

# Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

## Week 13, 26 March to 2 April 2022

In summary, we report:

- [Listeriosis](#)
- [Novel coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Japanese encephalitis](#)
- [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.

### Listeriosis

One new infection of *Listeria* (listeriosis) was reported this week ([Table 1](#)) in a woman in her 70s. She presented to hospital in late March with a history of confusion, fever, headache and decreased oral intake, and subsequently listeria monocytogenes was isolated on blood culture. The woman had reportedly consumed numerous risk foods for listeriosis within the exposure period. Some of these foods included watermelon, rockmelon, bagged salad, soft cheese, and ham.

Listeriosis is a rare illness caused by eating food contaminated with a bacterium called *Listeria monocytogenes*. This bacterium is widespread throughout nature, being commonly carried by many species of both domestic and wild animals. *Listeria* bacteria survive refrigeration but are killed at cooking temperatures.

Outbreaks of illness have been associated with raw milk, soft cheeses, pre-prepared salads (for example, from salad bars), unwashed raw vegetables, pâté, cold diced chicken, pre-cut fruit, fruit salad and most recently rockmelon.

Babies can be born with listeriosis if their mothers eat contaminated food during the pregnancy.

People at increased risk of listeriosis include pregnant women and their unborn child, newborns, older people and people with weakened immune systems, for example: people on cancer treatment or steroids, or people with diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or living with HIV infection. Listeriosis may be severe in these individuals, and infections during pregnancy may cause stillbirth or premature delivery.

People at increased risk of listeriosis should not eat the following foods:

- rockmelon (cantaloupe)
- pre-cut fruit, including fruit salad
- pre-packed cold salads, including coleslaw
- frozen vegetables, unless cooked prior to consumption
- pre-cooked cold chicken, cold delicatessen meats, paté or meat spreads
- raw seafood, smoked seafood (unless cooked and served hot), chilled seafood
- unpasteurised milk or milk products
- soft cheeses such as brie, camembert, ricotta, or blue-vein cheese
- soft serve ice cream
- sprouted seeds.

Fruit and vegetables eaten raw should be thoroughly washed prior to eating.

Follow the links for further [listeriosis data](#), the [listeriosis factsheet](#) and the [NSW Food Authority Food safety during pregnancy brochure](#).

## 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](#).

## Japanese encephalitis

For up-to-date information regarding the Japanese encephalitis outbreak and the NSW response, please visit the [NSW Health Japanese encephalitis 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 26 March – 2 April 2022, by date received\***

		Weekly		Year to date				Full Year		
		This week	Last week	2022	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	164	177	2703	3124	2802	3155	11185	9456	11179
	Cryptosporidiosis	5	9	99	205	308	306	443	549	669
	Giardiasis	27	38	331	504	781	1199	1497	1867	3322
	Listeriosis	1	1	4	6	3	2	22	20	16
	Rotavirus	2	14	100	80	291	171	357	500	1777
	STEC/VTEC	1	7	33	37	36	24	127	115	79
	Salmonellosis	88	84	1082	1202	1423	1312	3096	2884	3555
	Shigellosis	5	4	63	24	339	227	60	494	867
Typhoid	1	0	9	0	28	31	2	37	64	
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	152	82	388	16	7058	7393	124	7488	116433
	Legionellosis	2	3	55	70	38	55	212	170	153
	Tuberculosis	11	9	98	144	119	138	557	624	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	497	484	6018	7888	8476	8373	25351	27245	32476
	Gonorrhoea	217	213	2313	2425	2985	2993	7624	9883	11689
	LGV	1	0	4	10	26	17	36	44	69
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	3	1	12	10	1095	1624	43	1402	6386
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	3	9	52	82	110	81	386	358	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Dengue	1	0	5	1	64	120	4	76	456
	Japanese Encephalitis	2	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Malaria	1	0	5	2	14	18	8	25	73
	Ross River	19	15	357	305	92	185	655	1990	595
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	1	7	16	3	3	96	12	9
	Q fever	4	4	38	57	68	92	181	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.