Communicable Diseases Weekly Report



Week 3 14 January 2013 – 20 January 2013

In summary, we report:

- Listeriosis no new cases reported but national outbreak investigation on-going
- Viral meningitis decrease in Emergency Department activity
- <u>Cryptosporidiosis</u> increase in notifications
- Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

For further information on communicable diseases in NSW see the <u>NSW Health Infectious Diseases</u> 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 no further cases of listeriosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1) but a national investigation is continuing into a cluster of cases of listeriosis, including cases from NSW, which have been linked to the consumption of certain soft cheeses produced in Victoria by Jindi Cheeses Pty Ltd and sold in a number of states. A further voluntary recall of Jindi 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 and people with weakened immune systems.

Follow the links for further information:

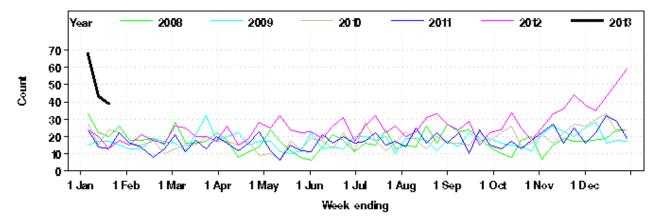
- NSW Health Listeria Food Safety Warning (18 January).
- NSW Food Authority <u>Jindi Cheese recall information</u> (18 January)
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ): Food recall on soft cheeses (18 January).
- NSW Health <u>listeriosis notifications data</u>.

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Viral meningitis

NSW Emergency Department (ED) presentations for "meningitis/encephalitis" decreased but remained above the usual range for this time of year (Figure 1). ED activity peaked around New Year's Day.

Figure 1. Total weekly counts of Emergency Department presentations for meningitis/encephalitis, for January 2013 (black line), compared with each of the 5 previous years (coloured lines), for 59 NSW hospitals.



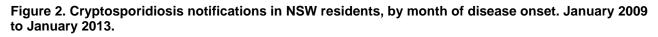
Viral meningitis is generally less severe than bacterial meningitis and resolves without specific treatment. In Australia, most viral meningitis cases in the summer months are caused by enteroviruses. Only a small number of people with enterovirus infections actually develop meningitis. Echovirus 30 is the most common cause of the summer outbreaks of viral meningitis which occur every few years in NSW.

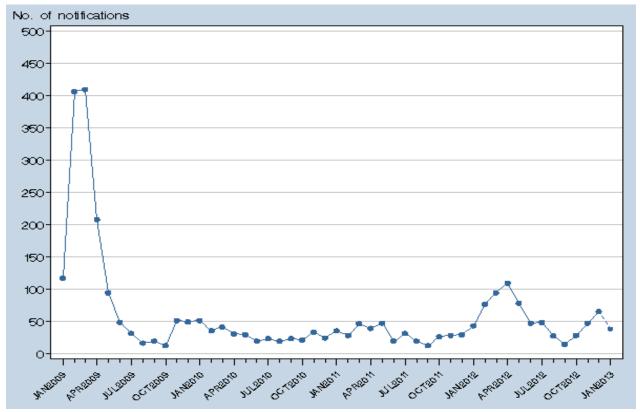
Enteroviruses are most often spread from person to person through faecal contamination (which can occur when changing a nappy or using the toilet and not properly washing hands afterwards). Enteroviruses can also be spread through respiratory secretions (saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus) of an infected person, or through contaminated swimming and wading pools.

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Cryptosporidiosis

There were 24 cases of cryptosporidiosis reported this week (Table 1), continuing the increasing trend in notifications in the summer months (Figure 2). Cryptosporidiosis cases typically peak over summer but are above the usual range for this time of year.





Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrhoeal disease caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, which infects the intestine. Infection occurs when the parasite is ingested. Transmission most often occurs through person-to-person contact, particularly in families and among small children, drinking contaminated water, swimming in contaminated pools, handling infected animals or their manure, and rarely through contaminated food.

Prevention measures including good hand hygiene, not drinking untreated water, avoiding swallowing water when swimming, and not swimming in natural waters (eg rivers, creeks, dams, surf) within a week after heavy rain. To avoid spreading cryptosporidiosis, people with cryptosporidiosis should not swim or share towels or linen for at least two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped, and not prepare food for at least 48 hours after the diarrhoea has stopped. Children who have diarrhoea should be kept home from school, pre-school, childcare or playgroup until 24 hours after the diarrhoea has completely stopped.

Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

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

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	24	18	59	23	22	653	353
	Giardiasis	34	46	98	113	126	2014	2376
	Hepatitis A	1	0	2	0	3	42	60
	Rotavirus	14	11	32	36	44	1761	1207
	Salmonellosis	90	83	238	245	471	2948	3572
	Shigellosis	5	2	7	21	13	<mark>1</mark> 31	126
	Typhoid	1	3	4	0	0	43	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	25	35	77	41	93	8021	5784
	Tuberculosis	3	3	7	15	36	318	529
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	340	282	828	1137	997	21236	20443
	Gonorrhoea	49	51	139	256	135	4111	2817
	LGV	2	1	3	1	5	35	39
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	1	3	5	3	188	230
	Mumps	1	3	4	10	1	103	60
	Pertussis	73	74	188	604	1114	5978	13371
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	5	9	25	21	21	572	52
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	9	9	24	10	52	342	47
	Dengue	5	3	11	14	17	268	140
	Malaria	3	1	6	3	8	67	83
	Ross River	9	15	28	26	38	594	58
Zoonotic	Q fever	1	1	4	7	8	112	132

Table 1. NSW Notifiable Conditions activity for the period 14 January to 20 January 2013 (by date received).

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 <u>Database of Adverse Event</u> <u>Notifications</u>.
- 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 <u>Infectious Diseases</u> <u>Data</u> webpage.

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