

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

The Public Health Act (1991) was proclaimed on November 18. Medical practitioners, laboratories and Chief Executive Officers of hospitals are now notifying Public Health Units directly, according to the lists of scheduled medical conditions. Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Branch is interested in any comments about the new notification system. The Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee will review the notification schedules every six months in the light of the needs of NSW and comments received.

ARBOVIRAL INFECTION

For the period January to November 1991, 526 notifications for arboviral diseases were received. Ross River disease accounted for 73 per cent (386) of these; 242 Ross River notifications were laboratory confirmed. Four Barmah Forest virus isolations were laboratory confirmed.

HEPATITIS A

The hepatitis A outbreak continues in NSW. By the end of November, PHUs had received 973 hepatitis A notifications. Hepatitis A notifications rates range from 147.3/100,000 population a year in the Eastern Sydney Area and 21.2/100,000 in the Northern Sydney Area to fewer than 10/100,000 in other Areas and Regions. Of 952 cases with recorded age and sex data, 80.8 per cent were male (male:female ratio 4.1:1) and 41.2 per cent were males in the 20-29 age group.

ADVERSE REACTIONS FOLLOWING IMMUNISATION

This month we include, for the first time, the "condition" *Adverse reaction*. Surveillance of reactions following immunisation allows us to identify possible illnesses linked to immunisation, estimate the rates of illness following immunisation, identify particular batches of vaccine that may be problematic, alert health-care providers to the risks and benefits of immunisation and identify areas for further epidemiological research.

FOODBORNE DISEASE

Epidemiology and Health Services Evaluation Branch and Food Branch are collaborating in an investigation of *Salmonella typhimurium* phage type 9 isolates in two areas of Sydney in October. The outcome of the investigation will be reported in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.

Notifications for salmonella infections have decreased by 19.3 per cent this year over the same period last year. The notification rate for NSW is 20.5/100,000 population a year, compared with a rate of 25.8/100,000 for the calendar year 1990. Continued vigilance with food handling and distribution is required to reduce further this high rate.

MEASLES

Four Areas/Regions have notified measles in the past month. The Hunter Area continues to notify the highest rate of this vaccine-preventable disease, with 32.8/100,000 a year. This compares with an annual rate of 39.1/100,000 for 1990 for the Hunter, and 6.8/100,000 for 1990 for the State.

The measles epidemic in New Zealand continues, with 8487 cases reported up to November 22. At least 217 people have been admitted to hospital, and there have been four deaths. We repeat the warning published in the November *Public Health Bulletin*, that children travelling to New Zealand should have their immunisation status assessed.

HEALTH OUTCOMES

The key infectious diseases recommended in the Year 2001 Health Outcomes Goals for NSW include the vaccine-preventable diseases (measles, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis B), viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, nosocomial infections, and sexually transmitted diseases (HIV, syphilis, gonorrhoea). Specific outcomes and performance indicators will continue to be developed in consultation with infectious disease experts.

TABLE 1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, NSW

Notifications to the end of November, 1991

CONDITION	Number of Cases Notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	November 1990	November 1991	November 1990	November 1991
Adverse Reaction	N/A	—	N/A	—
AIDS*	42	7	330	242
Arboviral infection (NOS)	6	1	259	526
Brucellosis	—	—	5	2
Cholera	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Foodborne illness (NOS)	292	53	2532	2687
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	N/A	2	N/A	44
Gonorrhoea	34	8	348	355
H influenzae epiglottitis	—	3	5	20
H influenzae B — meningitis	—	2	25	55
H influenzae B — septicaemia	—	—	3	9
H influenzae infection (NOS)	3	4	34	118
Hepatitis A	6	41	31	973
Hepatitis B — acute	—	—	6	18
Hepatitis B — carrier	—	—	—	22
Hepatitis B — unspecified	26	13	382	996
Hepatitis C	7	17	36	425
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	—	2	2	264
HIV infection	89	9	662	685
Hydatid disease	—	—	2	7
Legionnaires' disease	4	—	27	25
Leprosy	—	—	7	—
Leptospirosis	4	—	41	32
Listeriosis	N/A	—	N/A	7
Malaria	12	3	167	128
Measles	101	23	340	323
Meningococcal meningitis	1	3	44	44
Meningococcal septicaemia	1	1	12	12
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	—	27	43
Mumps	N/A	—	N/A	4
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	—	4	—	210
Mycobacterial — atypical	—	—	14	65
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	32	1	472	143
Pertussis	9	—	138	38
Plague	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Q fever	11	1	124	178
Rubella	N/A	2	N/A	44
Salmonella infection (NOS)	133	32	1325	1069
Syphilis	28	9	319	472
Tetanus	1	—	1	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	2	3	33	46
Typhus	—	—	—	—
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	—	—	—	—
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—

