

Communicable Diseases Weekly Report

Week 6, 5 February to 11 February 2023

In this report we provide information regarding respiratory syncytial virus and a summary of notifiable conditions activity in NSW over the reporting period Week 6, 5 to 11 February 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.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

Notifications of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, have started to increase; this is expected at this time of year. RSV is a virus that causes respiratory infections in children and adults. Almost all children will have been infected by the age of three years. Recovery from RSV gives some immunity against getting infected again but is not long-lasting.

Like influenza, RSV is seasonal, particularly in temperate regions which usually experience annual or biennial epidemics. RSV infections typically peak in late autumn or winter but can occur anytime throughout the year.

RSV transmission occurs through close or direct contact with large droplets or fomites contaminated with the virus from the hands, or by large-particle aerosols into the eyes and nose. RSV can survive many hours on hard surfaces. For most people, RSV infection causes a mild respiratory illness. Symptoms usually begin around five days after exposure to the virus and can get worse over the first 3 to 4 days of the illness before an improvement. People are usually contagious during this period.

Symptoms can include, runny nose, cough, sneezing, fever, ear infection (less common) and RSV can also cause wheezing and difficulty breathing.

Babies under one year of age are more likely to develop breathing problems such as [bronchiolitis](#) or [pneumonia](#). Older children and adults may also have breathing problems, especially if they have chronic heart, lung or immune problems. Older adults can also get severe disease from RSV and is often a cause of respiratory outbreaks in aged care facilities. Severe disease from RSV is less common in older children and healthy adults.

There are currently no vaccines available for RSV in Australia. The best way to help stop the virus spreading is for everyone to always practice good hygiene, especially staying at home when unwell, covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, wearing a mask in crowded places and when visiting high risk settings that have vulnerable people such as aged care facilities or hospitals, and avoiding contact with high risk people such as infants, older people and those who are immunocompromised while unwell.

For further information on RSV please see the NSW Health RSV [factsheet](#).

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 5 February to 11 February 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	261	330	1687	1392	1703	1504	1576	12900	12790	10819	11930
	Cryptosporidiosis	17	18	91	49	81	122	118	463	444	548	669
	Giardiasis	46	51	237	123	217	338	490	1389	1548	1953	3386
	Hepatitis A	3	2	11	2	0	8	14	37	8	19	61
	Listeriosis	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	33	22	20	16
	Rotavirus	61	64	531	36	36	220	96	1811	356	500	1777
	STEC/VTEC	2	5	22	17	14	14	15	144	126	115	79
	Salmonellosis	73	106	520	485	642	557	629	2967	3100	2885	3552
	Shigellosis	23	28	107	24	8	191	112	460	60	494	867
	Typhoid	1	3	8	3	0	11	12	47	2	37	64
Other Diseases	Invasive Group A Streptococcus	9	11	87	0	-	-	-	146	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	321	312	2106	22	11	3328	2846	116315	124	7481	116402
	Legionellosis	7	6	28	34	37	14	31	268	214	171	154
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	294	274	1210	0	-	-	-	5669	-	-	-
	Tuberculosis	9	14	69	36	69	43	52	529	559	625	589
Sexually Transmissible Infections	Chlamydia	706	713	3794	2426	3686	3810	3669	25854	25309	27233	32474
	Gonorrhoea	276	235	1429	947	1164	1464	1330	10230	7625	9880	11686
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	Meningococcal Disease	1	1	7	3	2	4	4	36	23	22	59
	Pertussis	2	1	12	2	5	493	921	81	43	1400	6387
	Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	1	8	50	24	37	51	42	545	386	342	686
Vector Borne Diseases	Barmah Forest	2	3	19	8	20	9	9	89	111	271	63
	Dengue	9	3	31	2	1	36	54	163	4	76	456
	Malaria	5	2	14	1	1	4	9	42	8	25	73
	Ross River	6	12	74	198	130	21	60	725	660	1990	596
Zoonotic Diseases	Q fever	2	5	24	24	23	36	42	196	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.
- 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.