

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 37, 6 September to 12 September 2020

In summary, we report:

- [Invasive meningococcal disease](#) – one new case
- [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.

### Invasive meningococcal Disease

One new case of invasive meningococcal disease was notified in this reporting week in a young person from a rural area of NSW. Testing to identify the serogroup is underway.

Invasive meningococcal disease, also known as meningococcal disease or IMD, is a rare, but serious and often fatal infection caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. There are several types of meningococcal bacteria, known as serogroups, that can cause disease (A, B, C, E, W, X and Y), of which four (C, B, W and Y) cause almost all meningococcal disease in Australia.

Meningococcal disease can be prevented through vaccination. Vaccines are available against Meningococcal A, B, C, W and Y.

[Meningococcal vaccination is recommended](#) for anyone (from 6 weeks of age) wanting to protect themselves from meningococcal disease, and is strongly recommended for groups at higher risk of disease including:

- Children less than two years of age
- Adolescents 15-19 years
- Aboriginal people 2 months to 19 years of age
- People with certain medical conditions

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine is offered for free under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\) Schedule](#) for:

- Children at 12 months of age
- People 15-19 years of age
- People with asplenia, hyposplenia, complement deficiency, or receiving treatment with eculizumab

In NSW the adolescent dose is delivered via the [NSW School Vaccination Program](#) in Year 10. Anyone aged 15-19 years who is not enrolled in school, or who misses their dose at school can access free vaccine from their General Practitioner.

Meningococcal B vaccine is offered for free under the [NIP Schedule](#) for:

- Aboriginal infants less than 2 years of age with doses at 6 weeks, 4 and 12 months of age
- People with asplenia, hyposplenia, complement deficiency, or receiving treatment with eculizumab

Catch up vaccine is available for Aboriginal children less than 2 years of age until 30 June 2023. The number of doses required depends on age.

For those not covered by the NIP Schedule, meningococcal ACWY and B vaccines are available for private purchase from General Practitioners.

### Further information

- NSW Health [meningococcal disease website](#) and [meningococcal disease factsheet](#)
- The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for more information on meningococcal vaccines
- [NSW meningococcal disease data](#)

## 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 6 September – 12 September 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	10	21	27	29	38
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	3	1	443	477	562	669	708
	Giardiasis	20	20	1345	2567	2141	3271	2936
	Rotavirus	1	3	396	721	586	1755	807
	STEC/VTEC	2	0	61	45	37	80	57
	Salmonellosis	28	31	2262	2646	2454	3559	3335
	Shigellosis	9	5	427	611	281	868	529
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	6	4	7413	106997	12199	116454	17408
	Legionellosis	1	2	109	111	108	153	171
	Tuberculosis	7	20	411	404	362	593	508
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	486	453	19209	22875	22617	32444	31175
	Gonorrhoea	205	182	7137	8468	7661	11703	10601
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	16	44	46	59	72
	Mumps	1	1	46	41	57	56	72
	Pertussis	3	1	1384	4456	3165	6387	6280
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	7	8	260	462	484	692	681
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	2	220	51	61	63	74
	Ross River	11	5	1818	496	458	577	571
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	4	145	184	156	248	228

### \* 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.