

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT, NEW SOUTH WALES, FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2005

For updated information, including data and facts on specific diseases, visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) and click on **Infectious Diseases**.

## TRENDS

Tables 2 and 3 and Figure 1 show reports of communicable diseases received through to July and August 2005 in NSW.

Notably, there have been the seasonal winter declines in **arboviral infections** and **salmonellosis**, and increases in **influenza** and **invasive pneumococcal disease**. A weekly update on influenza activity can be found at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/flureport.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/flureport.pdf).

Reports of **meningococcal disease** so far this winter have been less frequent than in previous winters. In NSW in June and July 2005, 20 cases were reported compared with 35 for the same period in 2004, 42 in 2003, and 50 in 2002. An analysis of the serogroups involved demonstrated that while there was some decline in cases caused by serogroup B (15 cases in 2005 compared with 20 in 2004, 23 in 2003, and 20 in 2002), a sharper decline has occurred in cases caused by the vaccine-preventable serogroup C (one in 2005, compared with five in 2004, nine in 2003 and 12 in 2002). A biweekly update on meningococcal disease activity can be found at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/mening\\_update.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/mening_update.pdf).

Reports of **pertussis** continue to increase, with 711 cases notified across the state in July. Reports of laboratory-confirmed **mumps** have increased in 2005 (72 in NSW from January to July 2005) compared with previous years (64 for all of 2004 and 35 for 2003). Of the cases reported in the previous 12 months, the largest proportion has been among people (predominantly men) in their twenties and older adults (both sexes). No case of **measles** has been reported in NSW since a patient with onset in April 2005.

Data from the NSW Influenza Surveillance Program [www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/flureport.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/pdf/flureport.pdf) show an increase in **influenza** in the late part of August. The program collects data from selected general practitioners, emergency departments and laboratories. Four outbreaks of influenza were reported among residents of aged care facilities in NSW in August. Each outbreak was located in a different area health service. Three of the outbreaks were due to influenza A and one to influenza B. In each outbreak, local public health unit staff were able to assist in the rapid diagnosis and provision of infection control recommendations and, where indicated, provide vaccination and anti-influenza medications to residents and staff at risk of infection. The outbreaks appeared to quickly subside. Further evaluation is pending.

## ENTERIC DISEASE

The number of cases of **cryptosporidiosis** with onset dates in August 2005 declined (n=25), when compared to previous months (83 in January, 42 in February, 62 in March, 118 in April, 96 in May, 54 in June, and 42 in July). However, the number of notifications with onset in August 2005 is greater than that reported for the previous four years (12 in 2004, six in 2003, eight in 2002, and nine in 2001). Since 1 May 2005, public health units have been following up cases of cryptosporidiosis to obtain information about potential exposures. As reported in a previous edition of the *NSW Public Health Bulletin*, the May 2005 outbreak was linked to swimming in contaminated pools. The increase in case reports may also be related to the introduction by some laboratories in 2004 of new testing procedures for cryptosporidiosis.

There was an increase in **gastroenteritis** outbreaks in aged care facilities and childcare centres reported by public health units in August, with norovirus and rotavirus identified as the causative agents in a number of outbreaks. This increase in gastroenteritis in institutions follows earlier reports of increases in diarrhoea and vomiting presentations at child emergency departments and subsequent increases in diarrhoea and vomiting presentations at adult emergency departments throughout August, identified through the Public Health Real-time Emergency Department Surveillance System. For example, for the week ending 21 August 2005, for the 17 participating emergency departments combined, there were 460 gastroenteritis-related emergency department visits in that week compared with an average of 241 visits per week in the past 12 months. Of these, 76 per cent were in children, compared with a weekly average of 55 per cent in the past 12 months. Twenty nine per cent were admitted compared with an average of 31 per cent.

The protracted outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium phage type 170/108 infections that began in November 2004 appears to have subsided, with only four cases notified with onset in August at the time this data was downloaded (6 September 2005).

