

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 42, 16 to 22 October 2022

In this report we provide information on schoolies week health risks and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period 42, 16 to 22 October 2022.

Data on **COVID-19** notifications can be found separately on the NSW Health [Latest Updates on COVID-19](#) page.

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

Information on notifiable conditions is available at the 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.

Schoolies Week

NSW Health would like to remind school leavers to practice safe sex and check their vaccination status before they start heading off for Schoolies celebrations next month. NSW Health recommends school leavers visit their GP to check their vaccinations are up to date and to also collect supplies that will help keep you safe.

Safer Sex

Sexually transmissible infections (STIs) like chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis are on the rise again following a reduction during 2020 and 2021. Gonorrhoea rates in NSW have reached pre-pandemic levels in some key populations and infectious syphilis rates almost doubled since 2016 according to the [NSW STI Data Update](#) for January - June 2021. People with chlamydia, gonorrhoea, or syphilis often have no symptoms and can pass it on to others without knowing. If untreated, these conditions can cause serious complications, such as pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility for both men and women. Chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis can generally be treated easily with antibiotics, preventing disease and complications if detected early. People who have condomless sex are most at risk of STIs, which can be prevented by the use of condoms for vaginal and anal sex and dental dams for oral sex.

A useful NSW Health resource for parents and teenagers heading off to Schoolies is the NSW Sexually Transmitted Infections Programs Unit's NSW Play Safe website: [NSW Play Safe Website](#). For free and confidential sexual health support and information people can also contact the Sexual Health InfoLink (SHIL) on 1800 451 624. SHIL is a NSW Ministry of Health funded information and referral telephone line that is staffed by specialist sexual health nurses from 9:00am to 5:30pm weekdays.

Vaccinations

School leavers should check their vaccinations are up to date, particularly for meningococcal ACWY disease and human papillomavirus (HPV). This is because the risk of being exposed to diseases increase with social mixing and close or intimate contact.

School leavers should have been offered a dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine in school clinics across 2021 and 2022; only one dose of this vaccine is needed for long term protection. HPV vaccination should have been offered in two doses in school clinics in 2017. Anyone aged up to 15-19 years who missed their vaccinations at school can receive free vaccinations from their GP and

selected registered pharmacist immunisers. GPs and pharmacists may charge a consultation or service fee, but the vaccines themselves will be free.

Young people who are travelling overseas for Schoolies should also discuss with their GP and other vaccinators other vaccines they may need including; hepatitis A, hepatitis B (most will have had a course in childhood or high school), typhoid, or a tetanus booster (which was offered in Year 7 and doesn't need to be repeated for 10 years). Additional information on how to be safe while travelling overseas can be found on the NSW Health website – [Staying healthy when travelling overseas](#).

School leavers who don't have written records of their vaccinations can access their records on the Australian Immunisation Register by:

- using their Medicare online account through [MyGov](#)
- using the [Medicare Express Plus App](#)
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809.

For further information about [Meningococcal disease](#) or other vaccine preventable diseases please visit the [NSW Health website](#)

Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period alongside reports received in the previous week, year to date and in previous years (Table 1).

Table 1. NSW Notifiable conditions from 16 to 22 October 2022, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date				Full Year		
		This week	Last week	2022	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	303	320	9650	9314	7426	8929	12014	10054	11482
	Cryptosporidiosis	20	13	382	364	467	499	444	549	669
	Giardiasis	29	29	1080	1317	1529	2808	1504	1872	3329
	Rotavirus	51	69	813	287	449	977	356	500	1777
	STEC/VTEC	4	3	112	93	68	52	126	115	79
	Salmonellosis	48	41	2428	2420	2397	2910	3097	2882	3552
	Shigellosis	13	18	347	48	457	689	60	494	867
Other	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	6	7	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Monkeypox	0	1	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	142	118	113821	79	7447	113446	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	4	2	196	162	127	123	213	170	153
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	260	304	3883	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tuberculosis	17	13	405	467	478	478	558	625	589
	Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	574	602	20513	21315	21784	26005	25368	27239
	Gonorrhoea	203	214	8363	6418	8092	9540	7620	9880	11686
	LGV	0	2	22	32	36	45	36	44	69
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	0	1	23	17	18	50	23	22	59
	Mumps	1	1	10	6	54	47	6	56	58
	Pertussis	3	1	59	39	1389	5025	43	1400	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	14	11	452	351	276	554	387	344	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	4	71	92	243	57	111	271	63
	Chikungunya	1	0	3	0	8	22	0	8	35
	Dengue	11	9	103	3	76	366	4	76	455
	Malaria	2	1	26	6	24	53	8	25	73
	Ross River	6	6	617	621	1908	544	659	1990	595
Zoonotic Diseases	Brucellosis	0	2	7	3	3	3	4	4	4
	Leptospirosis	2	0	15	15	21	7	17	30	11
	Q fever	2	3	153	158	177	208	206	212	249

* 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.
- 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.