

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 3, 12 to 18 January 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Hepatitis A](#) – Two new cases including one in a food handler
- [Salmonellosis](#) – Five new clusters investigated
- [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.

Hepatitis A

There were 2 new cases of hepatitis A reported this week (Table 1). Both infections were acquired overseas, one in Afghanistan and the other in Indonesia. One case was a food handler who had worked while potentially infectious but before the infection was diagnosed.

A comprehensive risk assessment was undertaken with the assistance of the NSW Food Authority to determine the likelihood of exposure for patrons and other workers at the food premises. The risk assessment concluded that exposure was very unlikely to have occurred given the high-level of hand hygiene and food safety practices of the worker and the other restaurant staff. Other staff members who worked with the case were recommended hepatitis A vaccination as per NSW Health guidelines but the risk to patrons was deemed extremely low and no further action was necessary.

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 transmit 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 through contaminated food or water or after 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 more [hepatitis A notifications data](#)

Follow the link for the [hepatitis A factsheet](#)

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Salmonellosis

There have been 140 notifications of salmonellosis this reporting week (Table 1). Health Protection NSW and local health district public health units (PHUs) have been investigating five clusters of salmonellosis. One of the clusters was reported to a PHU by a member of the public, the other four clusters were identified through regular review of disease notification data by PHU and Health Protection NSW staff.

Three of the five outbreaks are thought to be due to the consumption of foods containing undercooked eggs: raw egg mayonnaise; fried ice-cream from a Chinese restaurant; and breakfast dishes from a café (including omelette, poached eggs and hollandaise sauce).

The NSW Food Authority (NSWFA) is conducting inspections of the related premises. In all cases samples will be taken and advice given to ensure the practices at the food premise meet appropriate food safety and hygiene standards to prevent further illness. These measures include not serving foods that contain raw egg, practices to prevent cross-contamination of ready to eat foods, and cleaning and sanitising of environmental surfaces.

Salmonella notifications usually begin to climb steeply in December each year and peak over summer because *Salmonella* flourishes in warmer weather so is able to produce an infective dose in contaminated food in a shorter time. Products containing undercooked eggs are the most common source of outbreaks of salmonellosis in NSW. Restaurants, cafes, bakeries, caterers and manufacturers that make raw egg dressings, desserts and sauces need to follow safe handling practices. They should try to use alternatives to raw eggs in foods which are not subsequently cooked. Alternatives include commercially produced dressings and sauces, or pasteurised egg products.

Salmonellosis is a form of gastroenteritis caused by *Salmonella* bacteria, which are commonly found in animals. Symptoms of salmonellosis include fever, headache, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms usually start around six to 72 hours after ingestion of the organism. Symptoms typically last for four to seven days, but can continue for much longer. Occasionally hospitalisation is required for management of dehydration, particularly in young babies, elderly people and those with weakened immune systems.

Follow the link for further information on [safe handling of raw egg products](#) from the NSWFA.

Follow the link for further information on [salmonellosis notifications](#)

Follow the link for the [salmonellosis 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 12 January to 18 January 2015, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	15	9	33	54	96	427	1132
	Giardiasis	80	53	170	159	170	2939	2242
	Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	1	3	2	7	10
	Hepatitis A	2	1	4	7	4	79	62
	Rotavirus	11	13	31	36	59	709	508
	Salmonellosis	140	111	352	420	368	4297	3483
	Shigellosis	3	3	9	24	10	207	136
	Typhoid	1	1	3	5	8	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	79	65	176	259	119	20750	8403
	Legionellosis	3	3	7	4	6	73	108
	Tuberculosis	3	4	9	33	29	459	437
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	514	442	1120	1712	1651	22889	21089
	Gonorrhoea	112	102	361	377	362	4863	4267
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	2	6	12	5	239	509
	Pertussis	111	91	269	187	268	3017	2378
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	8	10	20	17	33	509	490
	Rubella	1	0	1	1	0	10	12
Vector Borne Diseases	Dengue	2	2	9	39	28	376	303
	Malaria	1	0	1	5	10	87	93
	Ross River	17	24	55	31	49	682	512

*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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