

## Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

### Week 18, 26 April to 2 May 2020

In summary, we report:

- [Psittacosis](#) – 2 cases and local alert
- [Novel coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [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.

### Psittacosis

Two cases of psittacosis (also known as ornithosis) were notified in this reporting week ([Table 1](#)). Both men are in their 60s and live in separate parts of the Central Tablelands. One case had contact with wild birds and is the third resident in the local area to develop psittacosis in April, prompting a [media alert](#) by the local health district. Information is pending for the other case.

Psittacosis is a relatively rare respiratory infection caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia psittaci* which is commonly carried by birds. All birds are susceptible to infection but pet birds (particularly parrots, parakeets and cockatiels) and poultry (turkeys and ducks) are most frequently involved in passing the infection to humans. The bacteria that causes this infection can be found in wild bird populations across Australia.

Human infection occurs when a person inhales the bacteria, usually from dried bird droppings from infected birds. People can also become infected by mouth-to-beak contact (kissing) with birds or by handling the feathers or tissues of infected birds. Psittacosis is not spread from person to person.

For more information, see the NSW Health [psittacosis](#) or [avian chlamydiosis for bird carers and suppliers](#) factsheets, or Wildlife Health Australia [Chlamydia in Australian wild birds](#) factsheet.

### Novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

For up-to-date information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and the NSW response, please visit the [NSW Health COVID-19 page](#).

## 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 April – 2 May 2020, by date received\***

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2020	2019	2018	2019	2018
Bloodborne	Hepatitis C - Newly Acquired	1	1	6	10	17	29	38
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	11	10	357	354	373	669	708
	Giardiasis	25	23	875	1564	1144	3271	2937
	Paratyphoid	1	0	16	29	13	39	34
	Rotavirus	8	1	310	232	341	1756	808
	STEC/VTEC	1	1	40	28	23	80	57
	Salmonellosis	60	40	1637	1687	1536	3563	3336
	Shigellosis	2	3	356	306	80	868	530
	Typhoid	1	0	31	33	28	63	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	20	24	7193	11279	3890	116447	17409
	Legionellosis	3	4	56	67	61	153	171
	Tuberculosis	12	18	190	196	172	597	506
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	350	381	10206	11235	11227	32449	31178
	Gonorrhoea	140	159	3766	4134	3725	11710	10606
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	9	44	1222	2186	1349	6386	6280
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	6	4	134	133	119	692	681
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	8	3	53	28	35	63	74
	Malaria	1	2	18	22	21	73	66
	Ross River	140	143	546	274	197	578	571
	Zika virus	1	0	1	0	0	2	2
Zoonotic Diseases	Psittacosis	2	2	5	2	3	10	7

### \* 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.
- Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, data on COVID-19 notifications can be found separately on the NSW Health [Latest Updates on COVID-19](#) page.
- 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.