

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 2 7 January 2013 – 13 January 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – two new cases reported, not linked to national outbreak
- [Viral meningitis](#) – decrease in Emergency Department activity
- [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.

Listeriosis

There were two further cases of listeriosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1). Laboratory typing suggests neither case is linked to the recently reported national outbreak associated with soft cheese. One case was believed to have been acquired overseas while the other case was acquired locally.

Listeriosis is a rare illness usually caused by eating foods contaminated with bacteria known as *Listeria monocytogenes*. Listeriosis is a serious disease in pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.

People at increased risk of listeriosis include pregnant women and the foetus, newborns, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems (for example: people on cancer treatment or corticosteroids, and people with diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or HIV infection). These people should not eat the following foods:

- pre-packed cold salads, including coleslaw and fresh fruit salad
- pre-cooked cold chicken
- pâté
- sprouted seeds and raw mushrooms
- soft cheeses such as brie, camembert, ricotta, or blue-vein (unless cooked and eaten whilst hot)
- pre-cut fruit
- cold delicatessen meats
- raw seafood
- unpasteurised milk or milk products
- smoked seafood (for example, smoked salmon)

A national investigation is currently underway into a cluster of cases of listeriosis, including at least six cases from NSW, which have been linked to the consumption of certain soft cheeses produced in Victoria and sold at delicatessens and supermarkets in a number of states.

Follow the links for further information:

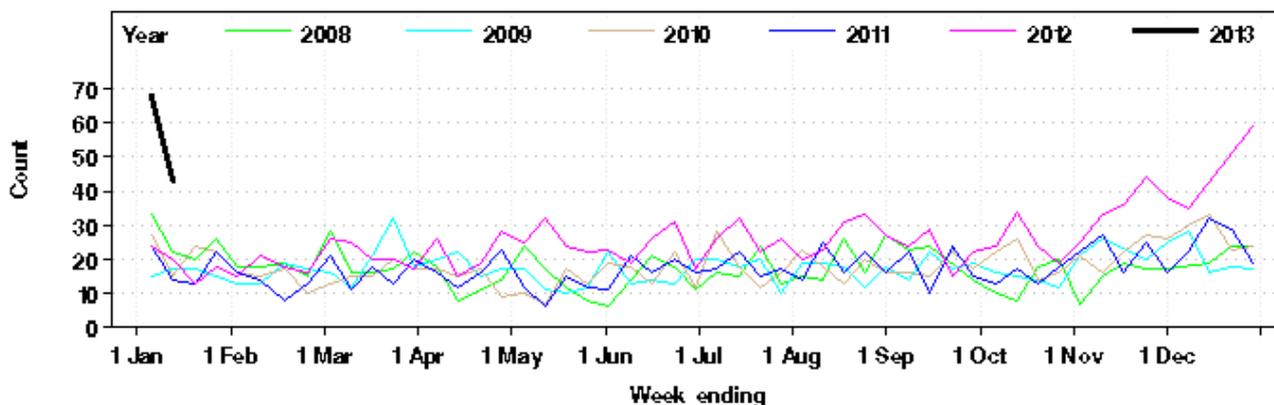
- [NSW Health Listeria Food Safety Warning](#) (updated 9 January).
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ): [Jindi Cheese recall](#).
- NSW Health [listeriosis notifications data](#).

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Viral meningitis

NSW Emergency Department (ED) presentations for “meningitis/encephalitis” decreased but remained above the usual range for this time of year (Figure 1). ED activity peaked around New Year’s Day.

Figure 1. Total weekly counts of Emergency Department presentations for meningitis/encephalitis, for January 2013 (black line), compared with each of the 5 previous years (coloured lines), for 59 NSW hospitals.



Viral meningitis is generally less severe than bacterial meningitis and resolves without specific treatment. In Australia, most viral meningitis cases in the summer months are caused by enteroviruses. Only a small number of people with enterovirus infections actually develop meningitis. Echovirus 30 is the most common cause of the summer outbreaks of viral meningitis which occur every few years in NSW.

Enteroviruses are most often spread from person to person through faecal contamination (which can occur when changing a nappy or using the toilet and not properly washing hands afterwards). Enteroviruses can also be spread through respiratory secretions (saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus) of an infected person, or through contaminated swimming and wading pools.

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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 7 January to 13 January 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	18	17	35	11	10	653	353
	Giardiasis	39	19	57	68	77	2011	2376
	Listeriosis	2	3	5	4	1	37	20
	Rotavirus	11	6	17	25	24	1761	1207
	Salmonellosis	75	64	137	174	320	2946	3572
	Shigellosis	2	0	2	12	4	131	126
	Typhoid	2	0	2	0	1	43	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	29	16	45	30	58	8029	5785
	Tuberculosis	3	1	4	11	19	310	529
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	257	223	455	670	593	21128	20443
	Gonorrhoea	47	45	83	147	86	4075	2817
	LGV	1	0	1	1	0	33	39
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	1	0	1	4	2	188	230
	Mumps	1	1	1	9	1	103	60
	Pertussis	73	45	113	372	779	5978	13371
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	9	11	20	14	15	572	527
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	5	10	4	23	342	472
	Dengue	3	3	6	9	10	265	146
	Malaria	1	2	3	3	5	67	82
	Ross River	12	6	16	13	25	594	589
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	0	1	1	2	20	39

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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