

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Epi-Week 28: 07 July – 13 July 2014

In summary, we report:

- [Returning travellers from the Brazil World Cup](#) – health alert
- [Dengue](#) – continuing imported cases, especially from Bali.
- [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.

Returning travellers from the Brazil World Cup

The completion of the Football World Cup in Brazil is likely to see the return home of the last of the Australian supporters and we recommend healthcare workers maintain a high degree of vigilance for imported infections.

While there have been no major outbreaks reported, the risk to travellers is increased because of the combination of the endemic disease threats in Brazil (such as yellow fever, dengue, malaria, HIV, Chaga's disease, rabies, hepatitis A and B, and possibly chikungunya) together with the possibility of exposure to other infectious diseases carried to Brazil by football supporters from other regions (such as measles and influenza).

Follow the links for further information on the [World Cup health risks](#) from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and [risk assessment](#) from the European CDC.

For information on individual diseases, select from the NSW Health [A to Z of Infectious Diseases](#) list.

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Dengue

Eleven cases of dengue fever were reported in this reporting week (Table 1). Indonesia, particularly Bali, remains the country most commonly linked to dengue infection in NSW travellers, accounting for 43% of cases reported so far this year. In recent months, Thailand has become the second-most common source of dengue cases, overtaking Fiji for which there have been few case reports since April this year.

Dengue is a viral infection that is caused by four dengue viruses (types 1-4). It is spread by two types of mosquito: the Dengue mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). These mosquitoes become infected when they feed on someone who has dengue during their infection. Once infected, the virus multiplies inside the mosquito and can infect other people when the mosquito feeds again.

People who travel to dengue-affected areas are at risk. Affected areas include many tropical countries throughout Asia, the Pacific, parts of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

There is currently no vaccine against dengue. Travellers to dengue-affected areas should avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. The dengue mosquito prefers to live and bite people indoors, and peak biting activity is during daylight hours. The mosquito hides under furniture and tends to bite around the feet and ankles. People may not notice they are being bitten.

Travellers to dengue-affected areas should stay in accommodation with screened windows and doors, wear loose fitting clothing that covers the arms and legs and apply insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin to exposed skin, especially during daylight hours and in the early evening. Insecticidal surface sprays inside the home can kill the adult mosquitoes.

For additional advice on steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes see the [Mosquitoes are a Health Hazard Factsheet](#).

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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 07 July to 13 July, by date received.*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2014	2013	2012	2013	2012
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	9	2	266	951	484	1131	655
	Giardiasis	44	40	1695	1371	1305	2240	2014
	Hepatitis A	1	1	40	41	21	62	41
	Hepatitis E	3	0	19	12	4	16	10
	Rotavirus	12	6	227	224	394	508	1759
	Salmonellosis	41	39	2699	2229	1743	3485	2942
	Shigellosis	6	3	131	68	80	136	131
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	372	243	2317	1375	3878	8401	8037
	Legionellosis	3	1	41	58	75	108	107
	Tuberculosis	6	6	213	231	245	440	469
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	382	432	12587	11868	12274	21087	21266
	Gonorrhoea	63	70	2615	2460	2279	4267	4116
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	4	2	157	393	187	509	269
	Pertussis	40	31	970	1313	3816	2378	5998
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	23	16	226	256	274	489	564
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	6	124	290	210	440	352
	Dengue	11	5	259	165	183	302	287
	Malaria	4	4	60	52	35	93	68
	Ross River	8	7	349	352	449	513	597
Zoonotic	Brucellosis	1	0	2	0	3	4	5

* 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](#) (external link).
- 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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