

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 23, 6 June to 12 June 2021

In summary, we report:

- [Invasive pneumococcal disease](#) – surveillance update
- [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.

Invasive pneumococcal disease

A total of 15 notifications of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) were reported this week (Table 1). So far in 2021 there have been 186 notifications received (Table 1), which is similar to recent years.

IPD is a severe form of infection with the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Invasive infections can be life-threatening and can cause a variety of diseases include pneumonia and meningitis (infection of the membranes lining the brain and spinal cord).

There are over 90 different pneumococcal serotypes and they vary in their propensity to cause disease. Worldwide, only a limited number of serotypes are responsible for most cases of IPD and the predominant serotypes vary by age group and geographic area. People most at risk of pneumococcal disease include children less than two years of age, older adults, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with lung disease, heart disease, cancer, kidney disease, or HIV infection, people whose spleen has been removed or is impaired and people who smoke.

Vaccination with the pneumococcal vaccine is the most effective way to prevent infection. The pneumococcal vaccine is funded under the National Immunisation Program as part of the childhood immunisation schedule, for people with risk conditions for IPD, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over, and all non-Indigenous adults aged 70 years and over.

Pneumococcal vaccines available in Australia are Prevenar 13 (13vPCV, 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) and Pneumovax 23 (23vPPV, 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine).

For further information on pneumococcal disease see the NSW Health [pneumococcal disease fact sheet](#) and the [invasive pneumococcal disease data page](#).

Follow the link for up to date information on the [NSW Immunisation Schedule](#)

For information on the National Immunisation Program pneumococcal vaccine schedule, see the following resources:

- [Clinical advice for vaccination providers](#)
- [Clinical decision tree for vaccination providers](#)

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 13 June – 19 June 2021, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full year	
		This week	Last week	2021	2020	2019	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Cryptosporidiosis	11	6	277	392	397	550	669
	Giardiasis	35	39	894	1047	1884	1869	3323
	Rotavirus	7	19	133	335	298	464	1755
	STEC/VTEC	1	1	59	47	31	114	80
	Salmonellosis	42	47	1729	1866	2020	2887	3556
	Shigellosis	3	1	41	364	405	494	867
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	5	4	45	7282	22050	7487	116442
	Legionellosis	2	1	103	76	80	170	153
	Tuberculosis	13	8	270	249	256	624	590
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	520	622	13511	12528	14331	27276	32495
	Gonorrhoea	179	180	4255	4540	5353	9901	11701
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	11	9	11	22	59
	Pertussis	2	4	31	1296	2799	1405	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	11	15	198	147	185	359	691
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	1	1	62	130	39	271	63
	Ross River	13	18	491	1531	361	1989	593
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	4	59	7	4	12	9
	Q fever	5	5	87	108	134	206	248

* 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.
- 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.