

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 24, 8 to 14 June 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Haemophilus influenzae type b](#) – 1 new case
- [Invasive meningococcal disease](#) – 1 new case
- [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.

### [Haemophilus influenzae type b](#)

There was one new case of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease identified in the Sydney region. The case was a 10 month old infant who was fully vaccinated for age, however with an underlying medical condition that may have reduced the effectiveness of the vaccine. The infant had sepsis (blood poisoning) with cellulitis and responded well to treatment. The local public health unit undertook follow up to identify susceptible contacts and provide clearance antibiotics.

This is the first Hib notification in 2015 in NSW.

Hib disease is caused by infection with *Haemophilus influenzae* type b bacteria. Humans are the only known reservoir, and the organism can be carried asymptotically in the naso- and oropharynx. Hib is predominantly transmitted from asymptomatic carriers by direct contact with respiratory droplets or discharges from the nose and throat. It can also rarely be transmitted from infected persons. Hib does not survive in the environment on inanimate surfaces.

Infection can lead to serious illness including meningitis and epiglottitis (inflammation of the throat). Since Hib vaccines were included in the routine childhood immunisation schedule in 1993, there has been a reduction of more than 95% in notified cases of Hib. Four doses of Hib vaccine are recommended in NSW for all infants at six to eight weeks, four, six and twelve months of age and is provided as part of free routine immunisation in combination with other vaccines due at those ages.

Follow the link for further information on [Haemophilus influenzae type b](#)

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### [Invasive meningococcal disease](#)

Eighteen cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been reported in 2015, including one case in a 19 month old child reported this week.

Invasive meningococcal disease is caused by infection with the bacterium *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, eleven were caused by serogroup B, two by serogroup W135, two by serogroup Y, 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 [website](#).

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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 1 to 7 June 2015, by date received**

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	7	9	580	246	912	429	1132
	Giardiasis	57	67	1830	1560	1246	2942	2242
	Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	5	5	7	7	10
	Listeriosis	1	1	15	16	22	23	33
	Rotavirus	4	3	158	189	193	714	508
	Salmonellosis	47	53	2413	2602	2050	4304	3483
	Shigellosis	5	1	79	120	59	210	136
	Typhoid	1	1	24	25	38	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	139	125	2189	1473	890	20888	8403
	Legionellosis	1	5	50	37	49	72	109
	Tuberculosis	2	8	173	202	200	473	443
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	313	441	10601	11358	10369	22900	21089
	Gonorrhoea	57	60	2334	2395	2097	4877	4267
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	3	90	161	363	255	509
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	0	1	2	3	6	9
	Meningococcal Disease	1	2	18	16	13	37	48
	Mumps	1	2	23	47	58	82	89
	Pertussis	150	158	3124	909	1173	3051	2379
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	10	17	162	169	200	512	490
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	2	138	111	274	163	438
	Dengue	4	3	170	238	130	378	303
	Malaria	1	0	20	48	42	87	93
	Ross River	10	19	1313	319	321	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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