

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 5, 26 January to 1 February 2015

In summary, we report:

- [Pertussis](#) – Cases in childcare centres
- [Dengue](#) – 10 cases reported and current outbreak in Cairns
- [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.

Pertussis

There have been two outbreaks of pertussis (whooping cough) in Sydney child care centres in the period 6-26 January. In each case, the local public health unit has followed up with families and staff and arranged preventive antibiotics according to national [pertussis guidelines](#). Children under 2 years of age who are not fully vaccinated require a course of antibiotics if exposed to pertussis due to the risk of severe disease if they catch the infection. These events highlight the importance of pertussis vaccination both in children and adult parents and carers. As immunity to pertussis wanes over time it is important for all those who have contact with young children to check their vaccination history and consider getting a pertussis booster every 10 years.

As reported last week, there has been an upward trend in [pertussis notifications](#) observed in NSW since mid-2014.

Pertussis, also known as ‘whooping cough’, is a bacterial infection affecting the respiratory system, caused by the organism *Bordetella pertussis*. It affects individuals of all ages, but is more severe (and can be fatal) in small babies, particularly those too young to be vaccinated or those who are unvaccinated. Elderly people are also at increased risk of developing complications if infected with pertussis.

Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease, and is notifiable in NSW. Vaccination against pertussis is recommended for children at 6-8 weeks, 4 and 6 months of age, with a booster at 4 years and in the first year of high school. Vaccination is also recommended for women planning pregnancy or in their third trimester of pregnancy, individuals living with or caring for infants (parents, siblings, grandparents, childcare workers), as well as for all health care workers. Those diagnosed with pertussis are prescribed antibiotics in order to prevent the spread of disease. The antibiotic guidelines for pertussis have recently been revised and it is important that treating doctors are aware of this change.

Follow the link for more information about [patient management for GPs](#)

Follow the link for more information regarding [pertussis vaccination](#)

Follow the link for more information regarding [pertussis notifications](#)

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Dengue

Ten new cases of dengue fever were reported in this reporting week (Table 1); cases were likely acquired in Indonesia (Bali, 3), Sri Lanka (2), the Philippines (2), French Polynesia (1) and Vietnam (1). Locations in Indonesia (particularly Bali) are most commonly associated with dengue infection in NSW travellers, accounting for 148 cases (40%) reported in 2014 and 9 cases (50%) reported to date in 2015. Fiji was the next most common source for dengue cases in 2014 (48 cases, 13%) but there have been no cases linked to Fiji travel since July 2014.

Dengue is a viral infection that is caused by one of four dengue viruses (types 1-4). It is spread by two types of mosquito: the Dengue mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). These mosquitoes become infected when they feed on someone who has dengue virus in their bloodstream. Once the mosquito is infected, the virus multiplies inside the mosquito over several days and can infect other people when the mosquito feeds again.

People who travel to dengue-affected areas are at risk. Affected areas include many tropical countries throughout Asia, the Pacific, parts of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Cairns Outbreak

Queensland Health has reported [an outbreak of dengue fever in Cairns](#). The outbreak which began in December 2014 has led to 11 locally-acquired cases, with the onset of the most recent case on 11 January. Clinicians should consider dengue in travellers returning from Cairns with compatible symptoms.

There is currently no vaccine against dengue. Travellers to dengue-affected areas should avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Peak biting activity of the dengue mosquito is during daylight hours. These mosquitoes will often enter buildings and hide in dark places such as under furniture. They tend to bite around the feet and ankles. People may not notice they are being bitten.

Travellers to dengue-affected areas should stay in accommodation with screened windows and doors, wear loose fitting clothing that covers the arms and legs and apply insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin to exposed skin, especially during daylight hours and in the early evening. Insecticidal surface sprays inside the home can kill the adult mosquitoes.

For additional advice on steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes see the [Mosquitoes are a Health Hazard Factsheet](#).

For additional information on dengue notifications in NSW residents see the [dengue notifications page](#).

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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 26 January to 1 February 2015, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	29	14	81	81	174	427	1132
	Giardiasis	79	74	326	274	266	2938	2242
	Hepatitis A	2	1	7	11	11	79	62
	Listeriosis	2	0	2	5	11	23	33
	Rotavirus	3	14	46	47	82	709	508
	Salmonellosis	149	151	636	669	564	4296	3483
	Shigellosis	6	7	19	41	16	207	136
	Typhoid	1	2	5	9	11	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	66	62	309	395	183	20750	8403
	Legionellosis	1	2	9	8	10	73	108
	Tuberculosis	6	3	21	52	46	462	438
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	410	467	2031	2650	2484	22884	21089
	Gonorrhoea	87	121	456	581	514	4862	4267
	LGV	2	0	5	1	4	14	29
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Measles	2	1	4	10	2	68	33
	Mumps	1	0	3	15	10	80	89
	Pertussis	134	121	532	271	400	3026	2378
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	1	4	24	25	43	509	490
Vector Borne Diseases	Chikungunya	1	1	2	2	1	27	22
	Dengue	10	8	28	57	37	376	303
	Ross River	30	39	134	44	64	680	512
Zoonotic	Brucellosis	1	0	2	0	0	2	4

*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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