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Report on the monitoring of zoonoses and food-borne disease outbreaks

Data for 2023

Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSV

Schwarzenburgstrasse 155, 3003 Bern

Website: www.blv.admin.ch

E-Mail: info@blv.admin.ch

Phone: +41 (0)58 463 30 33

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH

Schwarzenburgstrasse 157, 3003 Bern

Website: www.bag.admin.ch

E-Mail: info@bag.admin.ch

Phone: +41 (0)58 463 87 06



Summary

In 2023, **campylobacteriosis** was again the most commonly reported zoonosis in humans, with a total of 6,756 laboratory-confirmed cases of *Campylobacter* infection reported. This is slightly lower than in the previous year (7,601 cases). In most cases, humans are infected through contaminated food (e.g. by handling raw or undercooked poultry). The bacterium is commonly found in the intestinal tract of chickens without causing any symptoms.

For **salmonellosis**, which is the second most commonly reported zoonotic disease in Switzerland, 1,823 laboratory-confirmed cases were recorded in humans in 2023. This equates to a notification rate of 21 cases per 100,000 population. Case numbers are stable compared with the previous year (1,842 cases). In 2023, the number of salmonellosis cases in animals was in line with the previous year, with 123 cases (previous year: 114 cases). The main animals affected were dogs, cattle and reptiles.

With a total of 1,224 reported cases in 2023, the observed increase in cases of **Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)** in humans stabilised for the first time in recent years (previous year: 1,208 cases). The resulting notification rate of 14 cases per 100,000 population is the highest since the notification requirement was introduced in 1999. This increase is mainly driven by the fact that new technological methods allow more testing to be carried out, which means that cases are more likely to be identified.

Once again in 2023, a large number of **Listeria monocytogenes** infections were reported with 74 cases (previous year: 78). This was primarily due to a nationwide outbreak with 29 reported human cases between 2022 and 2023. The source of the infections was identified using whole genome sequencing, allowing the source of contamination in the facility to be eliminated.

A total of 109 cases of tularaemia were reported in humans in the year under review, which equates to 1.2 cases per 100,000 population. Case numbers therefore currently seem to show a slight downward trend, following an increase in recent years. The main sources of infection were tick bites.

In 2023, a total of 101 cases of Q fever were reported, which is a notification rate of 1.1 cases per 100,000 population. Some of these cases can be attributed to an outbreak in Valais in the spring, which was linked to an infected goat herd.

A total of 40 **outbreaks of foodborne disease** were reported by the Swiss inspection authorities in 2023. More than 260 people fell ill, at least 40 were hospitalised and there were six deaths. Most of the outbreaks (38) involved a single canton. Of the two remaining outbreak clusters, one affected at least three cantons, and the other affected ten cantons.