

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 35 26 August 2013 – 01 September 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Measles](#) – one new case reported in a traveller
- [Haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\) disease](#) – one new case reported
- [Hepatitis A](#) – Two new imported cases in returned travellers
- [Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW](#)

For further information on infectious diseases and alerts see the [Infectious Diseases](#) webpage.

Follow the [A to Z of Infectious Diseases](#) link for more information on specific diseases.

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

Measles

One new case of measles infection was reported this week (Table 1). The case was in an unvaccinated young adult traveller from Europe. The person travelled to Sydney on the last day of her infectious period, prompting a NSW Health warning to other travellers on the flight (Qantas flight QF0545 that departed Brisbane for Sydney on Saturday, 24 August) to be alert for symptoms of measles.

Measles cases linked to international travellers have also been recently reported in Melbourne and Brisbane. This case may have resulted from exposure to another imported case, known to have arrived in Melbourne at the same time, or from an unidentified measles contact overseas.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms can include fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore red eyes which usually last for several days before a red, blotchy rash appears. Complications can range from an ear infection and diarrhoea to pneumonia or swelling of the brain.

All people aged up to 47 years who have not received two doses of measles vaccine are particularly susceptible to measles; however those born before 1966 are usually immune because they had measles during childhood. So far this year eight travellers have come to NSW with measles infection, all of whom were under 47 years of age, none of whom had received two doses of measles vaccine.

Follow the link for the [NSW Health Measles warning for passengers on flight QF0545](#).

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

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Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Disease

One new case of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib) infection was notified this week (Table 1), the sixth case notified in 2013. The case was in a young child who had been fully vaccinated against Hib. Hib vaccine failure is rare but may sometimes reflect problems with the person's immune system. The local Public Health Unit is following up the close contacts of this case to protect any susceptible young children. The case had no known links to the Hib case noted in the previous week's report.

Infection with Hib bacteria can lead to serious illness including meningitis and epiglottitis. These infections have become rare following the introduction of Hib vaccines. Urgent treatment is necessary as Hib disease can be life threatening.

Four doses of a vaccine containing a Hib component are recommended in NSW for all infants at six to eight weeks of age, and at four, six and twelve months of age.

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

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Hepatitis A

Two new case of hepatitis A were notified this week (Table 1). The cases were both in recently returned unvaccinated adult travellers; one from Europe and one from the Pacific. The local Public Health Units have followed up the close contacts of these cases to manage the risk of infection.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver. The virus is spread by the faecal-oral route, including contaminated food or water or direct contact with an infected person.

An effective hepatitis A vaccine is available but may take up to two weeks to provide protection. Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for people at higher risk of infection, such as travellers to countries where hepatitis A is common (including most developing countries).

There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A. Good personal hygiene reduces the risk of hepatitis A transmission but household contacts and sexual partners of an infectious person may also be recommend to have the hepatitis A vaccine. The vaccine may prevent or reduce the severity of the illness if given within two weeks of contact with the infectious person.

Follow the link for more information on [hepatitis A notifications](#).

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Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

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

Table 1. NSW Notifiable conditions from 26 August 2013 to 01 September 2013, by date received

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	982	534	270	655	354
	Giardiasis	30	33	1596	1472	1777	2015	2377
	Hepatitis A	2	0	48	24	43	41	60
	Rotavirus	10	15	280	685	526	1761	1208
	Salmonellosis	50	43	2441	1989	2792	2942	3567
	Shigellosis	2	2	83	92	86	131	126
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	769	736	4358	6381	4321	8039	5791
	Legionellosis	3	1	66	84	79	105	104
	Tuberculosis	8	10	247	269	334	440	538
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	357	406	14164	14590	13892	21261	20448
	Gonorrhoea	65	85	2915	2752	1775	4114	2818
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	3	7	403	199	277	262	352
	Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	1	6	2	4	2	4
	Measles	1	0	13	81	70	172	88
	Meningococcal Disease	2	1	29	52	49	68	72
	Pertussis	39	33	1547	4426	8865	5996	13411
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	12	18	343	386	352	563	530
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	7	5	320	225	385	344	471
	Dengue	3	5	177	216	96	289	148
	Malaria	2	3	62	46	58	68	82
	Ross River	5	3	382	476	501	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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