## QUARTERLY REPORT: AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION REGISTER

Table 1 compares the percentages of fully immunised Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in NSW aged 12 months to less than 15 months in each area health service, reported by all service providers as at 30 June 2005 and 30 September 2005.

These data refer to children whose age has been calculated 90 days before data extraction. The information contained in the report has been extracted from the Australian

Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) and may be underestimated by approximately three per cent due to children being vaccinated late or to service providers failing to forward information to the ACIR. ☒

**TABLE 1**

**COMPARISON OF PERCENTAGES OF FULLY IMMUNISED CHILDREN IN NSW AGED 12 MONTHS TO LESS THAN 15 MONTHS AS AT 30 JUNE 2005 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2005, CATEGORIZED BY AREA HEALTH SERVICE AND BY INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS STATUS.**

Area Health Service	30 June 2005		30 September 2005	
	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %	Non-Indigenous %	Indigenous %
Greater Southern	93	91	93	88
Greater Western	92	81	92	84
Hunter / New England	94	87	93	82
North Coast	83	83	85	78
Northern Sydney / Central Coast	91	92	91	96
South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra	90	91	90	83
Sydney South West	90	83	90	83
Sydney West	90	93	90	90
<b>NSW</b>	91	87	91	85
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	91	85	91	85

### ERRATA

In the May-June 2005 issue of the *NSW Public Health Bulletin* (Volume 16, Number 5–6) there is an error on page 80 in Table 1: Disease notifications by year of onset of illness, NSW, 1991 to 2004. The number of new HIV infections for 1993 should read 586, not 56. This error has been corrected in the web versions of this issue.

In the July-August 2005 issue of the *Bulletin* (Volume 16, Number 7–8) there is an error in the table on page 139: Table 2, Reports of notifiable conditions received in May 2005 by Area Health Service. The column headings SES and ILL (under South Eastern Syd/Illawarra) should be transposed. The same error appears in the table on page 140: Table 3, Reports of notifiable conditions received in June 2005 by Area Health Service. This error has been corrected in the web versions of this issue.

We apologise for any confusion these errors may have caused.

**FIGURE 1**

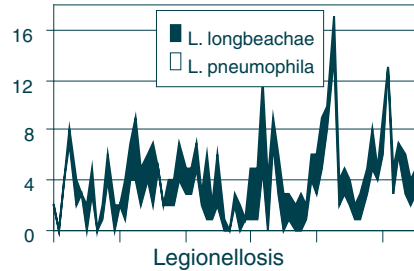
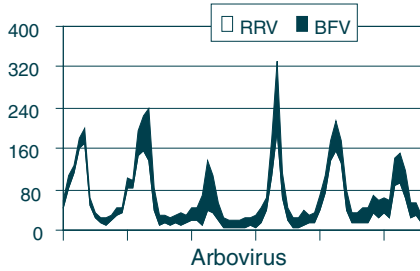
**REPORTS OF SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW, JAN 2000 TO AUG 2005, BY MONTH OF ONSET**

Preliminary data: case counts in recent months may increase because of reporting delays.  
 Laboratory-confirmed cases only, except for measles, meningococcal disease and pertussis  
 BFV = Barmah Forest virus infections,  
 RRV = Ross River virus infections  
 Lab conf = laboratory confirmed

Men Gp C and Gp B = meningococcal disease due to serogroup C and serogroup B infection, other/unk = other or unknown serogroups.  
 NB: multiple series in graphs are stacked, except gastroenteritis outbreaks.  
 NB: Outbreaks are more likely to be reported by nursing homes and hospitals than by other institutions

