

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 16, 13 to 19 April 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Measles](#) – in an unvaccinated traveller
- [Invasive meningococcal disease](#) – four cases so far this month
- [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 case of measles has been reported this week. The case occurred in an unvaccinated individual who acquired the disease in India. So far in 2015 there have been five confirmed cases of measles in NSW, three of which were acquired outside of Australia (in India and Germany), one was a contact of one of the overseas acquired cases, and one was a contact of the other locally acquired case. Countries in most regions overseas are currently reporting measles outbreaks, including the United States, Germany, Liberia and Vanuatu.

Measles is a highly contagious disease which is transmitted via respiratory secretions (from coughing and sneezing) in the air. Symptoms of measles include fever, runny nose, sore red eyes and cough, followed 3-4 days later by a red blotchy rash spreading from the head and neck to the rest of the body.

Measles can cause serious complications such as pneumonia or encephalitis. It is important that everyone ensures that they, and their family, are up to date with their vaccination, particularly before overseas travel. Anyone born after 1966 should make sure they have had two doses of vaccine. Measles vaccine is available from general practitioners. Additional doses of measles vaccine are safe, so anyone unsure of their vaccination status should be vaccinated.

For more information see the NSW Health measles [webpage](#).

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### Invasive meningococcal disease

Eleven cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been reported in 2015 including one case reported this week.

Invasive meningococcal disease is caused by infection with the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*, which can result in meningitis or septicaemia, both of which can be fatal. It is spread by droplets from the respiratory tract and has an incubation period of 1-10 days; usually 3-4 days.

There are several serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*. Of those cases typed in 2015, six were caused by serogroup B, two by serogroup W135 and one by serogroup C in a child who had not been vaccinated. .

Meningococcal C vaccination is recommended for all children at one year of age and is provided as part of free routine immunisation and cases are now rare in NSW. A vaccine to protect against meningococcal B is also available in Australia, but is not funded by the National Immunisation Program.

For more information see the NSW Health meningococcal [webpage](#)

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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 13 to 19 April 2015, by date received**

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	30	24	450	185	726	429	1132
	Giardiasis	59	60	1303	1099	889	2942	2242
	Hepatitis A	1	2	41	33	31	80	62
	Rotavirus	5	5	120	119	155	714	508
	Salmonellosis	95	54	1862	1900	1513	4305	3483
	Shigellosis	2	2	60	104	46	210	136
	Typhoid	2	0	17	18	24	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	92	74	1335	954	548	20888	8403
	Legionellosis	1	3	29	28	32	72	109
	Tuberculosis	9	6	104	139	137	473	444
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	418	395	7243	7681	7078	22899	21088
	Gonorrhoea	106	78	1693	1575	1490	4876	4266
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	0	52	120	298	255	509
	Measles	1	0	5	53	3	68	33
	Meningococcal Disease	1	3	11	11	10	37	48
	Pertussis	138	113	1982	634	850	3051	2379
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	11	5	101	80	178	163	438
	Malaria	2	1	17	31	37	87	93
	Ross River	77	72	1078	166	171	677	512
Zoonotic	Q fever	3	3	57	67	53	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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