

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 6 04 February 2013 – 10 February 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Cryptosporidiosis](#) – increasing notifications
- [Hepatitis A](#) – five new cases 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.

[Cryptosporidiosis](#)

There were 54 cases of cryptosporidiosis reported this week (Table 1), continuing the increasing trend in notifications in the summer months. Cryptosporidiosis cases typically peak over summer but are above the usual range for this time of year. Notifications have been predominantly from metropolitan Sydney and Newcastle.

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrhoeal disease caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, which infects the intestine. Infection occurs when the parasite is ingested. Transmission most often occurs through person-to-person contact, particularly in families and among small children, drinking contaminated water, swimming in contaminated pools, handling infected animals or their manure, and rarely through contaminated food.

Prevention measures including good hand hygiene, not drinking untreated water, avoiding swallowing water when swimming, and not swimming in natural waters (eg rivers, creeks, dams, surf) within a week after heavy rain. To avoid spreading cryptosporidiosis, people with cryptosporidiosis should not swim or share towels or linen for at least two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped, and to not prepare food for at least 48 hours after the diarrhoea has stopped. Children who have diarrhoea should be kept home from school, pre-school, childcare or playgroup until 24 hours after the diarrhoea has completely stopped.

Follow the link for further information on [cryptosporidiosis surveillance data](#).

[back to top](#)

[Hepatitis A](#)

There were five new cases of hepatitis A reported this week in NSW (Table 1). All of these cases and all but one of the other hepatitis A cases reported this year are believed to have acquired the infection while travelling overseas. Infections this year have most commonly been associated with travel to countries in the Middle East, South Asia and the Pacific.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver. The virus is spread by the faecal-oral route, including contaminated food or water or direct contact with an infected person.

A safe and effective vaccine is available against hepatitis A. Vaccination is recommended for people intending to travel to countries where hepatitis A is common (most developing countries) and for other people in a range of [higher risk groups](#).

Follow the link for further information on [hepatitis A surveillance data](#).

[back to top](#)

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 04 February to 10 February 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	54	23	171	54	41	654	354
	Giardiasis	45	46	248	254	258	2015	2376
	Hepatitis A	5	2	11	0	13	42	60
	Rotavirus	7	10	70	82	90	1761	1207
	Salmonellosis	96	94	512	478	845	2945	3572
	Shigellosis	3	2	14	30	23	131	126
	Typhoid	2	2	12	3	9	42	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	25	28	161	81	186	8038	5784
	Legionellosis	2	0	6	24	8	100	98
	Tuberculosis	7	7	29	49	53	386	534
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	463	324	2320	2594	2140	21255	20445
	Gonorrhoea	63	67	466	482	283	4114	2817
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	15	2	22	11	6	199	268
	Mumps	1	3	9	13	2	109	60
	Pertussis	67	59	377	1209	2098	5982	13376
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	6	5	40	35	26	571	529
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	7	43	27	119	342	472
	Dengue	1	2	23	44	31	281	146
	Malaria	3	1	12	6	13	68	82
	Ross River	10	4	57	58	98	594	589
Zoonotic	Q fever	1	3	10	16	21	112	133

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.

[back to top](#)