

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 51, 15 December to 21 December 2019

In summary, we report:

- [Recent NSW Health alerts and advice](#)
- [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.

Recent NSW Health Alerts and Advice

The Summer Holiday season is associated with an increased risk of a range of infectious diseases.

NSW Health issued a number of health alerts in this reporting week covering salmonellosis prevention through safe food preparation and food handling, safe travel and holidays, and avoiding exposure to bats and flying foxes and the dangerous viruses they may be carrying.

For further information, see the following links:

- [Avoid salmonella food poisoning this Christmas](#) [19 December 2019]
- [Have a safe and healthy holiday season](#) [19 December 2019]
- [If a bat needs rescuing, call the experts](#) [17 December 2019].

There has also been an alert issued following an unusual rise in the number of viral gastroenteritis cases in NSW, particularly affecting young children in child care centres.

For further information, see the following link:

- [NSW Health warns of unusual rise in viral gastroenteritis](#) [17 December 2019].

With temperatures expected to climb into the mid-40s and with persistent poor air quality from bushfire smoke, NSW Health has also urged people to take extra precautions to avoid dehydration, heat stress and heat stroke, and to avoid exacerbating existing breathing conditions like asthma.

For further information, see the following link:

[Heat and bushfire smoke health alert for NSW](#) [20 December 2019].

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 15 December – 21 December 2019, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2019	2018	2017	2018	2017
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	16	26	657	704	1259	708	1266
	Giardiasis	41	54	3227	2906	3117	2937	3134
	Paratyphoid	1	0	59	85	69	86	71
	Rotavirus	86	96	1695	802	2308	808	2319
	STEC/VTEC	2	2	77	57	50	57	52
	Salmonellosis	82	75	3497	3270	3637	3336	3678
	Shigellosis	22	16	857	524	234	531	236
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	240	309	116080	17243	103785	17409	103840
	Legionellosis	4	2	151	167	137	171	138
	Tuberculosis	11	8	580	501	540	508	544
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	569	598	31921	30934	28711	31181	28986
	Gonorrhoea	221	237	11545	10528	9047	10610	9149
	LGV	4	3	68	84	50	85	50
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	1	59	72	90	72	91
	Mumps	1	2	55	71	125	72	127
	Pertussis	126	170	6302	6176	5320	6280	5363
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	11	14	676	672	678	681	682
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	1	1	63	74	127	74	127
	Chikungunya	1	2	30	13	47	13	47
	Dengue	4	4	446	298	305	299	306
	Malaria	1	1	70	65	68	66	68
	Ross River	6	3	573	569	1648	571	1653
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	4	239	228	209	228	210

* Notes on Table 1: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- Only conditions which had one or more case reports received during the reporting week appear in the table.
- 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 (i.e. by report date).
- Note that [notifiable disease data](#) available on the NSW Health website are reported by onset date so case totals are likely to vary from those shown here.
- Cases involving interstate residents are not included.
- The shigellosis case definition changed on 1 July 2018 to include probable cases (PCR positive only), hence case counts cannot be validly compared to previous years.
- 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](#).
- Chronic blood-borne virus conditions (such as HIV, hepatitis B and C) are not included here. Related data are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#), the [HIV Surveillance Data Reports](#) and the [Hepatitis B and C Strategies Data Reports](#) webpages.
- Notification is dependent on a diagnosis being made by a doctor, hospital or laboratory. Changes in awareness and testing patterns influence the proportion of patients with a particular infection that is diagnosed and notified over time, especially if the infection causes non-specific symptoms.