

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 24 10 June 2013 – 16 June 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Legionnaires' disease](#) – three new cases reported
- [Measles](#) – three new cases reported
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information on specific communicable diseases in NSW see the [NSW Health A to Z of Infectious Diseases](#) webpage. Click on the heading of each section to see a related factsheet. Links to surveillance data are provided where available.

For links to other surveillance reports, including influenza and enterovirus surveillance reports, see the [NSW Health Infectious Diseases Reports](#) webpage.

Legionnaires' disease

Three new cases of Legionnaires' disease were notified in this reporting week (Table 1). All three were caused by infection with the legionella bacteria species known as *Legionella pneumophila* 1. Local Public Health Units are currently investigating these cases but no likely common sources of exposure have been identified to date.

Legionnaires' disease usually causes fever, chills, a cough and shortness of breath. Some people also have muscle aches, headache, tiredness, loss of appetite and diarrhoea. People can become very sick with pneumonia; most people recover but the disease is occasionally fatal. Legionnaires' disease is not spread from person to person.

L. pneumophila bacteria can contaminate air conditioning cooling towers, whirlpool spas, plumbing systems and other bodies of water. Outbreaks are sometimes associated with contaminated cooling towers that are part of air conditioning systems in large buildings. Regular inspections, disinfection and maintenance of cooling towers and plumbing systems limit the growth of the bacteria.

The Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2012 control various man-made environments and systems which are conducive to the growth of *Legionella* bacteria and which are capable, under the right conditions, of transmitting Legionnaires' disease. Follow the link for more information on the [control of Legionnaires' disease](#).

Follow the link for more information on [Legionnaires' disease notifications data](#).

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Measles

Three new cases of measles were notified in this reporting week (Table 1). Two of the cases were in young siblings with a history of recent travel in South East Asia. Neither had been vaccinated against measles. The third case was in a teenager with a locally-acquired infection, possibly linked to the imported case reported last week. The local Public Health Units are currently investigating these cases and managing contacts.

Measles is a serious disease that is easily spread through the air. Immunisation is effective in preventing the disease. 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 [measles notifications data](#).

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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 10 June to 16 June 2013 (by date received).

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	10	27	893	418	207	655	354
	Giardiasis	32	49	1197	1133	1367	2015	2377
	Hepatitis A	1	0	36	19	36	41	60
	Rotavirus	2	4	182	313	368	1761	1208
	STEC/VTEC	1	1	16	9	2	14	9
	Salmonellosis	54	51	1959	1587	2364	2942	3566
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	39	55	792	966	842	8041	5790
	Legionellosis	3	4	43	67	59	105	104
	Tuberculosis	3	5	138	181	239	441	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	279	409	9780	10309	9471	21262	20449
	Gonorrhoea	47	58	1985	1851	1173	4114	2817
	LGV	1	0	17	5	23	28	36
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	3	6	345	157	210	262	352
	Measles	3	1	7	16	53	172	88
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	13	27	30	68	71
	Mumps	2	2	43	64	29	110	61
	Pertussis	27	39	1121	3404	6362	5996	13410
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	10	6	191	191	189	567	530
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	12	23	262	176	319	344	472
	Ross River	8	18	292	413	450	596	591

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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