

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 47, 19 to 25 November 2017

In summary, we report:

- [Salmonellosis](#) – Increasing notifications in summer
- [OzFoodNet](#) – NSW 2nd Quarter Summary, Apr-Jun 2017 published
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information see NSW Health [infectious diseases page](#). This includes links to other NSW Health [infectious disease surveillance reports](#) and a [diseases data page](#) for a range of notifiable infectious diseases.

Salmonellosis

There have been 60 notifications of salmonellosis this reporting week (Table 1). Salmonellosis notifications have been increasing as the weather in NSW has become warmer.

Salmonella notifications usually begin to climb steeply in December each year and peak over summer. This is because *Salmonella* bacteria thrive in warmer weather and can produce an infective dose in contaminated food in a shorter time. Products containing undercooked eggs and improper separation of foods while cooking 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.

At home, people can reduce their risk of *Salmonella* poisoning by following the NSW Food Authority's [four food safety tips](#).

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 eating food contaminated with the organism. Symptoms typically last 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 NSW Food Authority.

Follow the link for further information on [salmonellosis notifications](#).

Follow the link for the [salmonellosis factsheet](#).

OzFoodNet

The NSW OzFoodNet Second Quarter Summary, Apr-Jun 2017 is now available on the [NSW Health website](#). The Report describes data for enteric conditions collected through notifications and investigations of outbreaks of gastroenteritis and foodborne illness.

In this issue, we report notable increases for Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and rotavirus. Smaller increases were reported for shigellosis, cryptosporidiosis and typhoid. Salmonellosis was the most frequently reported enteric condition with 827 notifications for the second quarter of 2017. This was

a 6% decrease on the quarterly average for the previous five years. Five foodborne or suspected foodborne outbreaks were investigated affecting 112 people.

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 19 to 25 November 2017, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2017	2016	2015	2016	2015
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	9	6	1205	977	871	1184	1040
	Giardiasis	39	50	2763	3231	3127	3480	3413
	Hepatitis A	1	1	62	34	69	41	72
	Rotavirus	35	42	2045	616	942	750	1033
	STEC/VTEC	2	0	47	49	24	65	29
	Salmonellosis	60	79	3392	4122	3646	4544	4022
	Shigellosis	2	3	203	283	159	310	172
	Typhoid	1	2	53	32	39	37	41
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	191	163	103275	34914	30130	35540	30295
	Legionellosis	1	2	126	119	92	134	96
	Tuberculosis	7	3	449	471	406	534	445
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	521	496	25862	23777	20702	25994	22525
	Gonorrhoea	164	151	8354	6347	4928	7004	5395
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	4	2	256	241	180	258	186
	Meningococcal Disease	1	1	85	64	42	70	46
	Mumps	4	6	111	58	55	67	65
	Pertussis	76	87	4963	9962	10193	10956	12078
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	9	16	650	511	461	544	494
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	2	119	34	181	39	184
	Chikungunya	1	0	41	31	38	39	38
	Dengue	5	10	271	449	307	485	344
	Malaria	1	0	66	50	44	59	47
	Ross River	8	3	1611	450	1574	593	1635
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	3	0	178	203	242	231	264

* 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 chronic blood-borne virus case reports are not included here but are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#) webpage.