Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 21, 21 May to 27 May 2023

In this report we provide information regarding listeriosis and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period Week 21, 21 May to 27 May 2023

For surveillance data on COVID-19 and influenza please see the latest *NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report*.

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.

Listeriosis

Two new *Listeria* infections (listeriosis) were reported in recent weeks (Table 1). As of May 27, 2023, there has been 17 listeriosis notifications, which is above the five-year average (10 cases) for the same period. No common foods have been identified and whole genome sequencing has not identified any clustering.

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* 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 still birth 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.

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 21 May – 27 May 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	211	192	5253	4840	5699	4378	4825	13346	13015	11052	12071
	Cryptosporidiosis	13	7	252	192	264	385	382	463	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	58	47	1055	539	866	1071	1765	1410	1585	1986	3420
	Hepatitis A	6	2	42	9	0	18	34	37	8	19	61
	Hepatitis E	1	0	6	3	1	12	10	8	1	15	24
	Listeriosis	0	2	17	14	9	6	4	33	22	20	16
	Rotavirus	19	24	1161	162	133	334	267	1802	356	500	1777
	STEC/VTEC	1	2	78	58	59	43	30	144	126	115	79
	Salmonellosis	59	46	1501	1576	1660	1798	1886	2968	3100	2885	3552
	Shigellosis	17	14	369	106	36	361	374	460	60	494	867
	Typhoid	1	2	45	17	0	32	37	47	2	37	64
Other	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	14	13	260	0	-	-	-	142	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	2790	2099	17412	21843	36	7267	15843	116315	125	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	3	8	103	124	100	74	76	268	216	171	154
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	1612	1597	18866	1	-	-	-	5669	-	-	-
	Tuberculosis	13	10	229	178	247	221	230	528	558	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	561	612	12838	10037	12166	11761	13118	25857	25300	27214	32466
	Gonorrhoea	244	254	5025	3974	3837	4247	4852	10230	7626	9861	11670
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Pertussis	3	6	58	17	21	1271	2547	81	44	1400	6387
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	13	14	182	115	165	136	168	533	386	342	686
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	3	2	57	40	59	114	34	89	111	271	63
	Dengue	2	5	128	22	1	76	198	170	4	78	460
	Malaria	1	1	38	11	2	18	26	42	8	25	73
	Ross River	11	3	202	505	468	1327	341	725	661	1990	596
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	1	2	58	88	96	99	124	197	209	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.
- Surveillance data on COVID-19 can be found in the *NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report.*
- 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.