



DIRECTORATE
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SALMONELLOSIS AND CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN ICELAND IN 2008

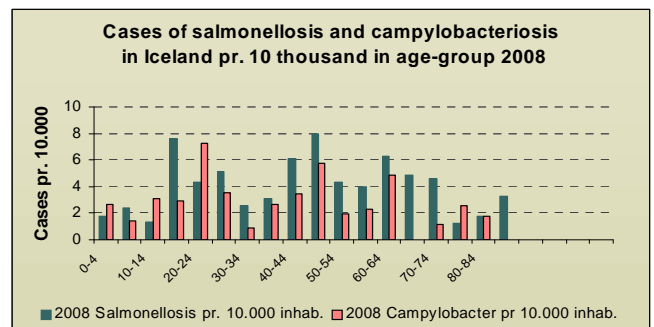
Altogether 136 cases of salmonellosis were diagnosed in 2008 according to notifications from the Department of Microbiology at Landspítali University Hospital (LUH), which is a somewhat higher number than the year before, when 93 persons were diagnosed. The infections were in most cases acquired abroad. The number of salmonella infections increased during the summer months, presumably as a result of more frequent international travel by Icelandic tourists in that time of year. A small outbreak in a residential home for the elderly in the capital area is reflected in the increased number of domestic cases in June. An increase in August and September was traced to salmonella transmission in the Greek island of Rhodes. Several domestic salmonellosis cases were detected in August, but nothing connected these cases and the infections were caused by different salmonella species.

Altogether 97 cases of campylobacteriosis were diagnosed in 2008 according to notifications from the LUH Department of Microbiology, which is similar to the year before. The number of

cases increased during summertime as in previous years. Both the increase in the number of domestic cases and more frequent international travel by Icelandic tourists in the summer are possible explanations for this seasonality.

The number of salmonella and campylobacter infections was more common in the age group 15–24 years as compared to persons 30–39 years of age, while the number of infections went up again among people over 40. There was a considerable number of infections in the 15–19-year age group since many secondary-school students were among the salmonella cases in Rhodes.

Gudrun Sigmundsdottir



INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS 2008–2009

As can be seen in table I (p. 2), 51,852 doses of influenza vaccines were sold in 2008–2009. Annual sales have remained almost unchanged since 2003–2004.

Information on individual vaccinations can be obtained from the official central database on vaccinations and a database on vaccinated high-risk individuals. According

to those sources, at least 41% of people 60 years and older were vaccinated in 2008–2009, a higher ratio than in 2007–2008 (see table II, p. 2)). However, this is below the coverage recommended by the WHO, which aims for at least 75% coverage among individuals older than 65 by 2010 (<http://www.who.int/en/>).

Cont. p. 2

Altogether 136 cases of salmonellosis were diagnosed in 2008 and 97 cases of campylobacteriosis. The origin of the infections was both foreign and domestic.

The current coverage in Iceland could be higher than the official figures imply because not all vaccinations are centrally registered.

The influenza epidemic this winter was characterized by influenza A (H3) and influenza B, both contained in the influenza vaccine used. Information from USA, however, indicates that the vaccine used this winter may have been only 20% effective against influenza B while optimal against influenza A (MMWR April 17, 2009 / 58 (14);369-374).

The 2008–2009 influenza epidemic seems to have peaked in the capital area around the middle of February this year, to judge by figures from the ambulatory service in Reykjavik on influenza-like illness. In the first two weeks of April, few cases have been confirmed (fig.).

Thorolfur Gudnason

Table I.

Annual sales of influenza vaccines in Iceland

Year	Sold doses
2000–2001	47.488
2001–2002	48.240
2002–2003	47.370
2003–2004	50.800
2004–2005	51.839
2005–2006	53.570
2006–2007	52.350
2007–2008	50.900
2008–2009	51.852

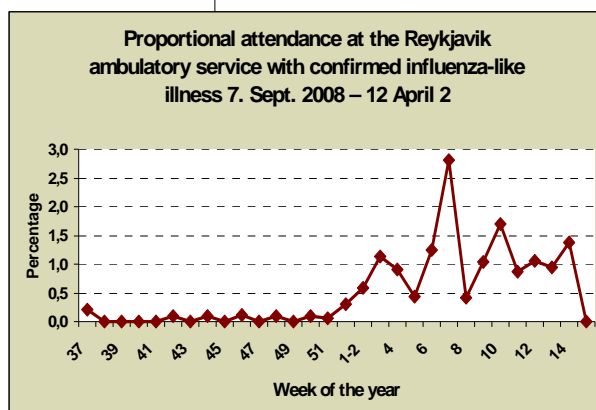


Table II. Influenza vaccination in Iceland of 60 yrs and older

Percentage of vaccinated, by age group		
Age group	2007–2008	2008–2009
60–64	13,2	21,7
65–69	24,1	32,6
70–79	41,6	53,0
80–89	50,9	57,9
>90	44,3	55,0
Total > 60	32,0	41,0

CONFIRMED VIRAL INFECTIONS IN MARCH 2009

Respiratory infections

In March 2009, influenza was diagnosed in more than 50% of positive samples at the Department of Virology at the Landspítali University Hospital (LUH). Most were of type A (H3) but a few of type B.

The majority of patients with influenza A were adults but all of the the patients with influenza B were children. Other viruses diagnosed were RSV (18%), adenoviruses, CMV and herpes simplex-1.

Gastrointestinal infections

Twelve individuals were diagnosed with noroviral infections in March, which was 67% of all identified gastrointestinal infections. Other viruses detected were caliciviruses (noroviruses) and astroviruses.

Thorolfur Gudnason