

Gastrointestinal infections are infections that affect the digestive system, primarily caused by various bacteria, viruses, and parasites. These infections can result in symptoms like diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and fever. While many gastrointestinal infections are relatively mild and self-limiting, they can have significant consequences for human health, especially among vulnerable populations such as the very young, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems.

The remit of the gastroenteritis and port health team extends to the following areas:

- zoonotic disease
- general gastro-intestinal illness
- water related issues both microbiological and chemical
- food related issues related to human infective diseases
- port health

A multi-disciplinary team includes doctors, nurses and information officers covering a wide range of problems/issues within remit. Team members also contribute to the acute services team; surveillance of the relevant diseases is an important foundation for team work.

In relation to the above areas, the activity of the team involves:

- preparation of business plans
- reviewing and updating relevant questionnaires and protocols
- organising education activities
- commenting on the surveillance of disease
- preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- reviewing the management of outbreaks
- preparation and revision of outbreak plans

Some of the activity is dealt with by a weekly quality assurance meeting.

Where incidence rates are quoted they are per 100,000 population with the population data taken from mid-year estimates published by the [Main statistics | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/)

GI reports

Most recent GI reports

- Changes in data systems have impacted our publication schedule for gastrointestinal infections. We plan to publish an updated report here by 17 June 2026.

Previous GI reports

- [N Ireland Gastrointestinal Surveillance Report 2018](#)
- [N Ireland Gastrointestinal Surveillance Report 2017](#)
- [N Ireland Gastrointestinal Surveillance Report 2016](#)
- [N Ireland Gastrointestinal Surveillance Report 2015](#)
- [N Ireland Gastrointestinal Surveillance Report 2014](#)

Trends in gastrointestinal infection rates

Number of laboratory reports of selected gastrointestinal infections 2017-2023.

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Brucellosis (human)

Brucellosis is a bacterial infection caused by various species of the Brucella bacteria. This disease primarily affects animals like cattle, goats, and pigs, however, it can also infect humans, typically through direct contact with infected animals or consumption of contaminated animal products such as unpasteurised milk or undercooked meat. Brucellosis in humans can lead to flu-like symptoms, including fever, muscle pain, and fatigue, and in severe cases, it can affect various organs, including the liver, spleen, and joints. The significance of brucellosis lies in its potential to become a public health concern, as it can spread from animals to humans, especially those working closely with livestock.

Brucellosis in Northern Ireland

From 1970 there has been a total number of 6 confirmed cases of Brucellosis in Northern Ireland. For more information about Brucellosis, or if you believe you may have Brucellosis, please visit [NI Direct \(Brucellosis\)](#).

Hepatitis A, E

[Gastrointestinal infections factsheets | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

[Hepatitis \(A, B, C, D, E\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

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