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17/06/2022

Deputy Colm Burke  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ26278/22 To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made by the HSE and its medical team to identify the strain of meningitis which has recently resulted in a number admissions to hospital; if a course of treatment and care is now available; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Burke

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The number of viral meningitis notifications made to the HPSC for weeks 1-23 2022 are 102. This is slightly less than that reported for the same time period in the three previous years. See table 1 for full details on the number of notifications.

There were 57 male cases and 45 female cases and no deaths were reported. Of the 102 notifications, 45 (44%) were enterovirus; 6 (5.8%) herpes simplex; 8 (7.8%) HHV6 and 8 (7.8%) varicella and results pending on 34 (33.3%) of samples (Figure 1). The majority of notifications are in the < 1 year age group (n=59); most of which are due to enterovirus (n=31) (Figure 1)

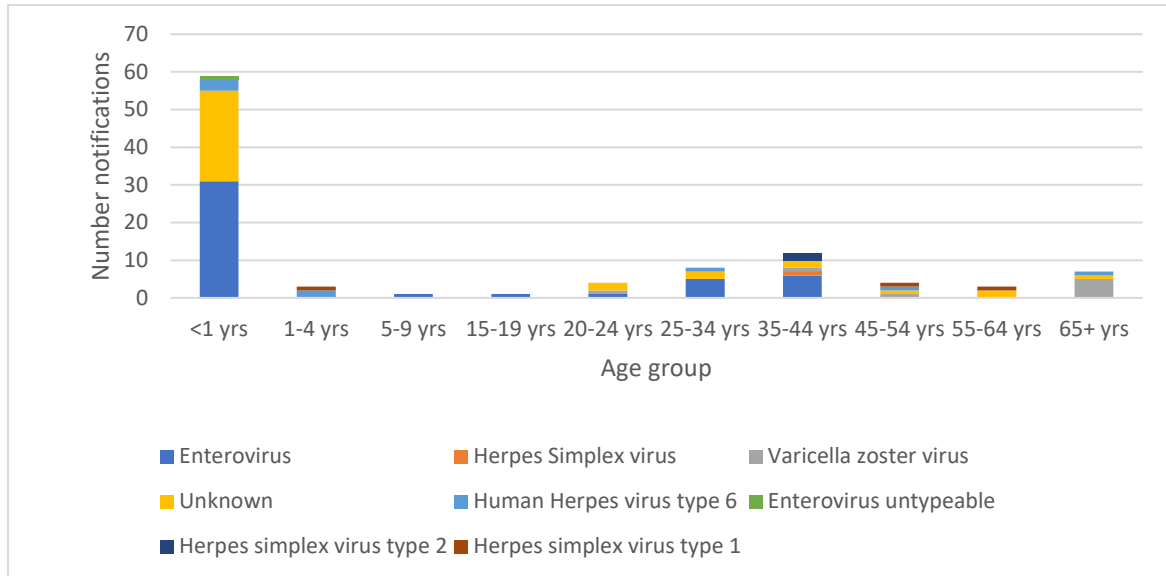
HSE does not collect data on hospital treatment or hospital admission for viral meningitis cases. It is normal for such cases to be admitted and investigations are done in hospital. No deaths were reported

**Table 1.** Number of viral meningitis notifications, weeks 1-23, 2019-2022

Count of Event ID	Year			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>102</b>

Source CIDR date of extract 15/06/2022

**Figure 1.** Viral meningitis notifications (number) by age group and organism type for 2022 (as of 15/06/2022) (source CIDR 15/06/2022)



### Bacterial meningitis

For weeks 1-23 of 2019-2022 the number of notifications for bacterial meningitis (not otherwise specified (NOS)) and invasive meningococcal disease were 3 and 6 respectively. All patients were admitted to hospital.

The numbers of bacterial meningitis NOS are less than the number reported for the same time period in previous years.

For invasive meningococcal disease, 6 cases were notified which is more than that reported in 2021 but less than in previous years (Table 2).

For one case of invasive meningococcal disease the serogroup was reported as serogroup B, the remaining 5 cases did not have serogroup reported and results are awaited on serogroup.

**Table 2.** Number of bacterial meningitis and invasive meningococcal disease notifications, 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Bacterial meningitis (not otherwise specified)</b>	8	9	6	3
<b>Invasive Meningococcal disease</b>	44	18	2	6

Other cases of bacterial meningitis reported in 2022 include

- *Haemophilus influenzae* - 1 case
- *Listeria* spp. - 2 cases
- Invasive Group B Streptococcus - 2 cases
- Invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* - 7 cases

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

*Derval Igoe*

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