

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 33, 14 to 20 August 2022

In this report we provide information regarding, monkeypox local transmission and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period week 33, 14 to 20 August 2022.

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.

For up-to-date information regarding the **Japanese encephalitis** outbreak and the NSW response, please visit the [NSW Health Japanese encephalitis page](#).

Information on notifiable conditions is available at the 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.

Monkeypox local transmission

Since 20 May 2022, 41 cases of monkeypox have been notified in NSW up to 20 August 2022 ([Table 1](#)), 38 cases acquired their infections overseas. On 20 August 2022 NSW recorded its first locally acquired case. Two earlier cases had acquired their infections in Australia but outside of NSW.

Of the three cases acquired in Australia, two cases likely acquired their infection directly from a person who had recently returned from overseas travel, one in Queensland and one in NSW, and one case's source of infection is unknown.

Since May 2022, there has been a global increase in monkeypox cases reported from countries that are not endemic for monkeypox virus.

On 8 August 2022 NSW Health commenced vaccination for high-risk groups, at targeted clinics mainly in Surry Hills and Darlinghurst. Additional vaccine has also been supplied to several public funded authorised sexual health clinics across NSW.

Vaccination has been targeted to those at greatest risk of severe illness and acquisition of the virus. A small allocation of this vaccine has been reserved for post exposure prophylaxis. Further doses of vaccine will become available in September 2022 which will allow vaccination to expand further.

Monkeypox is a zoonotic viral infection that is usually associated with travel to Central and West Africa and spread through contact with bodily fluids or ingestion of wild animals. It can also be passed on from one person to another through prolonged close contact (i.e. inhaling respiratory droplets), or direct contact with infected bodily fluids, lesions or scabs on the skin or contaminated objects, such as bedding or clothes. It may also be passed on by direct contact during sex.

Symptoms of monkeypox normally begin with fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills and exhaustion. Within 1 to 3 days (sometimes longer) after the appearance of fever, a rash appears, often beginning as sores in the mouth and on the face then spreading to other parts of the body. A notable symptom in this international outbreak is that the rash may first appear in the genital area. Lesions start as a macular rash that develops into papules, vesicles, then pustules, which crust and fall off. The number of lesions can vary from a few to several thousand.

Infection with monkeypox virus is usually self-limiting and most people recover within a few weeks. However, severe illness can occur in a small percentage of people.

A large proportion of cases detected in this multi-country outbreak have involved mainly, but not exclusively, men who have sex with men. NSW Health is urging people who have recently returned from overseas and have attended large parties or sex on premises venues to watch for symptoms.

If symptoms appear, contact your GP or local sexual health clinic by phone or telehealth or call the NSW Sexual Health Infolink on 1800 451 624.

More information on monkeypox is available from:

- NSW Health [Monkeypox fact sheet](#)
- NSW Health [infectious disease alerts](#)

Summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW

The following table summarises notifiable conditions activity over the reporting period alongside reports received in the previous week, year to date and in previous years (Table 1).

Table 1. NSW Notifiable conditions from 14 August – 20 August 2022, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date					Full Year		
		This week	Last week	2022	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	251	231	6918	7656	5754	7025	11954	10008	11482	
	Cryptosporidiosis	8	11	293	342	429	464	444	549	669	
	Giardiasis	30	32	818	1157	1312	2406	1504	1871	3328	
	Hepatitis A	1	0	16	4	17	45	8	18	61	
	Rotavirus	26	22	323	231	404	571	356	500	1777	
	STEC/VTEC	2	2	85	75	59	40	126	115	79	
	Salmonellosis	37	34	2078	2107	2157	2472	3097	2883	3554	
	Shigellosis	13	8	228	45	406	552	60	494	867	
Typhoid	1	2	30	2	33	47	2	37	64		
Other	Monkeypox	5	3	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	400	622	112460	65	7404	87142	124	7485	116429	
	Legionellosis	4	1	163	130	99	101	213	170	153	
	Tuberculosis	8	16	301	383	349	361	558	625	589	
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	412	381	15717	18048	17335	20402	25370	27241	32474	
	Gonorrhoea	227	183	6547	5617	6343	7559	7622	9881	11687	
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	1	18	15	14	32	23	22	59	
	Mumps	1	1	7	4	51	32	6	56	57	
	Pertussis	4	4	41	37	1369	3967	43	1400	6386	
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	21	18	330	310	228	383	387	358	690	
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	0	50	80	205	49	111	271	63	
	Dengue	1	2	44	2	76	301	4	76	456	
	Ross River	4	2	562	575	1830	466	659	1990	595	
Zoonotic Diseases	Leptospirosis	1	1	23	84	7	7	96	12	9	
	Psittacosis	1	0	7	10	20	6	17	30	11	
	Q fever	2	0	115	128	144	165	205	208	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.
- 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.