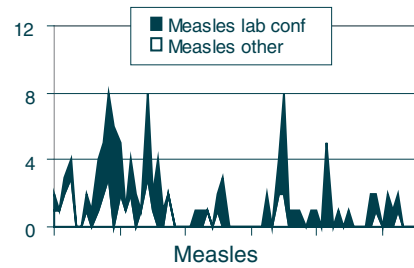
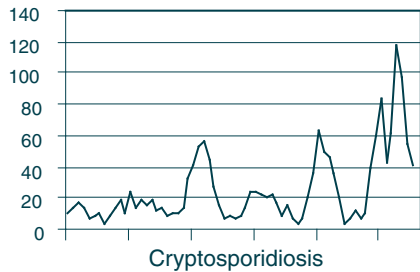
NSW population	
Male	50%
<5 yrs	7%
5-24 yrs	27%
25-64 yrs	53%
65+ yrs	13%
Rural	46%

Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	50%
<5	1%
5-24	12%
25-64	75%
65+	12%
Rural	87%



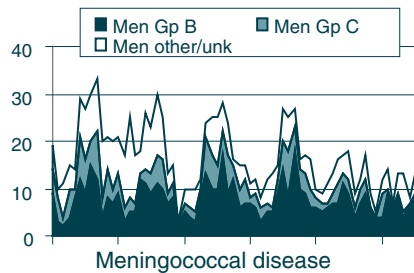
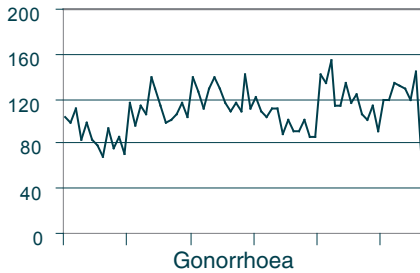
Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	60%
<5	0%
5-24	0%
25-64	53%
65+	47%
Rural	47%

Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	55%
<5	44%
5-24	24%
25-64	30%
65+	2%
Rural	24%



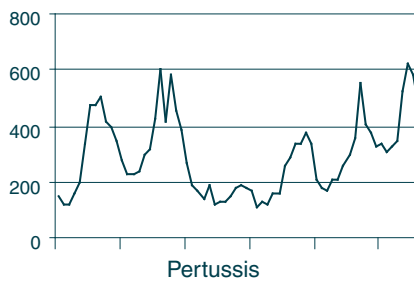
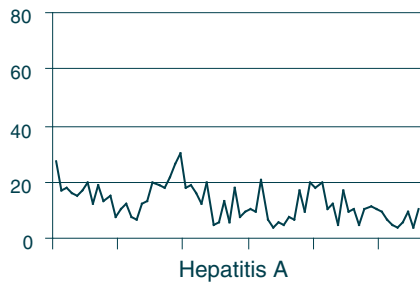
Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	0%
<5	0%
5-24	0%
25-64	0%
65+	0%
Rural	0%

Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	88%
<5	0%
5-24	26%
25-64	73%
65+	1%
Rural	15%



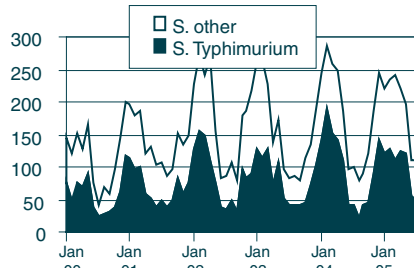
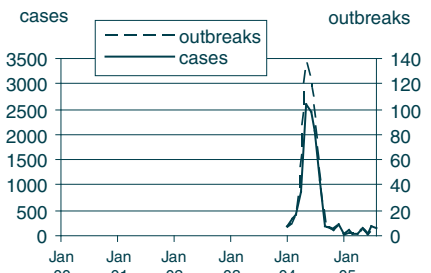
Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	45%
<5	34%
5-24	32%
25-64	29%
65+	5%
Rural	40%

Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	52%
<5	4%
5-24	48%
25-64	48%
65+	0%
Rural	13%



Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	41%
<5	4%
5-24	15%
25-64	69%
65+	12%
Rural	31%

