



Annual Epidemiological Report

October 2019

Rubella in Ireland, 2018

Key Facts

In 2018, no cases of rubella were notified in Ireland.

At the June 2019 meeting the European Regional Verification Committee for measles and rubella elimination concluded that in Ireland endemic transmission of rubella remained interrupted in 2018 and confirmed that rubella elimination has been sustained.

Results

In 2018, no cases of rubella were notified in Ireland. There were also no cases reported in 2017. These figures are based on data extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 24th October 2019. 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 2018, a total of twenty-three cases were investigated but found not to be rubella; 18 cases were discarded from CIDR following investigation and an additional five cases, not entered on CIDR but investigated, were not considered to be rubella cases.

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, 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 European RVC for measles and rubella elimination, in October 2015, October 2016, June 2017 and June 2018 the WHO European RVC concluded, that Ireland provided evidence for the elimination of rubella.^{2,3,4,5} At the June 2019 meeting the RVC concluded that endemic transmission of rubella remained interrupted in 2018 and confirmed that rubella elimination has been sustained in Ireland.⁶

References

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