

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 7 11 February 2013 – 17 February 2013

In summary, we report:

- [STEC/VTEC](#) – three cases reported
- [Arbovirus surveillance update](#)
- [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.

STEC/VTEC

There were three cases of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection reported this week in NSW (Table 1), including one adult and two children. The three cases had no common exposures and were from different parts of NSW. No definite source of infection could be established for any of the cases although two of the cases had rural exposures. Two of the cases had an associated haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) diagnosis. The STEC strain in one of the cases was identified as *E. coli* O26, while the serotypes of the other two cases are not yet known.

E. coli are bacteria commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract of people and animals. Many types of *E. coli* are harmless but some types can produce Shiga toxins (also known as verocytotoxins, hence 'VTEC') which cause bloody diarrhoea. HUS is a severe and sometimes fatal complication of some STEC infections and is characterised by kidney failure, bleeding and anaemia.

Follow the link for further information on [STEC/VTEC surveillance data](#).

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Arbovirus surveillance update

Notifications for [Barmah Forest Virus](#) and [Ross River Virus](#) infections were within the normal range for this time of year (Table 1). Notifications tend to be highest in March and April.

The heavy rains associated with Tropical Cyclone Oswald produced increased mosquito breeding within the Sydney region, particularly at those sites close to *Aedes vigilax* habitats. Other surveillance locations along the coast tended to produce much lower mosquito collections. Across the inland region of the state, rainfall continues to be below average, and other than the Riverina, mosquito numbers were quite low.

There have been no arbovirus isolates identified from the mosquito monitoring program and no arbovirus seroconversions in sentinel chickens recorded this season.

Two predictive climate-based models for [Murray Valley Encephalitis Virus](#) (MVEV) activity have been developed; the Forbes (which relies on rainfall in the river catchment basins of Eastern Australia), and the Nichols (based on the Southern Oscillation) models. The current climate data relevant to both the Forbes and the Nichols MVEV models are not consistent with conditions seen in past MVEV outbreak seasons.

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

Follow the link for further information and data from the [NSW Arbovirus surveillance and vector monitoring program](#) (external link).

Follow the link for the NSW Health [Fight the Bite! campaign poster](#).

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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 11 February to 17 February 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	36	55	208	71	49	654	354
	Giardiasis	55	50	308	307	328	2015	2376
	Hepatitis A	2	5	13	3	13	42	60
	Rotavirus	2	9	75	95	106	1761	1207
	STEC/VTEC	3	0	5	4	0	12	9
	Salmonellosis	145	101	664	535	956	2945	3572
	Shigellosis	2	3	16	32	26	131	126
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	19	35	190	90	215	8038	5784
	Legionellosis	1	3	9	26	9	100	98
	Tuberculosis	2	8	34	57	67	401	535
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	364	495	2715	3013	2602	21256	20445
	Gonorrhoea	54	78	537	560	329	4114	2817
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	19	18	44	19	9	213	297
	Pertussis	56	69	437	1369	2394	5982	13376
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	6	7	47	36	32	571	529
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	11	8	57	36	134	342	472
	Dengue	4	1	30	53	37	285	146
	Malaria	2	4	15	7	14	68	82
	Ross River	10	10	68	69	118	594	589

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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