

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Epi-Week 25: 16 June – 22 June 2014

In summary, we report:

- **Measles** – one new case
- **Haemophilus influenzae type b** – one new case in a child < 5 years of age
- **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**

One measles case was notified in this reporting week (Table 1). This case was in an unvaccinated seven year old resident of the North Coast Local Health District. The case is believed to have been exposed to a child with measles from Queensland while attending Beef Week in Casino on 31 May. Case investigation and contact tracing have been conducted by the local public health unit (PHU). A number of unvaccinated students were excluded from the primary school for 14 days where this child attended while infectious.

There have been 56 measles cases in NSW in 2014, of which 23 have acquired their infection overseas (mostly from the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia). There are also outbreaks in other Australian states following introduction of measles in returning travellers from south east Asia and Papua New Guinea.

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 range from an ear infection and pneumonia to swelling of the brain.

Children should receive two doses of vaccine, one at 12 months and the second at 18 months of age. Babies who are travelling overseas before their vaccines are due can be given the first dose as early as nine months of age. Children over 18 months who have not had their second dose of measles vaccine can be vaccinated now. Anyone born during or after 1966 should have two doses of vaccine (at least four weeks apart), and NSW Health is offering a measles vaccine catch-up program in over 140 high schools in Term 3.

NSW Health urges everyone planning international travel to ensure they are up to date with their vaccinations (including measles) prior to their departure.

Follow the link for further information on [measles disease notifications](#).

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

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## Haemophilus influenzae type b

There was one new case of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease identified this week from metropolitan Sydney. The case was in a two year old fully vaccinated child with sepsis and meningitis who responded well to treatment. Follow-up of susceptible close contacts of this case was undertaken by the local public health unit. This is the first Hib notification in a child aged less than 5 years in 2014.

Hib disease is caused by infection with *Haemophilus influenzae* type b bacteria. Infection can lead to serious illness including meningitis and epiglottitis. Since Hib vaccines were included in the routine childhood immunisation schedule in 1993, there has been a reduction of more than 95% in notified cases of Hib (1). Four doses of Hib vaccine are recommended in NSW for all infants at two, four, six and twelve months of age.

Follow the link for further information on [Haemophilus influenzae type b 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).

**Table 1. NSW notifiable conditions from 16June to 22 June 2014, by date received.\***

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2014	2013	2012	2013	2012
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	5	5	245	920	440	1131	655
	Giardiasis	50	36	1545	1277	1213	2240	2014
	Hepatitis A	1	3	38	38	19	62	41
	Rotavirus	8	11	191	202	342	508	1759
	Salmonellosis	88	51	2567	2089	1655	3485	2942
	Shigellosis	4	2	124	61	68	136	131
	Typhoid	1	0	24	38	27	58	43
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	93	56	1431	979	1865	8401	8037
	Tuberculosis	2	4	177	212	220	440	469
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	420	383	11267	10764	11052	21081	21263
	Gonorrhoea	88	63	2331	2193	2033	4266	4115
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	3	145	376	172	509	269
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	0	2	4	0	9	2
	Measles	1	0	56	12	21	33	174
	Meningococcal Disease	1	1	16	14	29	48	67
	Mumps	2	0	46	60	68	88	110
	Pertussis	37	33	848	1210	3575	2378	5998
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	15	13	170	215	219	489	564
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	5	1	114	278	195	440	352
	Chikungunya	1	0	9	10	0	22	1
	Dengue	1	2	221	140	171	302	287
	Malaria	2	0	47	43	27	93	68
	Ross River	20	10	318	335	428	513	597
Zoonotic	Q fever	4	0	76	74	71	154	124

<sup>1</sup> Haemophilus influenzae type b. The Australian Immunisation Handbook - 10 Edition 2013. NH&MRC.

**\* 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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