

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 42 14 October 2013 – 20 October 2013

In summary, we report:

- **Measles** – four new cases reported this week
- **Avian Influenza** – poultry outbreak at an egg farm
- **Cholera** – one new suspected case reported
- **Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW**

For further information on infectious diseases and alerts see the [Infectious Diseases](#) webpage.

Follow the [A to Z of Infectious Diseases](#) link for more information on specific diseases.

For links to other surveillance reports, including influenza reports, see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases Reports](#) webpage.

Measles

A further four measles cases were notified in this reporting week (Table 1). Three of the cases were from the North Coast Local Health District (NCLHD) and were unvaccinated close contacts of a case reported last week who had acquired measles in Bali. One of these cases had attended a Byron Bay high school and travelled on a school bus while infectious. The local Public Health Unit issued a [media release](#) and conducted a measles vaccination clinic at the school on 21 October. Vaccination coverage levels in Byron Bay and nearby areas are amongst the lowest in Australia and further cases are expected.

The fourth notified case was in an adult from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District who also acquired their infection in Bali. NSW Health urges everyone planning international travel, particularly those who may be travelling to Bali for “Schoolies”, to ensure they are up to date with their measles and other vaccinations prior to their departure.

Measles is highly infectious and is spread easily through the air. Symptoms can include fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore red eyes which usually last for several days before a red, blotchy rash appears. Complications can include ear infections, pneumonia, or encephalitis.

Children should receive two doses of vaccine, one at 12 months and the second at 18 months. Children over 18 months who have not had their second dose of measles vaccine can be vaccinated now. Two doses of measles vaccine are 99 percent effective in preventing measles. Anyone born during or after 1966 should have two doses of vaccine (at least 4 weeks apart).

Follow the link for further information on [measles vaccines](#) (external link).

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Avian Influenza

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has confirmed an outbreak of H7 avian influenza in a large poultry egg farm near Young (follow the link for the [DPI media release](#)).

The Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW Public Health Unit has been working with DPI and the farm owners to identify and contact all people likely to have been exposed on the farm during the outbreak. Monitoring of these people is on-going but to date there has been no evidence of human infection with the H7 avian influenza virus.

Avian influenza refers to influenza A viruses usually found in birds. Influenza A viruses infect a broad range of avian species and many other species, including humans, pigs, and horses. There are many different strains of avian influenza virus but only a few cause severe disease in poultry and other birds, and even fewer cause infections in humans.

Follow the link for further information on [avian influenza from DPI](#) (external link).

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Cholera

One case of *Vibrio cholerae* infection was notified in this reporting week (Table 1). The serotype has been identified as *Vibrio cholerae* O1 El Tor Ogawa but it is not yet known if it is toxigenic. The case occurred in an adult recently returned from visiting family in a country known to be endemic for cholera.

Cholera is a severe diarrhoeal illness caused by infection with certain strains of *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria which produce a toxin. In some developing countries where toxigenic *V. cholerae* is present, bacteria contaminates drinking water, uncooked seafood and other foods.

In Australia, the spread of cholera has been eliminated by modern water and sewage treatment systems, and food safety programs. People who are most risk of cholera are travellers to developing countries where cholera occurs, including people visiting friends or relatives.

An oral cholera vaccine is available but is generally only recommended for travellers at increased risk of the infection because of a pre-existing medical condition, or for humanitarian aid workers deployed to regions with endemic cholera. Follow the [link](#) (external link) for further information on cholera vaccination.

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Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

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

Table 1. NSW Notifiable conditions from 14 October 2013 to 20 October 2013, by date received.

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cholera	1	0	1	2	0	2	0
	Cryptosporidiosis	6	4	1011	552	293	655	354
	Giardiasis	35	35	1844	1692	2027	2015	2377
	Hepatitis A	2	0	54	30	48	41	60
	Rotavirus	17	15	384	1455	939	1761	1208
	Salmonellosis	76	40	2752	2333	3037	2942	3567
	Shigellosis	3	6	107	104	97	131	126
	Typhoid	3	2	51	33	39	43	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	119	185	7663	7614	5370	8039	5791
	Tuberculosis	5	4	312	333	439	440	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	340	275	16699	17249	16627	21261	20448
	Gonorrhoea	68	55	3454	3309	2176	4114	2818
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	3	1	439	232	302	263	352
	Measles	4	3	25	164	78	172	88
	Pertussis	50	26	1853	5083	10865	5996	13411
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	12	10	416	476	443	563	530
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	5	6	359	258	418	344	471
	Dengue	4	3	213	246	111	289	149
	Malaria	1	1	71	55	69	68	82
	Ross River	6	3	422	515	536	596	591
Zoonotic	Q fever	1	0	109	98	107	123	145

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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