culture and/or PCR positive cases.

Please note that some results may still be pending at the time of this report.