

Communicable Diseases Report, NSW, September and October 2012

Communicable Diseases Branch Health Protection NSW

For updated information, including data and facts on specific diseases, visit www.health.nsw.gov.au and click on **Public Health** and then **Infectious Diseases**. The communicable diseases site is available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/index.asp>.

Figure 1 and Tables 1 and 2 show notifications of communicable diseases with onset in September and October 2012 in New South Wales (NSW).

Enteric infections

Outbreaks of suspected foodborne disease

Eight outbreaks of gastrointestinal disease, thought to be due to consumption of contaminated food and which affected at least 80 people, were reported in September and October 2012. These outbreaks were linked to restaurants or cafes (4), food supplied by caterers (2) and private residences (2). *Salmonella* Typhimurium (STm) was found to be the cause for three outbreaks; the implicated food vehicles in two of these outbreaks were raw egg mayonnaise and chicken. In one outbreak multiple foods were consumed and the vehicle was unable to be determined. In another outbreak affecting six groups, norovirus was identified as the cause and oysters were identified as the food vehicle. In other outbreaks the causative organism could not be identified due to either lack of sampling of ill people or of suspected food vehicles.

The *Salmonella* outbreaks were identified by monitoring of clusters of STm through molecular typing (multiple-locus variable tandem repeat analysis – MLVA). A cluster of 45 cases of a STm MLVA subtype was investigated in September and October. Thirty-five cases of STm were interviewed; 88% had consumed pre-cut chicken pieces in the 3 days prior to onset of illness. Cases continue to be notified and the investigation in collaboration with the NSW Food Authority is ongoing.

Viral gastrointestinal disease

There were 180 outbreaks of gastroenteritis in institutions reported in September and October 2012, affecting at least 2944 people. The previous 5-year average for this period was 148 outbreaks. A total of 87 outbreaks occurred in aged-care facilities, 75 in child-care centres, 15 in hospitals and three in other facilities. In the 83 (46%) outbreaks in which a stool specimen was collected, norovirus was confirmed in cases from 29 (16%) outbreaks and rotavirus was confirmed in 20 (11%).

Respiratory infections

Influenza

Influenza activity, as measured by the number of people who presented with influenza-like illness to 59 of the state's largest emergency departments, returned to pre-seasonal levels in September and October after a peak in mid-July. In addition, the number of people who tested positive for influenza A by diagnostic laboratories decreased to pre-seasonal levels throughout September and October, after a peak in late June. The number of people who tested positive for influenza B also decreased over the reporting period. While this number has yet to return to pre-seasonal levels, it is well below the peak reached in June.

In September, there were:

- 196 presentations to emergency departments (rate 1.3 per 1000 presentations)
- 774 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza including:
 - 269 (35%) influenza A
 - 506 (65%) influenza B.

In October, there were:

- 139 presentations to emergency departments (rate 0.7 per 1000 presentations)
- 260 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza including:
 - 42 (16%) influenza A
 - 218 (84%) influenza B.

For a more detailed report on respiratory activity in NSW see: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/influenza_reports.asp.

Vaccine-preventable diseases

Meningococcal disease

Eleven cases of meningococcal disease were notified in NSW in September and October 2012 (seven in September and four in October), a decrease from 15 notified in the

same period in 2011. The age of the cases ranged from 5 months to 87 years and included six cases aged less than 5 years. There were no deaths due to meningococcal disease notified in this period. Seven (64%) cases were due to serogroup B (for which there is no vaccine), three (27%) were due to serogroup W135, and one (9%) was unable to be typed. Of the 15 cases notified during the same period in 2011, nine (60%) were due to serogroup B, one (7%) was due to serogroup Y, one (7%) was due to serogroup C and the remaining four (27%) were of an undetermined serogroup.

It is recommended that a single dose of vaccine against meningococcal C disease be given to all children at the age of 12 months as well as persons at high risk of disease.¹

Measles

Seventy-seven cases of measles were notified in NSW in September and October 2012; all were part of an ongoing outbreak that began in April. This was an increase compared to the six cases reported for the same period in 2011. The age groups most affected were children aged 0–4 years ($n = 24$), of which 13 were aged less than 1 year, and young adults aged 30–34 years ($n = 10$). The average age of cases was 17.5 years (range: 6 months–61 years), and 49% were female. Six (8%) cases were Aboriginal people.

