

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 10 04 March 2013 – 10 March 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – two new cases reported
- [Mumps](#) – two new cases reported
- [Cryptosporidiosis](#) – increase in reported cases
- [Arbovirus surveillance update](#) – decline in mosquito numbers
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information on communicable diseases in NSW see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases](#) website.

Click on the heading of each section to see a related factsheet. Updated data are provided in the links below each section, where available.

[Listeriosis](#)

There were two cases of listeriosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1). Both cases were in elderly Sydney residents. Both people had a history of soft cheese consumption but it is not yet known if they are part of the national outbreak of listeriosis linked to consumption of certain soft cheeses produced in Victoria. A further voluntary recall of these cheeses was undertaken on 18 January.

Listeriosis is a rare illness usually caused by eating foods contaminated with bacteria known as *Listeria monocytogenes*. Listeriosis is a serious disease in pregnant women, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems. The incubation period until symptoms is usually two to three weeks but can be up to 70 days in some cases.

Follow the links for further information about Listeriosis and the Victorian cheese recall at the [NSW Health Listeria Reminder and Update](#) (11 February 2013).

Follow the link for further information on [listeriosis surveillance data](#).

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[Mumps](#)

There were two new cases of mumps reported this week in NSW (Table 1). Both cases occurred in adults and are believed to have been acquired in NSW (but not linked to each other). Both cases had uncertain vaccination histories for mumps. The local Public Health Units are investigating these cases to identify and manage at-risk contacts.

Mumps is caused by infection with a virus. Common symptoms of mumps are fever, loss of appetite, tiredness and headaches followed by swelling and tenderness of the salivary glands. One or both of the parotid salivary glands are most frequently affected. Mumps is usually a more severe illness in people infected after puberty.

Rare complications from mumps include encephalitis, meningitis, orchitis, oophoritis, mastitis, spontaneous abortion and hearing loss. Sterility in males after mumps is extremely rare.

People with mumps should stay at home for nine days after the onset of swelling of the salivary glands to help stop spreading the virus to others. Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine should be given to children at age 12 months and a second dose given at 4 years of age. All children and adults born during or after 1966 should be vaccinated with two doses of MMR vaccine if not already immune.

Follow the link for further information on [mumps surveillance data](#).

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Cryptosporidiosis

There were 62 cases of cryptosporidiosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1). There were 174 cases reported for February by date of illness onset, which represents a large increase on the 5-year average for February of 121 cases. While many of these cases report exposure to swimming pools no outbreaks have been detected.

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrhoeal disease caused by a parasitic infection of the intestine. The most common symptoms include diarrhoea, stomach cramps and sometimes fever, nausea and vomiting.

Outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis linked to pools have occurred several times in NSW. The largest recognised outbreak was in 1998, when more than 1,000 cases were confirmed.

Where more than one cryptosporidium case is epidemiologically linked to a swimming pool or other swimming facility, then the local Public Health Unit should ensure that the facility is reviewed for compliance with the [NSW Health Public Swimming Pool and Spa Advisory Document](#).

This compliance includes superchlorination of the pool and ensuring through prominent signage and handouts that swimmers are aware of the importance of people who have been sick with diarrhoea not entering the pool or spa until at least two weeks after they have completely recovered.

There is no specific treatment for cryptosporidiosis and symptoms may last a few weeks in some people.

To avoid getting infected with the cryptosporidium parasite, NSW Health advises people to:

- Always wash their hands thoroughly for 10 seconds with soap and running water after using the toilet, changing nappies, or handling animals;
- Avoid swallowing or putting pool or spa water in your mouth; and
- Not to drink untreated water such as when camping or bush walking. Bringing water to a rolling boil will kill these parasites.

To avoid spreading cryptosporidiosis, people with the infection should:

- not swim for at least two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped
- not share towels or linen for at least two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped
- not handle food for at least 48 hours after the diarrhoea has stopped.

Children who have diarrhoea should be kept home from school, preschool, childcare or playgroup until 24 hours after the diarrhoea has completely stopped.

Follow the link for further information on [cryptosporidiosis surveillance data](#).

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Arbovirus surveillance update

Notifications for [Barmah Forest Virus](#) and [Ross River Virus](#) infections were within the normal range for this time of year, and lower than the previous week (Table 1).

The NSW Arbovirus surveillance and vector monitoring program reports that mosquito numbers are declining with the cooler autumnal weather, but number still remain high at many sites, particularly along the coast. The peak in arbovirus transmission for the coastal region normally occurs from March to May.

Inland, Griffith and Leeton continued to trap high to very high mosquito numbers but have decreased substantially over the last week. All other inland sites continue to trap low numbers.

No arboviral isolates from mosquitoes or seroconversions in the sentinel chickens were recorded. There have been no arbovirus isolates identified from the mosquito monitoring program and no arbovirus seroconversions in sentinel chickens recorded this season.

Follow the link for further information on [arboviral notifications surveillance data](#).

Follow the link for further information and data from the [NSW Arbovirus surveillance and vector monitoring program](#) (external link).

Follow the link for the NSW Health [Fight the Bite! campaign poster](#).

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Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period (Table 1). See explanatory notes below.

Table 1. NSW Notifiable Conditions activity for the period 04 February to 10 March 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	62	56	379	117	70	654	354
	Giardiasis	58	74	515	461	564	2015	2376
	Hepatitis A	2	1	28	8	20	41	60
	Listeriosis	2	1	13	8	5	36	20
	Rotavirus	9	1	96	151	157	1761	1207
	STEC/VTEC	1	0	7	5	0	12	9
	Salmonellosis	71	80	921	791	1330	2944	3572
	Shigellosis	4	4	28	40	36	131	126
	Typhoid	1	2	16	11	19	42	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	33	42	299	141	314	8041	5789
	Legionellosis	2	2	15	31	17	103	101
	Tuberculosis	5	1	56	82	108	431	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	364	444	4114	4478	3991	21263	20448
	Gonorrhoea	121	78	890	811	482	4114	2817
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	36	35	137	44	27	261	343
	Mumps	2	0	15	21	6	110	60
	Pertussis	36	47	585	1847	3141	5987	13386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	8	6	65	45	59	571	529
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	6	17	97	69	184	344	472
	Ross River	9	10	102	135	193	598	590

Notes on Table 1: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- 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.
- 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](#).
- Only conditions for which at least one case report was received appear in the table. HIV and other blood-borne virus case reports are not included here but are available from the [Infectious Diseases Data](#) webpage.

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