

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 4 21 January 2013 – 27 January 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – three new cases reported, including two linked to national outbreak
- [Hepatitis A](#) – two 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.

NOTE WELL:

The *NSW Public Health Act 2010* and the *Public Health Regulation 2012* commenced on 1 September 2012.

Medical Practitioners and Hospitals are required to notify certain infectious diseases and medical conditions to Public Health on the basis of reasonable clinical suspicion. Laboratories are required to notify a positive result for specified infectious disease and medical conditions.

Check the [disease notification website](#) (www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx) for further information and for updated notification forms.

[Listeriosis](#)

There were three new cases of listeriosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1). Two of the cases had links to the consumption of soft cheeses produced in Victoria by Jindi Cheeses Pty Ltd which were subject to a second voluntary recall on 18 January. Both cases consumed cheeses produced prior to the latest recall.

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, the elderly and the immunosuppressed.

Follow the [Listeria Health Alert](#) link for further information on the Jindi cheese recall:

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

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[Hepatitis A](#)

There were two new cases of hepatitis A reported this week in NSW (Table 1). One of the cases is believed to have acquired the infection locally although no source of exposure has been identified. The other case is thought to have acquired the infection while travelling in the western pacific region.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver. Symptoms include feeling unwell, aches and pains, fever, nausea, lack of appetite, and abdominal discomfort, followed by dark urine, pale stools and jaundice. The illness usually lasts from one to three weeks.

Infected people can pass on the virus to others from two weeks before the development of symptoms until one week after the appearance of jaundice. 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](#).

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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 21 January to 27 January 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	32	25	92	32	28	653	353
	Giardiasis	47	35	148	159	170	2014	2376
	Hepatitis A	2	1	4	0	6	42	60
	Listeriosis	3	0	9	6	2	36	20
	Rotavirus	19	14	52	53	65	1761	1207
	Salmonellosis	83	92	323	324	595	2950	3572
	Shigellosis	2	5	9	25	18	131	126
	Typhoid	4	1	8	0	4	43	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	18	26	98	50	118	8021	5784
	Legionellosis	2	1	4	14	7	97	96
	Tuberculosis	3	7	15	28	44	360	529
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	436	417	1463	1572	1287	21251	20443
	Gonorrhoea	82	61	236	315	192	4112	2817
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	51	73	239	785	1409	5978	13371
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	2	6	28	27	22	572	527
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	9	30	15	84	342	472
	Dengue	5	5	16	21	21	268	146
	Malaria	2	3	8	3	9	67	82
	Ross River	8	10	38	31	62	594	589
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	1	6	8	14	112	132

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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