

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 51, 14 December to 20 December 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Salmonellosis](#) – increased activity
- [Parechovirus](#) - update
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information on infectious diseases on-line see [NSW Health Infectious Diseases](#). Also see [NSW Health Infectious Diseases Reports](#) for links to other surveillance reports.

Salmonellosis

There have been 99 notifications of salmonellosis this reporting week ([Table 1](#)). Salmonellosis notifications have been increasing as the weather has become warmer.

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.

NSW Health and the NSW Food Authority are urging people to be aware of *Salmonella* poisoning and take care when preparing and storing food.

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](#)

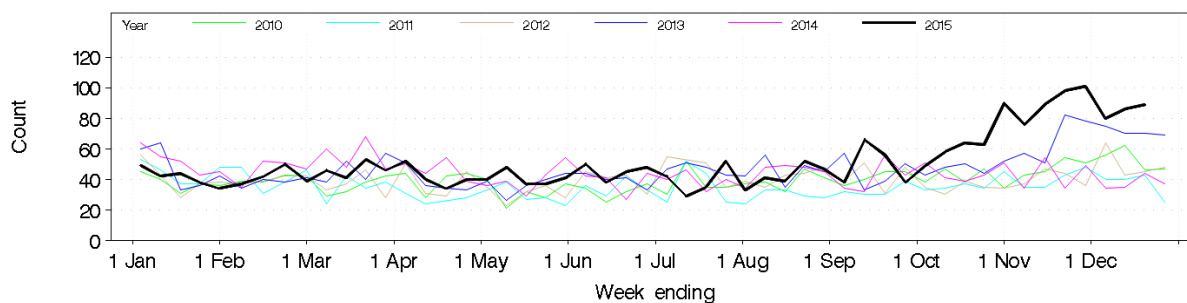
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Parechovirus

NSW has seen an outbreak of human parechovirus (HPeV) infection since October 2015. Although HPeV is not a notifiable condition in NSW, evidence of its presence in the community was signalled after a rise in emergency department (ED) admissions for fever or unspecified infection in children less than one year of age ([Figure 1](#)). Laboratory testing data (Serology & Virology Division, South Eastern Area Laboratory Services and the Children's Hospital Westmead) confirmed the outbreak, with samples from over 150 people testing positive for the virus between the 28th September and 13th December. Over 80% of those testing positive were aged 3 months or younger. Fever was the main symptom, but many presentations included abdominal symptoms such as diarrhoea,

abdominal pain and distension. Samples from 14 individuals who tested positive were sent to the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory for typing. Eleven were found to be HPeV type 3, two were unable to be typed whilst one, in a 12 month old, was found to be HPeV type 1. Six of the individuals sent for typing had predominant abdominal symptoms and were positive for HPeV type 3. ED surveillance data will continue to be monitored, with indications in the past weeks that the outbreak may have peaked.

Figure 1. Total weekly counts of Emergency Department presentations for fever or unspecified infection that were admitted, for 2015 (black line), compared with each of the 5 previous years (coloured lines), children aged under 1 year, for 59 NSW hospitals. 2015 data covers period up to the week ending 20th December.



Parechoviruses are a group of viruses which are part of the same virus family as enteroviruses. There are at least 16 different types of parechoviruses. Parechovirus types 1 and 2 are reported to have been associated with mild gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms. However parechovirus type 3 is known to be associated with more severe illness with high fever and in some cases, neurological disease. These viruses usually cause no symptoms but when illness occurs it is most commonly a mild diarrhoeal illness or respiratory infection. Infection with some strains can rarely lead to more severe blood infection (sepsis) and neurological infection (meningitis or encephalitis), particularly among young children. Children under 3 months of age are most likely to develop severe disease – and babies can become unwell very quickly – but most recover after a few days with supportive treatment.

Parechovirus is usually spread from person to person through contact with respiratory droplets, saliva, or faeces from an infected person. Good hygiene is therefore the best protection: hands should be washed with soap and water after going to the toilet, before eating, after wiping noses, and after changing nappies or soiled clothing. The mouth and nose should be covered when coughing and sneezing and tissues disposed of straight away.

People who are unwell with colds, flu-like illness or gastro illness should stay away from small babies. If you are caring for a small baby and are unwell, wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub before touching or feeding the baby.

For further information see [Human parechovirus 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 14 to 20 December 2015, by date received *

| | | Weekly | | Year to date | | | Full Year | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | | This week | Last week | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Enteric Diseases | Cryptosporidiosis | 31 | 48 | 1002 | 429 | 1132 | 429 | 1132 |
| | Giardiasis | 51 | 68 | 3341 | 2942 | 2242 | 2942 | 2242 |
| | Hepatitis A | 1 | 0 | 70 | 80 | 62 | 80 | 62 |
| | Rotavirus | 20 | 23 | 1009 | 714 | 508 | 714 | 508 |
| | STEC/VTEC | 1 | 0 | 25 | 31 | 24 | 31 | 24 |
| | Salmonellosis | 99 | 85 | 3976 | 4302 | 3483 | 4302 | 3483 |
| | Shigellosis | 4 | 3 | 163 | 212 | 136 | 212 | 136 |
| Respiratory Diseases | Influenza | 29 | 39 | 30244 | 20888 | 8403 | 20888 | 8403 |
| | Legionellosis | 1 | 0 | 91 | 72 | 109 | 72 | 109 |
| | Tuberculosis | 7 | 4 | 406 | 474 | 443 | 474 | 443 |
| Sexually Transmissible Infections | Chlamydia | 400 | 415 | 22091 | 22901 | 21087 | 22901 | 21087 |
| | Gonorrhoea | 74 | 68 | 5244 | 4877 | 4265 | 4877 | 4265 |
| Vaccine Preventable Diseases | Adverse Event Following Immunisation | 1 | 2 | 180 | 256 | 509 | 256 | 509 |
| | Mumps | 2 | 2 | 60 | 82 | 89 | 82 | 89 |
| | Pertussis | 425 | 474 | 11764 | 3051 | 2379 | 3051 | 2379 |
| | Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive) | 9 | 8 | 491 | 511 | 490 | 511 | 490 |
| Vector Borne Diseases | Barmah Forest | 1 | 0 | 186 | 163 | 438 | 163 | 438 |
| | Dengue | 7 | 7 | 319 | 378 | 303 | 378 | 303 |
| | Ross River | 17 | 15 | 1652 | 674 | 513 | 674 | 513 |
| Zoonotic | Q fever | 4 | 1 | 247 | 190 | 163 | 190 | 163 |

* 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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