

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.

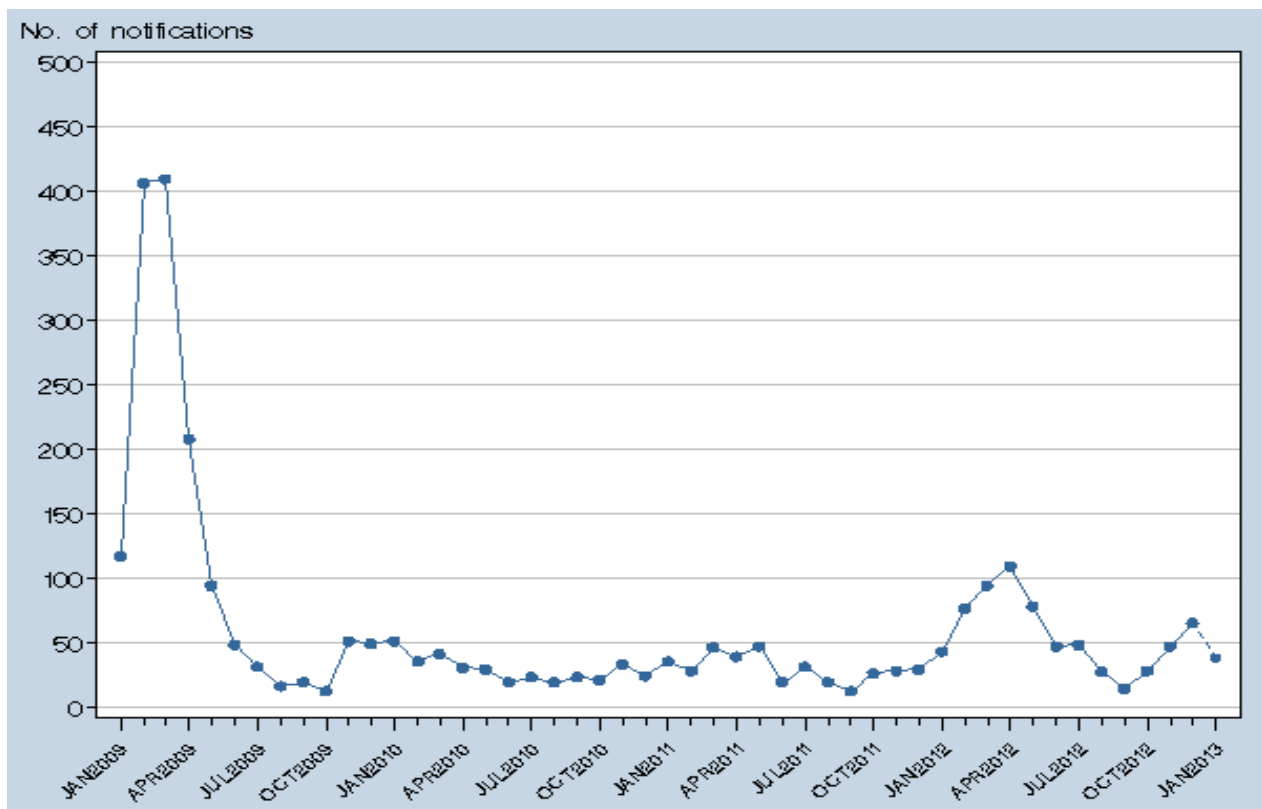
Enteroviruses are most often spread from person to person through faecal contamination (which can occur when changing a nappy or using the toilet and not properly washing hands afterwards). Enteroviruses can also be spread through respiratory secretions (saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus) of an infected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

Figure 2. Cryptosporidiosis notifications in NSW residents, by month of disease onset. January 2009 to January 2013.



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.

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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 14 January to 20 January 2013 (by date received).

		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	131	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	527
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	9	9	24	10	52	342	472
	Dengue	5	3	11	14	17	268	146
	Malaria	3	1	6	3	8	67	82
	Ross River	9	15	28	26	38	594	589
Zoonotic	Q fever	1	1	4	7	8	112	132

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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