Most cases were notified in South Western Sydney Local Health District (71%), followed by Western Sydney (Parramatta) (17%), however outbreak-associated cases were also reported in the Illawarra Shoalhaven ($n = 4$), North Coast (Port Macquarie) ($n = 3$) and South Eastern Sydney ($n = 1$) LHDs as well as Justice Health ($n = 1$). Of the 77 notifications, 64 (83%) were laboratory confirmed.

The majority (81%) of the cases were not vaccinated for measles. Of the 15 cases that were reported to have been vaccinated, five were documented as partially or fully vaccinated for age. Of these, one 10–14-year old had received, according to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, two doses; two 10–14-year olds had received one dose; and a 9-month old and a 10-month old who were vaccinated as contacts of confirmed cases had received one dose each.

Pertussis

During September and October, 776 cases of pertussis were notified with onset in the period in NSW, less than one-third of the 2410 cases notified for the same period in 2011. Most cases were in the 5–9-year age group ($n = 237$), followed by the 0–4-year ($n = 140$) and the 10–14-year age groups ($n = 129$).

Direct protection for young infants remains available through free vaccination for pertussis that is administered at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. The first dose can be provided as early as 6 weeks of age. There is also a booster dose at 3½ to 4 years. New parents and grandparents should also discuss the benefits of pertussis vaccination for themselves with their general practitioner.¹

Sexually transmissible infections and bloodborne viruses

Gonorrhoea

The number of gonorrhoea notifications has continued to rise, with a total of 732 laboratory-confirmed cases notified in NSW in September and October 2012; this is an increase of 41% compared with the same period in 2011 ($n = 519$). Since January 2012, there has been an average of 312 notifications of gonorrhoea per month, with a peak of 361 notifications in May.

Syphilis

A total of 95 cases of syphilis were notified to NSW Health with onset in September and October 2012, fewer than the 148 cases notified in the same period in 2011. A reporting delay may account for some of this decrease.

Lymphogranuloma venereum

NSW Health was notified of 12 cases of lymphogranuloma venereum with onset in September and October 2012, an increase from the six cases reported in the same period in 2011.

Reference

1. National Health and Medical Research Council. The Australian Immunisation Handbook. 9th ed. Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; 2008.

Figure 1. Reports of selected communicable diseases, NSW, Jan 2004 to Oct 2012, 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 y	7%
5–24 y	27%
25–64 y	53%
65+ y	13%
Rural	46%

