

1.7 Rubella

Summary

Number of cases, 2016: 1

Number of confirmed cases, 2016: 0

In 2016, one case (0.02/100,000) of rubella was notified in Ireland compared to two cases notified in 2015. The case in 2016 was in the age group <1 year and was classified as possible; unfortunately no samples for testing were obtained. These figures are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 25th July 2017. These figures may differ slightly from those published previously due to ongoing updating of data on CIDR.

WHO require information on discarded rubella cases ie rubella cases investigated and who were found not to meet the case definition. The HSE Areas reported the number of discarded CIDR cases to HPSC. For 2016, 14 cases were discarded from CIDR as following investigation they were not considered to be rubella cases. Discarded cases are not available in CIDR for reporting and are not included in the analysis above.

The Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (RVC) was established in the WHO European Region in 2011 to evaluate the documentation submitted by Member States with a view to verifying the elimination of measles and rubella at the regional level. The RVC has recommended establishment of national verification committees (NVC) in all Member States and suggested a standard format for annual status reports from countries. These reports include information on measles and rubella epidemiology, virologic surveillance supported by molecular epidemiology, the analysis of vaccinated population cohorts and the quality of surveillance, and the sustainability of the country's National Immunisation Programme. The review and evaluation of annual national reports will continue for at least three years after the RVC confirms that, according to established criteria, endemic measles and rubella transmission have been interrupted in all Member States of the Region. Only then can Regional elimination be declared.¹

At the meetings of the European RVC for measles and rubella elimination, in October 2015, October 2016 and June 2017, the WHO European RVC concluded, that Ireland provided evidence for the elimination of rubella.^{2,3,4}

Acknowledgements

HPSC would like to thank all those who provided data for this report – Departments of Public Health, laboratories and clinicians.

References

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