* Data January-October only
(NOS) Not otherwise specified

TABLE 2

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
BY HEALTH AREA AND REGION
November, 1991**

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	OTH	U/K	TOTAL
Arboviral infection (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Foodborne illness (NOS)	5	7	10	1	11	5	-	-	-	2	4	3	-	5	-	-	-	53
Gastroenteritis (instit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gonorrhoea	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	8
H. influenzae epiglottitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
H. influenzae meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hepatitis A	8	-	11	-	2	1	14	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	41
Hepatitis B — Unspecified	-	-	1	-	4	2	2	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	13
Hepatitis C	1	-	-	1	6	4	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
HIV infection	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9
Malaria	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	23
Meningococcal meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Meningococcal septicaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Q fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Rubella	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Salmonella infection (NOS)	1	4	-	-	5	1	7	1	3	-	4	-	-	5	1	-	-	32
Syphilis	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	9
Typhoid & paratyphoid	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

TABLE 3

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS
BY HEALTH AREA AND REGION
January 1 to November 30, 1991**

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	OTH	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS*	38	13	106	4	18	11	20	7	3	6	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	242
Arboviral infection	1	-	8	-	1	-	4	-	1	8	32	214	206	4	35	5	7	-	526
Brucellosis	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Foodborne illness (NOS)	212	376	613	168	268	156	1	37	19	102	314	151	106	25	120	2	17	-	2687
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	-	-	-	5	10	6	4	2	-	-	1	8	3	5	-	-	-	-	44
Gonorrhoea	40	12	135	33	22	1	11	1	12	6	16	7	43	4	8	2	2	-	355
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	2	-	3	3	1	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	20
H. influenzae meningitis	2	4	-	11	2	1	11	-	2	10	-	2	2	3	2	3	-	-	55
H. influenzae septicaemia	-	2	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	13	20	15	5	14	11	1	5	10	2	1	1	7	2	10	1	-	-	118
Hepatitis A	132	48	476	37	33	5	154	10	4	18	10	14	13	2	2	14	1	-	973
Hepatitis B — Acute	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	18
Hepatitis B — Carrier	9	11	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Hepatitis B — Unspecified	130	83	81	212	145	20	112	-	5	36	40	41	52	2	3	32	2	-	996
Hepatitis C	107	54	1	31	41	19	66	6	7	37	30	17	2	3	2	1	1	-	425
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	-	-	-	5	191	11	1	3	8	2	1	1	26	-	8	7	-	-	264
HIV infection	55	16	159	18	28	14	37	6	2	16	15	1	2	4	1	2	6	302	685
Hydatid disease	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	7
Legionnaires' disease	-	-	-	5	7	3	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	25
Leptospirosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	4	5	-	4	-	3	-	32
Listeria	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Malaria	7	6	9	4	14	3	50	3	4	11	3	3	1	-	5	4	1	-	128
Measles	78	8	12	14	21	5	32	9	12	92	21	2	4	-	1	12	-	-	323
Meningococcal meningitis	4	4	-	11	1	-	2	1	1	9	1	4	2	2	-	2	-	-	44
Meningococcal septicaemia	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	12
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	-	1	6	3	3	1	4	4	7	-	3	6	1	1	2	1	-	-	43
Mumps	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Mycobacterial atypical	32	30	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	65
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	35	27	47	33	12	1	10	2	9	18	10	-	-	2	4	3	1	-	210
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	-	-	-	1	29	8	54	1	17	12	3	6	2	2	3	3	-	-	143
Pertussis	-	2	6	4	6	1	1	-	-	1	3	2	7	1	3	1	-	-	38
Q Fever	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	22	55	85	4	3	1	-	-	178
Rubella	1	2	10	-	11	1	8	1	1	4	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	44
Salmonella infection (NOS)	76	123	82	136	148	67	93	1	44	20	70	68	60	20	27	16	18	-	1069
Syphilis	43	21	38	62	43	8	31	-	7	16	64	22	92	6	15	1	3	-	472
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	10	7	15	-	2	-	2	-	1	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	46

* Data from January to October only

Abbreviations used in this Bulletin:

CSA Central Sydney Health Area, SSA Southern Sydney Health Area, ESA Eastern Sydney Health Area, SWS South Western Sydney Health Area, WSA Western Sydney Health Area, WEN Wentworth Health Area, NSA Northern Sydney Health Area, CCA Central Coast Health Area, ILL Illawarra Health Area, HUN Hunter Health Area, NCR North Coast Health Region, NER New England Health Region, OFR Orana & Far West Health Region, CWR Central West Health Region, SWR South West Health Region, SER South East Health Region, OTH Interstate/Overseas, U/K Unknown, NOS Not Otherwise Stated

Please note that the data contained in this Bulletin are provisional and subject to change because of late reports or changes in case classification. Data are tabulated where possible by area of residence and by the disease onset date and not simply the date of notification or receipt of such notification.