

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 46, 8 November to 14 November 2020

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – two new cases
- [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.

Listeriosis

Two new cases of listeriosis were reported this week ([Table 1](#)). Both cases had *Listeria monocytogenes* isolated on blood culture.

The first case is a woman in her 90s with a complex medical history; food-related risk factors are as yet unclear. The second case is a man in his 70s with pre-existing medical conditions. This person reported consuming numerous higher-risk foods within the exposure period. Typing and whole genome sequencing for both cases are pending.

Listeriosis is a rare illness caused by eating food contaminated with a bacterium called *Listeria monocytogenes*. This bacterium is widespread throughout nature, being commonly carried by many species of both domestic and wild animals. *Listeria* bacteria may survive refrigeration but are killed at cooking temperatures.

Outbreaks of illness have been associated with raw milk, soft cheeses, pre-prepared salads (for example, from salad bars), unwashed raw vegetables, pâté, cold diced chicken, pre-cut fruit, fruit salad and most recently rockmelon.

Babies can be born with listeriosis if their mothers eat contaminated food during the pregnancy.

People at increased risk of listeriosis include pregnant women and their unborn children, newborns, older people and people with weakened immune systems, for example: people on cancer or steroid treatment, or people with diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or living with HIV infection. Listeriosis may be severe in these individuals, and infections during pregnancy may cause stillbirth or premature delivery.

People at increased risk of listeriosis should not eat the following foods:

- rockmelon (cantaloupe)
- pre-cut fruit, including fruit salad
- pre-packed cold salads, including coleslaw
- frozen vegetables, unless cooked prior to consumption
- pre-cooked cold chicken, cold delicatessen meats, paté or meat spreads
- raw seafood, smoked seafood (unless cooked and served hot), chilled seafood
- unpasteurised milk or milk products
- soft cheeses such as brie, camembert, ricotta, or blue-vein cheese
- soft serve ice cream
- sprouted seeds.

Fruit and vegetables eaten raw should be thoroughly washed prior to eating.

Follow the links for further [listeriosis data](#), the [listeriosis factsheet](#) and the [NSW Food Authority Food safety during pregnancy brochure](#).

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 08 November – 14 November 2020, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2020	2019	2018	2019	2018
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	2	7	483	545	648	669	708
	Giardiasis	39	33	1605	2975	2629	3271	2936
	Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	3	4	4	5	4
	Listeriosis	2	1	16	14	17	16	19
	Rotavirus	2	2	434	1228	726	1755	807
	STEC/VTEC	5	2	80	61	49	80	57
	Salmonellosis	44	47	2556	3166	2930	3557	3335
	Shigellosis	7	2	472	768	438	867	529
	Typhoid	1	1	37	62	50	64	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	1	3	7449	114760	16070	116448	17408
	Tuberculosis	11	9	513	522	455	591	508
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	531	518	23938	28712	27834	32442	31174
	Gonorrhoea	173	165	8844	10474	9503	11702	10600
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	1	1	1395	5622	4883	6386	6280
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	9	6	311	615	612	692	681
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	8	7	256	59	68	62	74
	Ross River	7	12	1929	564	531	592	571
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	1	10	8	56	9	56
	Q fever	2	4	178	222	209	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 diagnosis by a doctor, hospital or laboratory. Changes in awareness and testing patterns influence the proportion of patients diagnosed and notified over time, especially if the infection causes non-specific symptoms.