

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 26, 21 June to 27 June 2020

In summary, we report:

- [Haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\) disease](#)
- [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.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) disease

One case of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease was notified in this reporting week, in an Aboriginal infant from regional NSW who was fully vaccinated for their age but who had not yet completed the full course of Hib vaccinations.

Hib bacteria can live harmlessly in the throats of healthy people and can be unknowingly passed on to others. The bacteria are spread through contact with droplets from the nose or throat of someone carrying the bacterium, usually in household-like settings.

Hib infection causes a febrile illness with one or more of four clinical syndromes: meningitis, epiglottitis, pneumonia or osteomyelitis. If untreated, infections can be fatal or leave patients with long-term complications. See the [Hib factsheet](#) for more details.

Hib was the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in Australian children before the introduction of Hib vaccines to the immunisation schedule in 1993. Hib disease is now rare in NSW.

Vaccination against Hib is routinely provided to children on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) at 6 weeks, 4, 6, and 18 months of age.

From 1 July 2020 the Hib vaccine is now also funded for people aged 5 years and over who have no spleen (asplenia) or where their spleen is not functioning normally (hyposplenia), and were not vaccinated or were incompletely vaccinated during childhood.

Asplenia and hyposplenia cause a specific type of immunodeficiency which increases the risk of sepsis (blood infection) from certain types of bacteria, including Hib bacteria.

Additional information regarding changes to the NIP schedule from 1 July 2020 is available from: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule-changes.aspx>.

More than 95 per cent of young children develop effective protection after receiving their full course of Hib vaccines. Although Hib vaccines are believed to provide long-lasting immunity, the exact duration of immunity is not known.

Further information

- NSW Health [Hib fact sheet](#)
- NSW Health [Hib notifications data](#).
- Australian Immunisation Handbook chapter on [Hib vaccination](#)

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 21 June to 27 June 2020, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2020	2019	2018	2019	2018
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	1	2	397	417	452	669	708
	Giardiasis	13	25	1077	2043	1554	3271	2937
	Rotavirus	7	9	356	354	447	1755	808
	STEC/VTEC	1	0	49	36	32	80	57
	Salmonellosis	33	38	1978	2145	1956	3562	3336
	Shigellosis	1	2	372	448	118	868	530
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	12	21	7315	39910	4800	116444	17409
	Legionellosis	3	1	91	89	83	153	171
	Tuberculosis	10	18	277	287	243	594	508
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia							
		523	451	13824	16080	16029	32452	31179
	Gonorrhoea	157	206	5123	5992	5270	11719	10605
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	0	2	4	2	11	6
	Pertussis	9	3	1317	3156	1986	6386	6280
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	5	7	163	243	236	692	681
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	8	6	139	44	46	63	74
	Ross River	28	62	1544	392	360	577	571
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	4	110	143	97	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.