

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 21 20 May 2013 – 26 May 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Measles](#) – one new case reported
- [Ross River Virus](#) – increase in case reporting
- [Legionnaires' disease](#) – two new cases of *L. longbeachae* reported
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information on communicable diseases in NSW see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases](#) website. Click on the heading of each section to see a related factsheet. Updated data are provided in the links below each section, where available.

[Measles](#)

One new case of measles was notified in this reporting week (Table 1). The case was in an infant with no history of travel. The local public health unit is currently investigating possible sources and managing contacts.

Measles is a serious disease that is easily spread through the air. Immunisation is effective in preventing the disease. All children and adults born during or after 1966 should be vaccinated with two doses of MMR vaccine if not already immune.

Follow the link for further information on [measles notifications data](#).

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[Ross River Virus](#)

Twenty six new cases of Ross River Virus (RRV) infection were notified in this reporting week (Table 1), an increase over the previous week. During the month of May, RRV notification rates have been highest along the north coast of NSW but still lower than the usual range for this time of year.

RRV infections, known as Ross River fever, are viral infections transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms include fever, rash, and joint pains. Prevention relies on avoiding mosquito bites.

RRV notifications are likely to fall as the number of arbovirus infections tend to be at their lowest during the winter months.

Follow the link for more information on [RRV notifications data](#).

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[Legionnaires' disease](#)

Two new cases of Legionnaires' disease were notified in this reporting week (Table 1), both caused by infection with the legionella bacteria species known as *Legionella longbeachae*. Both cases had exposure to potting mix prior to the onset of their illnesses.

Legionnaires' disease usually causes fever, chills, a cough and shortness of breath. Some people also have muscle aches, headache, tiredness, loss of appetite and diarrhoea. People can become very sick with pneumonia; most people recover but the disease is occasionally fatal. Legionnaires' disease is not spread from person to person.

L. longbeachae is common in the soil and potting mix. People can reduce their risk of exposure to potting mix dust by following the manufacturers' warning present on potting mix labels, which advise to:

- Wet down the potting mix to reduce the dust.
- Wear gloves and a special (P2) mask when using potting mix.
- Wash your hands after handling potting mix or soil, and before eating, drinking or smoking.

Follow the link for more information on [Legionnaires' disease notifications data](#).

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Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period (Table 1). See explanatory notes below.

Table 1. NSW Notifiable Conditions activity for the period 20 May to 26 May 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	25	28	841	388	187	655	354
	Giardiasis	68	43	1063	1030	1236	2015	2377
	Hepatitis A	1	1	33	16	34	41	60
	Hepatitis E	1	1	10	3	11	10	21
	Listeriosis	1	0	20	16	9	36	20
	Rotavirus	4	8	172	268	326	1761	1208
	Salmonellosis	98	74	1791	1489	2219	2942	3566
	Typhoid	2	2	34	25	30	43	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	31	38	654	461	636	8041	5790
	Legionellosis	2	0	35	61	57	104	102
	Tuberculosis	3	3	119	160	211	438	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	419	345	8434	9119	8284	21263	20447
	Gonorrhoea	78	80	1795	1617	1020	4114	2817
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	6	4	323	137	191	262	352
	Measles	1	0	3	8	53	172	88
	Mumps	1	1	29	52	22	110	60
	Pertussis	39	42	1001	3130	5743	5993	13410
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	25	6	157	143	150	567	530
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	14	212	156	295	344	472
	Dengue	3	3	86	150	68	287	146
	Ross River	26	15	245	375	424	596	591
Zoonotic	Q fever	1	4	49	59	48	121	138

Notes on Table 1: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- Data cells represent the number of case reports received by NSW Public Health Units and recorded on the NSW Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS) in the relevant period.
- Data cells in the 'Adverse Event Following Immunisation' category refer to suspected cases only. These reports are referred to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for assessment. Data on adverse events following immunisation is available online from the TGA [Database of Adverse Event Notifications](#).
- Only conditions for which at least one case report was received appear in the table. HIV and other blood-borne virus case reports are not included here but are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#) webpage.

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