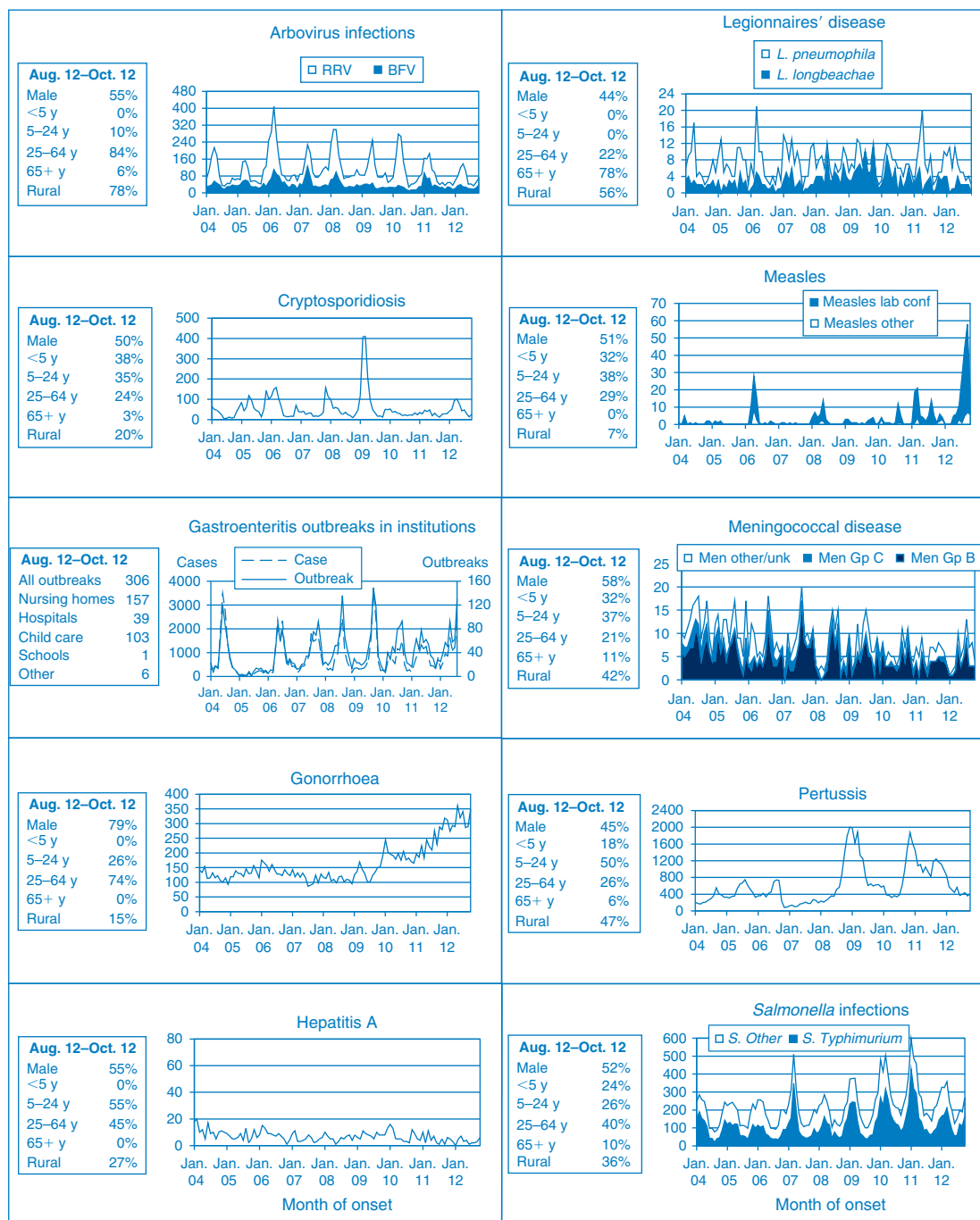


Table 1. Notifications of scheduled medical conditions with an onset date in September 2012 by Local Health District, NSW

Condition	Murrumbidgee (including Albury)	Southern NSW	Western NSW	Far West	Hunter New England	Northern NSW	Mid North Coast	Local Health District					Sydney	South Western Sydney	Western Sydney	Nepean Blue Mountains	Justice Health	For Sep ^b	Total Year ^b to date ^b
								Central Coast	Northern Sydney	South Eastern Sydney	Illawarra Shoalhaven								
Bloodborne and sexually transmissible																			
Chancroid ^a	54	19	56	5	224	74	48	76	116	264	73	157	137	146	77	15	1542	16091	
Chlamydia (genital) ^a	7	3	2	3	11	2	1	7	33	106	8	61	24	28	6	19	3030	321	
Gonorrhoea ^a	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	18	
Hepatitis B – acute viral ^a	1	1	6	1	6	-	3	4	25	25	5	33	37	42	5	1	195	1803	
Hepatitis B – other ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	
Hepatitis C – acute viral ^a	12	9	14	1	24	17	12	24	12	22	11	23	35	26	16	23	281	2568	
Hepatitis C – other ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Hepatitis D – unspecified ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	6	17	
Lymphogranuloma venereum	3	-	2	-	2	-	-	3	3	17	2	17	6	9	-	-	65	598	
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vectorborne																			
Barmah Forest virus ^a	-	1	-	-	4	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	23	241	
Ross River virus ^a	7	-	1	-	6	5	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	26	490	
Arboviral infection (other) ^a	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	-	-	16	206	
Malaria ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	53	
Zoonoses																			
Anthrax ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brucellosis ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Leptospirosis ^a	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	
Lyssavirus ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Psittacosis ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Q fever ^a	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	77	
Respiratory and other																			
Blood lead level ^a	2	-	4	13	4	1	-	1	-	2	-	3	2	4	1	-	37	389	
Influenza ^a	40	16	43	1	132	55	10	11	77	125	33	46	78	70	37	-	774	7478	
Invasive pneumococcal infection ^a	3	5	3	1	4	2	2	-	4	7	2	6	10	6	5	-	60	444	
Legionella longbeachae infection ^a	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	20	
Legionella pneumophila infection ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	47	
Legionnaires' disease (other) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal infection (invasive) ^a	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	7	55	
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	3	-	1	7	1	-	-	19	197	
Vaccine-preventable																			
Adverse event after immunisation	3	4	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	1	1	1	19	145	
H. influenzae b infection (invasive) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	45	10	-	-	59	152	
Mumps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	87	
Pertussis	20	13	34	-	44	10	12	22	41	28	22	27	13	56	18	-	360	4631	
Rubella ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric																			
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cholera ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Cryptosporidiosis ^a	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	3	1	4	1	-	1	-	14	536	
Giardiasis ^a	3	4	14	-	24	1	7	4	16	17	7	10	11	14	9	-	141	1580	
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	
Hepatitis A ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	28	
Hepatitis E ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	
Listeriosis ^b	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	26	
Rotavirus ^a	3	1	38	1	85	14	5	16	67	56	55	32	61	69	26	-	530	1257	
Salmonellosis ^a	8	2	3	-	16	6	6	9	29	21	12	21	15	31	9	1	189	2115	
Shigellosis ^a	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	88	
Typhoid ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	
Verotoxin-producing E. coli ^a	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	
Miscellaneous																			
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	
Meningococcal conjunctivitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

