Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 1, 1 to 7 January 2023

In this report we provide information regarding rotavirus and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period Week 1, 1 to 7 January 2023

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.

Rotavirus

Rotavirus activity in NSW in the first week of 2023 is higher than usually seen over summer. During the period 1 January 2023 to 7 January 2023, there were 114 notifications of rotavirus, compared to the five-year average of 80 cases for the whole of January.

Increases in rotavirus in the community sometimes occurs when different genotypes emerge against which the population has less immunity. The current situation may also reflect decreased transmission of the virus as a result of COVID-19 social distancing measures, which has resulted in more individuals being susceptible to rotavirus infection. Further typing of the viruses being spread is being carried out to see what genotypes are currently spreading.

Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious and is spread by the vomit or faeces of an infected person through close contact with infected persons, contact with contaminated surfaces, or consumption of contaminated food or drink. The viruses are often transmitted from person to person on unwashed hands.

As well as vomiting and diarrhoea, other symptoms of viral gastroenteritis may include nausea, fever, abdominal pain, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms can take between one and three days to develop and usually last between one and two days, sometimes longer. Dehydration may follow bouts of vomiting and diarrhoea, particularly in young children. Those infected should rest well and increase the amount of fluids they drink, and if concerned see their local doctor.

The best way to prevent the spread of viral gastroenteritis is to wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water for at least 10 seconds, particularly after using the toilet, assisting someone with diarrhoea or vomiting, attending nappy changes, and before preparing and eating food. It is vital that people with gastroenteritis stay home from work, school and childcare for at least 24 hours after the last symptom of gastroenteritis. People who are sick with gastroenteritis should also avoid visiting others in vulnerable settings such as hospitals or aged care facilities. Workers who handle food, or look after children, the elderly or patients, should not return to work until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe gastroenteritis in early childhood globally. Immunisation to prevent rotavirus infection is recommended and is free for children under 6 months of age. The vaccine is given as two oral doses, at six weeks and four months of age, with completion of the course by 24 weeks of age.

For further information see the rotavirus factsheets. Follow the link for more information on controlling viral gastroenteritis outbreaks.

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 1 to 7 January 2023, by date received*

		Weekly		Year to date					Full Year			
		This week	Last week	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2022	2021	2020	2019
Enteric Diseases	Campylobacter	226	145	234	178	233	130	253	12309	12014	10054	11482
	Cryptosporidiosis	4	1	5	7	25	9	10	463	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	18	12	21	10	26	22	48	1368	1504	1872	3329
	Paratyphoid	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	12	1	17	39
	Rotavirus	114	91	119	3	12	52	24	1775	356	500	1777
	Salmonellosis	45	20	48	67	135	43	96	2964	3097	2882	3552
	Shigellosis	10	7	10	1	3	7	17	461	60	494	867
	Typhoid	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	47	2	37	64
Other	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	19	10	18	-	-	-	-	139	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	409	313	453	9	5	179	313	116305	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	2	4	2	7	6	1	5	263	214	171	154
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	121	162	133	-	-	-	-	5672	-	-	-
	Tuberculosis	15	2	15	6	10	5	8	529	559	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	369	192	421	173	539	258	342	25823	25309	27233	32474
	Gonorrhoea	161	94	177	80	185	83	168	10200	7621	9881	11686
	LGV	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	29	36	44	69
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	36	23	22	59
	Mumps	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	23	6	56	58
	Pertussis	1	0	1	0	2	61	177	81	43	1400	6387
	Pneumococcal Disease	8	9	8	4	11	5	7	545	386	343	690
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	3	0	3	0	4	0	0	88	111	271	63
	Dengue	2	1	2	0	0	5	5	163	4	76	456
	Malaria	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	42	8	25	73
	Ross River	12	8	12	16	19	3	9	725	659	1990	596
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	3	0	3	5	2	3	4	195	206	212	249

* 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).
- Data for notifiable conditions are available on the NSW Health notifiable disease data page except for iGAS, monkeypox, and RSV which will be available in the near future. Note that data available on the NSW Health website are reported by onset date so case totals are likely to vary from those shown here which are by notification received date.
- 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.