Jun 05-Aug 05	
All outbreaks	14
Nursing homes	6
Hospitals	0
Child care	8
Schools	0
Other	0



Jun 05-Aug 05	
Male	54%
<5	22%
5-24	32%
25-64	32%
65+	14%
Rural	37%

Gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions

Salmonella infections

**TABLE 2**

**REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN JULY 2005 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES**

Condition	Area Health Service (2005)																Total for July+	Total To date+	
	Greater Southern		Greater Western		Hunter / New England		North Coast		Central Coast		Northern Syd / Syd / Illawarra		Sydney South West		Sydney West				
	GMA	SA	FWA	MAC	MWA	HUN	NEA	MNC	NRA	CCA	NSA	ILL	SES	CSA	SWS	WEN	WSA	JHS	
<b>Blood-borne and sexually transmitted<sup>§</sup></b>																			
Chancroid*	32	18	3	11	28	118	34	27	48	25	83	43	134	96	55	47	70	-	-
Chlamydia (genital)*	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	8	2	10	3	67	13	6	1	9	-	-
Gonorrhoea*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis B-acute viral*	2	2	-	1	-	5	2	2	5	4	40	3	33	37	78	4	5	-	-
Hepatitis B-other*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis C-acute viral*	16	25	1	7	11	44	16	26	41	26	28	24	53	51	69	32	54	4	-
Hepatitis C-other*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis D-unspecified*	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	2	1	2	5	17	7	9	1	1	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Vector-borne</b>																			
Barmah Forest virus*	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	21	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ross River virus*	2	-	-	1	1	3	2	8	6	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Arboviral infection (other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Zoonoses</b>																			
Anthrax*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lyssavirus*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis*	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Q fever*	1	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Respiratory and other</b>																			
Blood lead level*	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Influenza*	2	-	-	5	-	11	-	3	5	4	10	2	29	4	26	9	26	-	-
Invasive pneumococcal infection*	1	2	-	2	3	8	1	3	3	4	11	4	4	6	4	5	15	-	-
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i> infection*	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i> infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Legionnaires' disease (other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	2	2	1	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	2	-	6	-	1	1	7	-	-
<b>Vaccine-preventable</b>																			
Adverse event after immunisation (AEFI)**	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumps*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pertussis	19	14	2	45	8	33	5	21	20	21	74	37	132	69	72	42	96	-	-
Rubella*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Enteric</b>																			
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis*	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	5	-	8	2	4	1	13	4	8	-	-
Giardiasis*	5	-	-	3	2	11	1	4	1	4	16	1	19	6	12	7	10	-	-
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis A*	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis E*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Listeriosis*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonellosis*	-	3	-	2	3	12	4	4	8	3	10	4	14	8	13	6	22	-	-
Shigellosis*	2	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Typhoid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Verotoxin producing <i>E. coli</i> *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Miscellaneous</b>																			
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal conjunctivitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* lab-confirmed cases only + includes cases with unknown postcode § HIV and AIDS data are reported separately in the NSW Public Health Bulletin quarterly  
 \*\* AEFI is notified by the school vaccination teams during the National Meningococcal C Program are not included in these figures. These notifications are reviewed regularly by a panel of experts and the results will be published quarterly in the NSW Public Health Bulletin in 2004. N.B. From 1st Jan 2005, Hunter/New England AHS also comprises Great Lakes, Gloucester & Greater Taree LGAs; Sydney West also comprises Greater Lithgow LGA

GMA = Greater Murray Area	MAC = Macquarie Area	NEA = New England Area	CCA = Central Coast Area	SES = South Eastern Sydney Area	WEN = Wentworth Area
SA = Southern Area	MWA = Mid Western Area	MNC = North Coast Area	NSA = Northern Sydney Area	CSA = Central Sydney Area	WSA = Western Sydney Area
FWA = Far West Area	HUN = Hunter Area	NRA = Northern Rivers Area	ILL = Illawarra Area	SWS = South Western Sydney Area	JHS = Justice Health Service

