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

Data for 2022

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Summary

In 2022, reported cases of zoonotic disease in humans increased overall again compared to 2020 and 2021 and are back to the same high level as before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. This mainly concerns the most common zoonotic pathogens *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), some of which even exceed pre-pandemic levels. This is probably linked to a resurgence in travel and increased testing due to expanding use of new technologies and resulting higher detection rates.

With 7,597 laboratory-confirmed cases in humans in 2022 (compared with 6,797 in the previous year), **campylobacteriosis** was again the most commonly reported zoonosis. In most cases, humans are infected through contaminated food (e.g. by handling raw or undercooked poultry meat). The bacterium occurs commonly in the gut of chickens but does not pose a threat to their health.

In the case of **salmonellosis**, which remains the second most reported zoonotic disease in Switzerland, 1,843 laboratory-confirmed cases were recorded in humans in 2022 (compared with 1,486 in the previous year). 49 of the reported cases were attributed to a Europe-wide outbreak of a monophasic *Salmonella* typhimurium ST 34 strain associated with the consumption of various “Kinder” chocolate products manufactured in a Belgian processing plant. At 114, the number of salmonellosis cases in animals in 2022 was similar to that in previous years (127 in 2021). The main animals affected were cattle, reptiles, dogs and cats.

There was a significant increase in **listeriosis**, with 78 cases (33 in the previous year). This was primarily due to a nationwide outbreak with 20 reported human cases between April and July 2022. Patient surveys and whole genome sequencing (WGS) analyses identified smoked trout as the source, allowing the source of contamination on the holding to be eliminated.

A total of 40 **outbreaks of foodborne disease** were reported by the Swiss inspection authorities in 2022. More than 780 people fell ill, at least 40 were hospitalised and there was one death. Most of the outbreaks (38) involved a single canton. Of the remaining two outbreaks, one affected at least six cantons while the other encompassed 15 cantons and also extended to other countries. Food-borne disease outbreaks had been rare until 2020 (13 outbreaks).