

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 5      28 January 2013 – 03 February 2013

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#) – one new cases reported
- [STEC/VTEC](#) – one new case reported
- [Hepatitis A](#) – two new cases reported
- [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.

## NOTE WELL:

The *NSW Public Health Act 2010* and the *Public Health Regulation 2012* commenced on 1 September 2012.

Medical Practitioners and Hospitals are required to notify certain infectious diseases and medical conditions to Public Health on the basis of reasonable clinical suspicion. Laboratories are required to notify a positive result for specified infectious disease and medical conditions.

Check the [disease notification website](#) ([www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/notification.aspx)) for further information and for updated notification forms.

## Listeriosis

There was one new case of listeriosis reported this week in NSW (Table 1). The source of infection for this case is not known but this case is not believed to be related to the national outbreak of listeriosis cases linked to the consumption of soft cheeses produced by Jindi Cheese and subject to a national recall. To date there have been ten cases of listeriosis in NSW linked to this outbreak.

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 the immunosuppressed.

Follow the [Listeria Health Alert](#) link for further information on the Jindi Cheese recall.

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

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## STEC/VTEC

There was one case of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection associated with haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) reported this week in NSW (Table 1). The strain was identified as *E. coli* O157 but the source of the infection has not yet been able to be determined.

*E. coli* are bacteria commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract of people and animals. Many types of *E. coli* are harmless but some types can produce Shiga toxins (also known as verocytotoxins, hence 'VTEC') which cause bloody diarrhoea. HUS is a severe and sometimes fatal complication of some STEC infections and is characterised by kidney failure, bleeding and anaemia.

Follow the link for further information on [STEC/VTEC surveillance data](#).

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## Hepatitis A

There were two new cases of hepatitis A reported this week in NSW (Table 1). Both cases are believed to have acquired the infection while travelling overseas.

A safe and effective vaccine is available against hepatitis A. Vaccination is recommended for people intending to travel to countries where hepatitis A is common (most developing countries) and for other people in a range of [higher risk groups](#).

Follow the link for further information on [hepatitis A surveillance 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 28 January to 03 February 2013 (by date received).**

		This week	Last week	Year to date			Full Year	
				2013	2012	2011	2012	2011
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	20	33	114	39	36	653	354
	Giardiasis	45	52	200	207	208	2014	2376
	Hepatitis A	2	2	6	0	12	42	60
	Hepatitis E	2	0	2	1	4	10	21
	Listeriosis	1	3	10	6	3	36	20
	Rotavirus	10	20	63	61	75	1761	1207
	STEC/VTEC	1	0	2	4	0	12	9
	Salmonellosis	97	84	419	392	702	2947	3572
	Shigellosis	2	2	11	26	21	131	126
	Typhoid	2	4	10	2	6	42	45
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	27	18	128	67	149	8022	5784
	Tuberculosis	6	4	22	37	47	361	529
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	280	490	1805	2076	1706	21252	20443
	Gonorrhoea	56	122	385	396	241	4113	2817
	LGV	2	0	5	1	5	35	39
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	2	0	3	5	9	68	70
	Mumps	2	0	6	13	2	105	60
	Pertussis	57	59	304	1008	1766	5978	13372
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	5	2	34	32	24	571	528
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	7	6	36	23	105	342	472
	Dengue	2	8	21	32	25	268	146
	Malaria	1	2	9	6	10	67	82
	Ross River	3	12	45	46	78	594	589

### 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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