

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 50, 12 to 18 December 2021

In summary, we report:

- [Vibrio Cholerae](#) – one case
- [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.

Vibrio cholerae

One case of *Vibrio cholerae* infection, commonly known as cholera, was notified this reporting week in an adult who developed diarrhoea and abdominal pain shortly after returning from Bangladesh. The isolate was identified as *V. cholerae* O1, or serotype Inaba.

Cholera is a typically a severe diarrhoeal illness caused by infection with cholera bacteria, *V. cholerae*. In Australia, the spread of toxigenic strains (serogroups O1 and O139) has been eliminated by modern water and sewage treatment systems and food safety programs. Most infections are identified in travellers returning from regions where cholera is endemic, including those who return to their country of birth to visit friends and relatives.

The bacteria is spread through drinking contaminated water, eating raw or undercooked seafood from contaminated waters, or eating other contaminated foods. To prevent cholera infections, travellers to risk countries should only drink bottled or boiled water, avoid ice and drinks that may have been made with untreated water, avoid uncooked foods including fruit and vegetables (except foods that you can peel yourself before eating), avoid raw or undercooked seafood, avoid eating from street vendors, protect food from flies, and always practice good hygiene by thoroughly washing hands with soap and running water before meals and after using the toilet.

A cholera vaccine is available but is generally only recommended for travellers at increased risk of the infection because of a pre-existing medical condition, or for humanitarian disaster workers deployed to regions with endemic cholera.

Only toxigenic strains of serogroups O1 and O139 cause widespread epidemics, but non-toxigenic strains within these serogroups also exist in the environment and may cause sporadic cases of disease. Similarly, non-epidemic strains (non-O1/O139) are ubiquitous to a variety of aquatic ecosystems worldwide, including Australia, and occasionally cause milder disease in humans.

Follow the links for further information on [cholera](#).

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 12 – 18 December 2021, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date			Full year	
		This week	Last week	2021	2020	2019	2020	2019
Bloodborne	Hepatitis C - Newly Acquired	1	1	12	17	28	17	29
Enteric Diseases	Cholera	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Cryptosporidiosis	11	16	430	530	642	549	669
	Giardiasis	18	13	1470	1798	3247	1869	3323
	Rotavirus	4	7	286	451	1628	464	1753
	Salmonellosis	63	60	2956	2724	3431	2885	3556
	Shigellosis	3	0	58	486	838	494	867
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	8	10	112	7480	115976	7485	116432
	Legionellosis	3	6	202	155	148	170	153
	Tuberculosis	8	12	548	590	570	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	361	486	24792	26151	31596	27256	32482
	Gonorrhoea	131	125	7447	9522	11354	9890	11692
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	5	2	381	337	664	359	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Ross River	2	5	639	1971	583	1990	593
Zoonotic Diseases	Brucellosis	1	0	4	4	4	4	4
	Q fever	1	0	161	201	242	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.