Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 19, 7 May to 13 May 2017

In summary, we report:

- Mumps – Four confirmed cases
- Tuberculosis – Precautionary screening in progress
- Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

For further information on infectious diseases on-line see NSW Health Infectious Diseases. Also see NSW Health Infectious Diseases Reports for links to other surveillance reports.

Mumps

There were four confirmed cases of mumps notified in this reporting week (Table 1). The cases occurred in two unvaccinated children who were siblings from Northern NSW and in two unrelated young adults from different parts of the Sydney region. One of the young adults could not recall their vaccination status and one was partially vaccinated.

There have been 50 notifications of mumps with onset in 2017 compared to ten in the same period in 2016. Although this is a substantial increase in cases it has not been associated with a known outbreak or affected a particular population group. Cases have occurred throughout the state with the greatest proportion occurring in the Sydney region and among people aged 20 to 40 years. The increase in cases may be reflective of increased circulation of the virus in Australia and the region.

Mumps is an acute viral disease caused by the mumps virus. Common symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, tiredness and headaches followed by swelling and tenderness of the salivary glands. Complications are rare but can be serious and include encephalitis and meningitis, orchitis (infection of the testes), spontaneous abortion and hearing loss. The mumps virus is transmitted through contact with respiratory secretions, usually from respiratory droplets through the airborne route but also through direct contact with the saliva of an infected person.

Mumps is vaccine preventable and it is recommended that anyone unsure of their vaccination status should speak to their local doctor. Vaccination against mumps is with the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine which also protects against measles and rubella. MMR is routinely given as part of the National Immunisation Program and scheduled at 12 and 18 months of age.

If you or your child have not received this vaccine it is important that you see your local doctor to discuss a catch-up schedule. This is particularly important if you are planning to travel overseas where the risk of being exposed to the mumps virus is likely to be greater.

Additional doses of MMR vaccine are safe so anyone unsure of their vaccination status should be vaccinated. MMR vaccine is provided free in NSW to all people born during or after 1966 who do not have written documentation of receiving two doses. People born prior to 1966 are presumed to be immune.

For more information see the NSW Health Mumps factsheet .

For more information on Mumps notifications see the NSW Health Mumps data page.

Tuberculosis

NSW Health is undertaking precautionary screening of 22 patients at two Sydney hospitals who may have been potentially exposed to tuberculosis (TB) from a man recently diagnosed with the disease.

The man, in his thirties, had attended Royal Prince Alfred and St Vincent's Public Hospitals between February and April this year but was only recently diagnosed, as he presented with symptoms not typical of TB.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Typical symptoms of TB disease include a cough lasting more than 3 weeks, fever, unexplained weight loss, night sweats and tiredness. TB is curable with special antibiotics.

TB does not spread easily from person to person and there is no ongoing risk to patients, staff or visitors of either hospital. Generally, transmission of TB typically occurs after close, prolonged contact with a person who is infectious at the time.

As a precaution however, staff, patients and others who have been identified as having had contact with the person who has been diagnosed with TB are being offered screening.

Should anyone who is screened for TB have a positive TB test, a chest X-ray and specialist medical review will be arranged. In cases where a person has been infected, the risk of developing TB disease is low. Preventive treatment can be given to further reduce the risk of TB disease developing.

Globally the World Health Organization reports that 10.4 million people fell ill with TB in 2015. While TB is a common disease worldwide, the incidence of TB in Australia is very low, with about 1,300 cases diagnosed here each year. In 2016, 529 cases of TB were diagnosed in NSW. Australia has a long history of successfully containing and treating tuberculosis.

For more information see the NSW Health Tuberculosis factsheet .

For more information on Mumps notifications see the NSW Health Tuberculosis data page.

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 7 – 13 May 2017, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2017	2016	2015	2016	2015
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	26	44	932	593	537	1184	1040
	Giardiasis	59	71	1478	1634	1530	3481	3413
	Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	2	2	4	4	11
	Rotavirus	18	9	241	204	129	746	1033
	STEC/VTEC	2	2	25	15	11	65	29
	Salmonellosis	69	95	2002	2247	2133	4543	4022
	Shigellosis	1	7	78	114	70	310	172
	Typhoid	2	1	34	23	22	37	41
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	175	139	3197	2722	1690	35538	30301
	Legionellosis	2	5	50	56	40	134	96
	Tuberculosis	9	7	161	177	152	531	444
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	567	480	11007	9742	8791	25998	22544
	Gonorrhoea	151	197	3702	2474	2039	7005	5397
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Adverse Event Following Immunisation	8	5	125	105	76	257	186
	Meningococcal Disease	2	4	27	18	13	75	47
	Mumps	4	1	52	12	17	67	65
	Pertussis	117	125	2338	4648	2406	10957	12079
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	10	11	132	125	112	542	494
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	2	29	16	126	35	184
	Dengue	1	5	119	223	153	481	344
	Malaria	1	1	27	17	19	59	47
	Ross River	30	24	1079	280	1175	541	1635
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	0	7	8	5	15	15
	Q fever	3	3	83	94	91	230	264

*** 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.