

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 46, 13 to 19 November 2022

In this report we provide information regarding gastroenteritis in institutions, and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period 46, 13 November to 19 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](#).

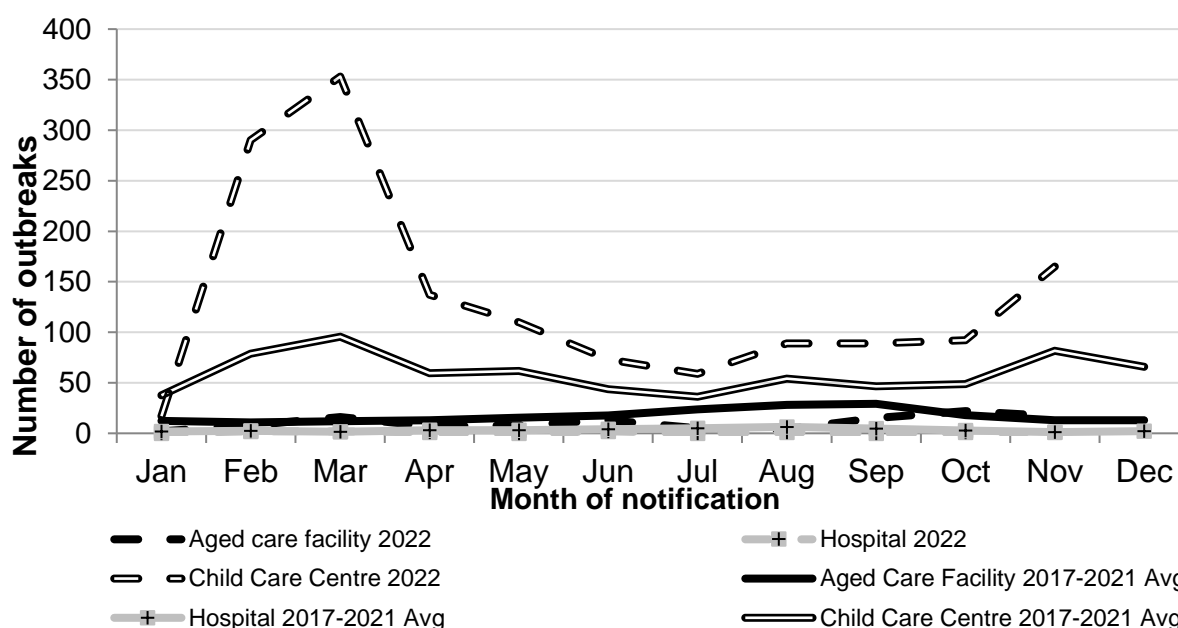
Information on notifiable conditions is available at the NSW Health [infectious diseases page](#). This includes links to other NSW Health [infectious disease surveillance reports](#) and a [diseases data page](#) for a range of notifiable infectious diseases.

### Gastroenteritis in institutions

There were 47 outbreaks of gastroenteritis in institutions notified during this reporting period, affecting at least 353 people. Of these, 43 outbreaks occurred in childcare centres. Of the remaining seven outbreaks, four occurred in aged care facilities. A causative agent was identified for seven outbreaks, two were caused by Norovirus and 5 were caused by Rotavirus.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions decreased late last year following the closure of childcare centres over the Christmas break (Figure 1). However, gastroenteritis outbreaks have recently increased above the five-year mean, with 31 outbreaks in institutions notified during September and 75 outbreaks in October.

**Figure 1. Gastroenteritis outbreak in institution notifications by month and facility, NSW, 2017-2022**



Viral gastroenteritis is a common intestinal infection caused by several different viruses, usually resulting in vomiting and diarrhoea. Norovirus is the most frequent cause and is most common during

the cooler months. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, abdominal pain, headache, and muscle aches.

Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious and is spread via contact with the vomit or faeces of an infected person. This can occur through close contact, contact with contaminated surfaces, or consumption of food or drink prepared by an infectious person. Viruses are often transmitted on unwashed hands.

Vaccination against Rotavirus is recommended and is free for children under 6 months of age. In NSW, the vaccine is given as 2 oral doses, at two and four months of age, with completion of the course by 24 weeks of age.

The best way to prevent the spread of viral gastroenteritis is to wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water for at least 10 seconds, particularly after using the toilet, assisting someone with diarrhoea or vomiting, attending nappy changes, and before preparing and eating food.

Infants and children attending childcare or school, and people whose work involves handling food or looking after others (children, the elderly or patients), should stay home and not return to childcare or work until **48 hours** after symptoms have stopped.

Other people with viral gastroenteritis should stay home from work or school until at least 24 hours after the last symptoms have stopped and should avoid visiting others in vulnerable settings such as hospitals or aged care facilities.

Clinicians are encouraged to notify outbreaks of gastroenteritis in institutional settings to the local public health unit and to test stool samples from patients who present as part of an outbreak, to assist in identification of the causative pathogen.

#### **Further information**

- [Norovirus](#) and [rotavirus](#) factsheets.
- [Controlling viral gastroenteritis outbreaks guidance](#).
- [NSW Health Gastro Pack](#): A resource for childcare centres managing gastroenteritis outbreaks.

## 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 13 to 19 November 2022, by date received\***

		Weekly		Year to date				Full Year		
		This week	Last week	ytd_2022	ytd_2021	ytd_2020	ytd_2019	full_2021	full_2020	full_2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	266	262	10772	10399	8580	10027	12014	10054	11482
	Cryptosporidiosis	11	10	425	394	495	548	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	40	45	1215	1399	1695	3018	1504	1872	3329
	Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	5	0	2	4	0	2	4
	Hepatitis A	1	0	25	7	19	55	8	19	61
	Listeriosis	1	0	31	21	16	16	22	20	16
	Rotavirus	55	66	1029	322	465	1252	356	500	1777
	Salmonellosis	47	49	2642	2710	2569	3153	3097	2882	3552
	Shigellosis	18	12	399	52	475	768	60	494	867
	STEC/VTEC	1	6	130	108	86	59	126	115	79
Other Diseases	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	10	5	77	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	165	168	114421	88	7454	114722	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	4	7	230	179	139	134	214	171	154
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	197	185	4706	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tuberculosis	16	13	450	499	531	523	558	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	589	612	22860	23062	24286	28811	25368	27239	32473
	Gonorrhoea	202	203	9113	6920	8918	10484	7620	9880	11686
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	3	27	19	19	54	23	22	59
	Mumps	1	0	14	6	54	50	6	56	58
	Pertussis	3	4	72	42	1393	5636	43	1400	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	9	10	492	363	299	616	386	343	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	3	3	78	101	261	60	111	271	63
	Chikungunya	1	0	5	0	8	28	0	8	35
	Dengue	2	11	137	4	76	411	4	76	456
	Malaria	3	3	34	6	24	61	8	25	73
	Ross River	5	18	660	629	1942	567	659	1990	595
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	4	3	174	171	193	222	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.