**TABLE 3 REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN AUGUST 2005 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES**

Condition	Area Health Service (2005)																Total for Aug+	Total To date+	
	Greater Southern		Greater Western		Hunter / New England		North Coast		Northern Syd/ Central Coast		South Eastern Syd / Illawarra		Sydney South West		Sydney West				
	GMA	SA	FWA	MAC	MWA	HUN	NEA	MNC	NRA	CCA	NSA	ILL	SES	CSA	SWS	WEN	WSA	JHS	
<b>Blood-borne and sexually transmitted*</b>																			
Chancroid*	31	21	8	20	33	110	33	41	47	41	85	39	199	75	39	31	77	-	-
Chlamydia (genital)*	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	4	1	9	3	48	35	6	1	10	-	-
Gonorrhoea*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis B-acute viral*	5	5	2	-	1	10	2	1	1	3	31	3	28	47	67	12	56	-	-
Hepatitis B-other*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis C-acute viral*	15	13	1	9	14	47	9	34	30	28	24	28	56	73	69	17	50	-	-
Hepatitis C-other*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis D-unspecified*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4	2	1	7	3	22	6	19	3	13	-	-
<b>Vector-borne</b>																			
Barmah Forest virus*	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	13	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ross River virus*	1	1	2	2	-	1	1	7	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arboviral infection (other)*	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria*	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	1	1	1	1	3	-	-
<b>Zoonoses</b>																			
Anthrax*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lysavirus*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis*	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Q fever*	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Respiratory and other</b>																			
Blood lead level*	-	-	-	1	3	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-
Influenza*	3	6	4	29	7	14	2	10	19	4	37	5	27	10	40	10	31	-	-
Invasive pneumococcal infection*	4	-	2	1	7	6	-	8	3	5	8	7	9	5	10	5	9	-	-
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i> infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i> infection*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Legionnaires' disease (other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection (invasive)*	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	3	2	1	5	2	3	6	3	2	6	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Vaccine-preventable</b>																			
Adverse event after immunisation (AEFI)**	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumps*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	1	1	1	2	-	-
Pertussis	27	11	4	49	2	30	6	28	15	30	86	22	175	68	82	27	102	-	-
Rubella*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Enteric</b>																			
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis*	1	1	-	-	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	6	4	4	9	-	-
Giardiasis*	3	3	1	7	-	7	1	3	-	3	20	5	19	6	11	5	11	-	-
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-
Hepatitis A*	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	2	-	-
Hepatitis E*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Listeriosis*	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonellosis*	3	2	-	3	-	9	3	2	12	1	18	3	20	10	12	-	13	-	-
Shigellosis*	-	-	3	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Verotoxin producing <i>E. coli</i> *	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Miscellaneous</b>																			
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal conjunctivitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* lab-confirmed cases only + includes cases with unknown postcode  
 \*\* AEFI is notified by the school vaccination teams during the National Meningococcal C Program are not included in these figures. These notifications are reviewed regularly by a panel of experts and the results will be published quarterly in the NSW Public Health Bulletin in 2004. N.B: From 1st Jan 2005, Hunter/New England AHS also comprises Great Lakes, Gloucester & Greater Taree LGAs; Sydney West also comprises Greater Lithgow LGA

GMA = Greater Murray Area    MAC = Macquarie Area    NEA = New England Area    CCA = Central Coast Area    SES = South Eastern Sydney Area    WEN = Wentworth Area  
 SA = Southern Area    MWA = Mid Western Area    MNC = North Coast Area    NSA = Northern Sydney Area    CSA = Central Sydney Area    WSA = Western Sydney Area  
 FWA = Far West Area    HUN = Hunter Area    NRA = Northern Rivers Area    ILL = Illawarra Area    SWS = South Western Sydney Area    JHS = Justice Health Service