

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 41, 10 October to 16 October 2021

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – two cases in a mother and child
- [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 infections of *Listeria* (listeriosis) were reported this week ([Table 1](#)) in a woman and her newborn baby. The woman, in her 30s, had an onset of symptoms including headaches, sore throat, lethargy and chills in late September at 36 weeks gestation. She presented to hospital where she underwent an emergency Caesarean section. *Listeria monocytogenes* was isolated on blood culture, and listeria micro-abscesses were present on placental histopathology. Several foods considered high risk for listeriosis were reportedly eaten during the exposure period.

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 domestic and wild animals. *Listeria* bacteria 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, such as people on cancer treatment or steroids, or those living with diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or HIV. 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 10 October – 16 October 2021, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2021	2020	2019	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	1	3	356	464	494	549	669
	Giardiasis	23	15	1297	1491	2761	1869	3323
	Listeriosis	2	0	18	12	12	20	16
	Rotavirus	6	3	233	418	905	464	1754
	STEC/TEC	1	5	91	66	52	114	80
	Salmonellosis	40	35	2371	2367	2854	2885	3556
Respiratory Diseases	Legionellosis	2	3	143	123	121	170	153
	Tuberculosis	11	9	463	459	458	626	590
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	370	248	20736	21217	25284	27264	32483
	Gonorrhoea	67	57	6337	7887	9330	9890	11692
Vector Borne Diseases	Ross River	2	6	606	1895	533	1990	593
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	6	0	91	8	7	12	9
	Q fever	2	3	129	171	200	206	248

* 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.
- 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.