

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 4, 19 to 25 January 2015

In summary, we report:

- **Pertussis** – 113 new cases
- **Measles** – One new case
- **Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW**

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

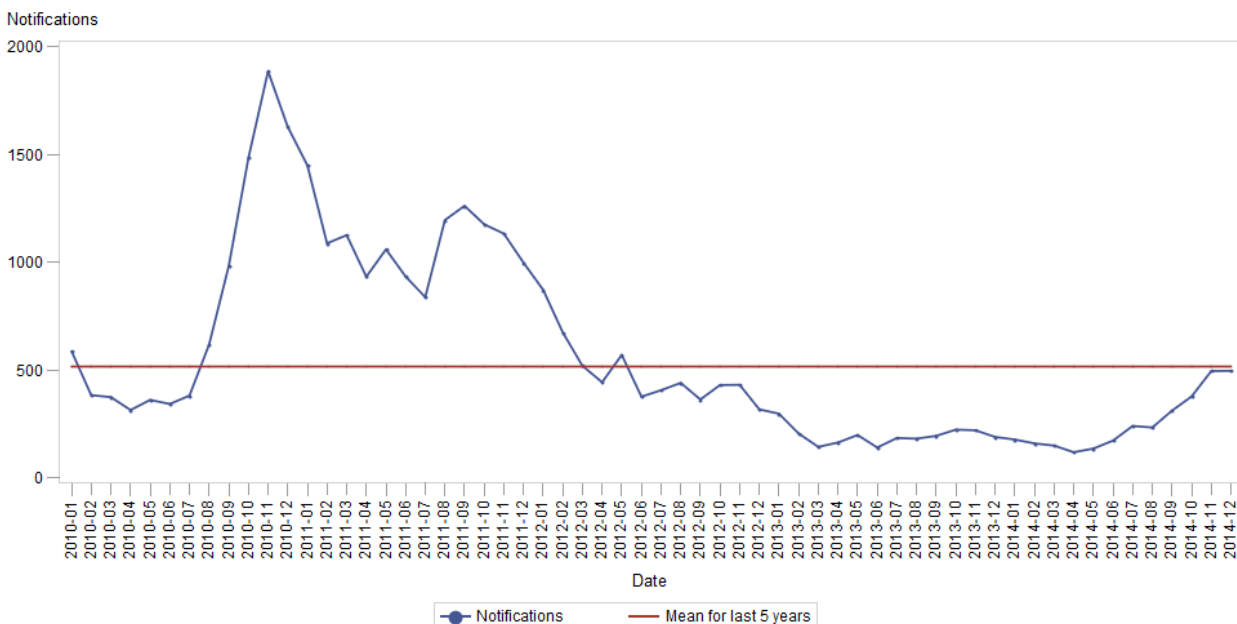
Follow the [A to Z of Infectious Diseases](#) link for more information on specific diseases.

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

### Pertussis

There were 113 confirmed cases of pertussis (whooping cough) reported for the period 19-25 January compared to 111 for the previous week ([Table 1](#)). Between April and December 2014, there has been an increase in notifications to levels seen in early 2012 (Figure 1). The increase has been mainly across the 0-14 year age group. The main areas affected are Northern Sydney, Western Sydney, Sydney and South Eastern Sydney Local Health Districts.

**Figure 1. Number of pertussis notifications in NSW by month 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014**



Pertussis, also known as ‘whooping cough’, is a bacterial infection affecting the respiratory system, caused by the organism *Bordetella pertussis*. It affects individuals of all ages, but is more severe (and can be fatal) in small babies, particularly those too young to be vaccinated or those who are unvaccinated. Elderly people are also at increased risk of developing complications if infected with pertussis.

Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease, and is notifiable in NSW. Vaccination against pertussis is recommended for children at 6-8 weeks, 4 and 6 months of age, with a booster at 4 years and in the first year of high school. Vaccination is also recommended for women planning pregnancy or in their third trimester of pregnancy, individuals living with or caring for infants (parents, siblings, grandparents, childcare workers), as well as for all health care workers. Those diagnosed with pertussis are prescribed antibiotics in order to prevent the spread of disease. The antibiotic guidelines for pertussis have recently been revised and it is important that treating doctors are aware of this change.

Follow the link for more information about [patient management for GPs](#)

Follow the link for more information regarding [pertussis vaccination](#)

Follow the link for more information regarding [pertussis notifications](#)

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## **Measles**

There was one reported case of measles in a 27 year old male which was acquired in south Asia. He had no documented evidence of having received any measles vaccine. While infectious, but before the diagnosis of measles was made, the case spent time at Fox Studios, Macquarie Shopping Centre, Meadowbank and Westmead Hospital.

Measles is a highly contagious disease which is transmitted via respiratory secretions (from coughing and sneezing) in the air. Symptoms of measles include fever, runny nose, sore red eyes and cough, followed 3-4 days later by a red blotchy rash spreading from the head and neck to the rest of the body.

Travellers returning from areas where measles still circulates (especially those who aren't fully vaccinated) should be aware of the symptoms of measles and seek medical advice if those symptoms develop within three weeks of return. The doctor or emergency department should be telephoned before arrival so that arrangements can be made to keep the person with suspected measles away from others who could be at risk of infection.

Measles containing vaccine (MMR) is free for people in NSW born during or after 1966 who have not previously had 2 doses. If you are unsure of your vaccination status, or have not had 2 doses (or measles infection) in the past, consult your GP for more advice.

If a person is exposed to a case of measles and has not been fully immunised, a dose of MMR will protect against the disease developing if it is given within 3 days of exposure to the virus. Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHIG) is an injection containing antibodies to measles and can also protect against developing the disease if given within 6 days of exposure to the virus. Exposed individuals from this latest case were contacted with information, and administered MMR or NHIG as indicated.

Follow the links for more information on [measles](#), measles [notifications](#) and measles [vaccination](#).

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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 19 January to 25 January 2015, by date received\***

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2015	2014	2013	2014	2013
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	15	15	44	67	119	427	1132
	Giardiasis	72	78	230	196	216	2939	2242
	Hepatitis A	1	2	4	10	6	79	62
	Rotavirus	12	11	39	40	71	709	508
	STEC/VTEC	1	0	1	11	3	31	24
	Salmonellosis	143	140	431	533	462	4297	3483
	Shigellosis	6	3	12	31	12	207	136
	Typhoid	2	1	4	7	9	44	58
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	57	80	211	314	148	20750	8403
	Legionellosis	2	3	8	6	7	73	108
	Tuberculosis	2	3	10	42	36	462	438
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	417	518	1447	2141	1978	22888	21089
	Gonorrhoea	99	114	326	484	429	4863	4267
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	2	4	8	16	8	246	509
	Measles	1	0	1	10	2	68	33
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	4	1	3	37	48
	Pertussis	113	111	349	218	330	3017	2378
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	4	8	23	20	36	509	490
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	3	0	5	20	43	163	438
	Dengue	7	2	13	48	34	376	303
	Malaria	1	1	2	6	11	87	93
	Ross River	39	18	85	35	52	681	512
Zoonotic	Q fever	2	0	8	32	17	188	163

### \*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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