

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 12, 16-22 March 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Cryptosporidiosis](#) – increased notifications
- [Sexually transmitted infections](#) – third and fourth quarter 2014 data report released
- [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.

Cryptosporidiosis

There were 31 cases of cryptosporidiosis reported this week (Table 1). After a relatively quiet year for notifications in 2014 (with just over 400 cases) cryptosporidiosis notifications have risen again this year although not to the levels seen in 2013. Cases typically increase in the warmer months coinciding with recreational water use. Notifications have been predominantly from metropolitan Sydney and, as expected, mainly in young children.

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrhoeal disease caused by the intestinal parasite *Cryptosporidium*. Transmission most commonly occurs through person-to-person contact (particularly in families with young children), swimming in contaminated pools, handling infected animals or their manure, and rarely through drinking contaminated water or consuming contaminated food. Environmental health officers investigate public pools when cryptosporidiosis cases report common exposures.

Prevention measures including good hand hygiene, not drinking untreated water, avoiding swallowing water when swimming, and not swimming in natural waters (eg rivers, creeks, dams, surf) within a week after heavy rain. To avoid spreading cryptosporidiosis, people with the infection should not swim or share towels or linen for at least two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped, and not prepare food for at least 48 hours after the diarrhoea has stopped. Children who have diarrhoea should be kept home from school, pre-school, childcare or playgroup until 24 hours after the diarrhoea has completely stopped.

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

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Sexually transmitted infections

The [2014 3rd and 4th quarter sexually transmitted infection reports](#) were released this week. These reports include notification data for four notifiable sexually transmitted infections (STIs): chlamydia, gonorrhoea, infectious syphilis and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV), in NSW residents for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014. In the 4th quarter 2014 there were 5476 cases of chlamydia, 1168 cases of gonorrhoea, 173 cases of infectious syphilis and six cases of LGV reported.

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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 16 to 22 March 2015, by date received

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	31	38	324	154	545	429	1132
	Giardiasis	93	89	973	846	680	2942	2242
	Hepatitis A	2	4	34	30	31	80	62
	Rotavirus	5	5	97	97	119	714	508
	Salmonellosis	123	114	1523	1505	1197	4305	3483
	Shigellosis	4	2	49	92	37	210	136
	Typhoid	4	1	15	16	22	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	98	90	920	753	422	20888	8403
	Legionellosis	1	2	22	20	26	72	109
	Tuberculosis	2	6	75	109	106	472	444
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	497	454	5512	6117	5528	22900	21090
	Gonorrhoea	115	126	1294	1251	1155	4878	4267
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	3	5	42	92	234	255	509
	Pertussis	117	111	1416	544	699	3051	2378
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	6	2	55	67	78	512	490
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	4	7	50	58	138	163	438
	Dengue	1	12	105	137	62	379	303
	Ross River	102	95	752	111	134	677	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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