

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 44, 30 October to 5 November 2022

In this report we provide information regarding the latest Mosquito Awareness and Bite Prevention and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period 44, 30 October to 5 November 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.

## Mosquito Awareness and Bite Prevention

Warm weather and wet conditions are favourable for mosquito breeding in NSW. Mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases that are spread to humans through the bite of certain mosquitoes. In NSW, some types of mosquitoes can transmit diseases, such as Ross River Virus, Kunjin Virus and Barmah Forest Virus, Murray Valley encephalitis and Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV).

### Mosquito Bite Prevention

NSW Health is recommending people take extra steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites this summer.

Your best protection against mosquitoes and the mosquito borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites. Know how to prevent bites – Spray up, Cover up, Clean up, Screen up!

- Apply mosquito repellent evenly to all areas of exposed skin. The most effective repellents contain Diethyltoluamide (DEET), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Read the instructions to find out how often you should reapply repellent. Always apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent.
- Cover up while outside (wear loose, long-sleeved, light-coloured clothing and covered footwear and socks), particularly at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Reapply repellent regularly, particularly after swimming. Always apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent.
- Where possible, limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about, particularly around areas like swamps and wetlands.
- Clean up your backyard and remove all water-holding containers, including buckets, tyres, toys etc, and store them in a dry place.
- Ensure fly screens are fitted in your home to stop mosquitoes getting in. When camping, ensure tents are well protected with flyscreens, or sleep under mosquito nets.

### NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring Program

The NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring Program commenced surveillance of mosquitoes in October 2022 and are already seeing high numbers of mosquitoes in inland areas of NSW. Flood waters may have contributed to the high numbers of mosquitoes. The proportion of *Culex annulirostris*, the main vector for some mosquito-borne diseases such as Japanese

encephalitis virus has been low. There have been no detections of JEV in either mosquitoes or in sentinel chicken flocks so far this mosquito season 2022/23.

Weekly surveillance reports are available on the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/mosquito-borne/Pages/surveillance.aspx>

### New Mosquito Bite prevention communications campaign

A new communications campaign on mosquito bite prevention is due to launch in November 2022. The campaign focuses on bite prevention, and will run across radio, print, social media, digital display and out of home channels.

For more information on bite prevention and mosquito-borne diseases, head to the campaign website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes>

### Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination

On 4 November 2022, NSW significantly expanded access to the JE vaccine. JE vaccine can prevent JE disease but does not protect against other mosquito borne viruses, so it is important to spray up, cover up, screen up and clean up.

JE vaccine is recommended for people aged two months or older who live or routinely work in [41 Local Government Areas](#) with identified JE risk in the south and west of NSW who meet the eligibility criteria.

Supply of JE vaccine continues to be severely constrained in Australia. People who are eligible for vaccination are urged to come forward for vaccination with stock currently available in NSW, and additional vaccines are expected to arrive in the first part of 2023.

To read more about the JEV vaccination and specific eligibility criteria, visit the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/jev/pages/vaccination.aspx>

## 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 30 October to 5 November 2022, by date received\***

		Weekly		Year to date				Full Year		
		This week	Last week	2022	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	282	304	9931	9570	7689	9204	12014	10054	11482
	Cryptosporidiosis	14	20	395	369	469	508	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	17	29	1102	1336	1566	2855	1504	1872	3329
	Hepatitis A	1	0	23	7	19	53	8	19	61
	Rotavirus	60	51	869	299	454	1031	356	500	1777
	STEC/VTEC	4	4	116	96	70	57	126	115	79
	Salmonellosis	58	49	2486	2484	2426	2992	3097	2882	3552
	Shigellosis	12	13	358	49	460	715	60	494	867
	Typhoid	3	0	42	2	35	57	2	37	64
Other	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	12	6	55	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	133	142	113961	80	7448	113777	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	6	5	211	170	131	127	214	171	154
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	253	260	4131	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tuberculosis	6	17	406	474	486	491	558	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	591	580	21113	21724	22378	26699	25368	27239	32473
	Gonorrhoea	180	208	8544	6531	8280	9775	7620	9880	11686
	LGV	1	0	23	33	36	50	36	44	69
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	4	3	63	41	1390	5152	43	1400	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	11	14	462	353	278	568	386	343	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Dengue	8	15	115	3	76	376	4	76	456
	Malaria	1	2	27	6	24	56	8	25	73
	Ross River	5	7	625	624	1913	548	659	1990	595
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	0	27	93	8	7	96	12	9
	Q fever	4	3	161	163	179	211	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.