Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 42, 11 October to 17 October 2020

In summary, we report:

- Condensed reporting – until further notice
- Novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)
- Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

For further information see NSW Health infectious diseases page. This includes links to other NSW Health infectious disease surveillance reports and a diseases data page for a range of notifiable infectious diseases.

Condensed reporting

Due to increasing demand on public health staff and clinicians in NSW as a result of the COVID-19 response, the Communicable Diseases Weekly Report will be published in a condensed format until further notice.

From Week 11 2020 the condensed CDWR will consist of the summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW (Table 1), and links to the most up to date information on COVID-19. Full reports will be published in the event of high priority notifications, or events of significant interest.

Public health alerts will continue to be published on the NSW Health Infectious Diseases Alerts Page

Novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

For up-to-date information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and the NSW response, please visit the NSW Health COVID-19 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 11 October to 17 October 2020, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full Year	
		This week	Last week	2020	2019	2018	2019	2018
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	3	7	463	499	603	669	708
	Giardiasis	23	21	1452	2775	2382	3271	2936
	Rotavirus	5	5	421	961	673	1755	807
	STEC/VTEC	2	0	66	53	44	80	57
	Salmonellosis	36	28	2403	2914	2674	3557	3335
	Shigellosis	6	7	458	689	353	867	529
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	1	2	7442	113466	15273	116450	17408
	Legionellosis	4	1	129	123	121	153	171
	Tuberculosis	19	9	477	482	413	593	508
Sexually Transmissible	Chlamydia	559	404	21664	25983	25495	32443	31174
	Gonorrhoea	210	187	8101	9548	8706	11702	10600
Vaccine Preventable	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	5	7	286	555	558	692	681
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	5	3	237	56	64	62	74
	Ross River	12	3	1896	541	499	592	571

* Notes on Table 1: NSW Notifiable Conditions activity

- Only conditions which had one or more case reports received during the reporting week appear in the table.

- Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, data on COVID-19 notifications can be found separately on the NSW Health Latest Updates on COVID-19 page.
- 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 (i.e. by report date).
- Note that notifiable disease data available on the NSW Health website are reported by onset date so case totals are likely to vary from those shown here.
- Cases involving interstate residents are not included.
- The shigellosis case definition changed on 1 July 2018 to include probable cases (PCR positive only), hence case counts cannot be validly compared to previous years.
- 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.
- Chronic blood-borne virus conditions (such as HIV, hepatitis B and C) are not included here. Related data are available from the Infectious Diseases Data, the HIV Surveillance Data Reports and the Hepatitis B and C Strategies Data Reports webpages.
- Notification is dependent on a diagnosis being made by a doctor, hospital or laboratory. Changes in awareness and testing patterns influence the proportion of patients with a particular infection that is diagnosed and notified over time, especially if the infection causes non-specific symptoms.