^aLaboratory-confirmed cases only. ^bIncludes cases with unknown postcode.

NB: Data are current and accurate as at the preparation date. The number of cases reported is, however, subject to change, as cases may be entered at a later date or retracted upon further investigation.

Data are reported by Local Health District of residence (geocoded to 2011 boundaries).

Source: Notifiable Conditions Information Management System, NSW Ministry of Health.

Table 2. Notifications of scheduled medical conditions with an onset date in October 2012 by Local Health District, NSW

Condition	Murrumbidgee (including Albury)	Southern NSW	Western NSW	Far West	Hunter New England	Northern NSW	Mid North Coast	Local Health District	Illawarra Shoalhaven	Sydney	South Western Sydney	Western Sydney	Nepean Blue Mountains	Justice Health	For Oct ^b	Total Year to date ^b
Bloodborne and sexually transmissible																
Chancroid ^a	63	40	69	8	236	92	37	82	97	160	151	165	82	102	1837	17928
Chlamydia (genital) ^a	3	2	1	3	19	7	—	2	5	76	40	43	13	9	411	3441
Gonorrhoea ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	19
Hepatitis B – acute viral ^a	6	—	3	1	5	—	6	3	—	32	36	52	4	—	198	2001
Hepatitis B – other ^a	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	35
Hepatitis C – acute viral ^a	14	9	14	5	26	15	8	11	15	10	31	31	12	30	260	2828
Hepatitis C – other ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	5
Hepatitis D – unspecified ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	6	23
Lymphogranuloma venereum	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	1	7	1	—	—	1	30	628
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vectorborne																
Barmah Forest virus ^a	2	—	—	—	6	13	7	1	4	—	1	1	1	—	37	278
Ross River virus ^a	6	—	3	1	10	5	2	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	35	525
Arboviral infection (other) ^a	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	3	2	2	1	—	26	232
Malaria ^a	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	7	60
Zoonoses																
Anthrax ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brucellosis ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Leptospirosis ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Lyssavirus ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Psittacosis ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Q fever ^a	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	10	87
Respiratory and other																
Blood lead level ^a	3	1	29	10	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	4	—	59	448
Influenza ^a	14	7	8	—	21	13	4	3	4	16	37	35	16	1	260	7738
Invasive pneumococcal infection ^a	3	2	2	1	3	—	—	3	5	2	4	3	2	—	43	487
Legionella longbeachae infection ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Legionella pneumophila infection ^a	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	49
Legionnaires' disease (other) ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Leprosy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection (invasive) ^a	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	59
Tuberculosis	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	17	214
Vaccine-preventable																
Adverse event after immunisation	4	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	13	158
H. influenzae b infection (invasive) ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	10	3	—	1	18	170
Mumps ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4	91
Pertussis	25	11	24	—	49	18	10	28	23	22	27	55	17	1	416	5047
Rubella ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric																
Botulism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cryptosporidiosis ^a	5	3	9	—	12	2	—	5	2	4	1	1	—	—	28	564
Giardiasis ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	15	9	10	4	—	138	1718
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	8
Hepatitis A ^a	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	7
Hepatitis E ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	29
Listeriosis ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotavirus ^a	15	1	35	—	65	11	—	16	11	17	41	37	15	—	319	1576
Salmonellosis ^a	12	3	10	—	25	16	4	11	8	21	29	29	14	—	269	2384
Shigellosis ^a	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	11	99
Typhoid ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	36
Verotoxin-producing E. coli ^a	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
Miscellaneous																
Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	7
Meningococcal conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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