

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## NOTIFICATIONS

Implementation of the new infectious disease notification and control system is progressing well. Regulations for the Public Health Act (1991) are being prepared and new forms are being designed for doctors and laboratories. They will be a pre-addressed, reply-paid and tick-box type aerogram format.

Our aim is to make the forms functional and attractive and we plan to have the new system ready by October 1991.

A special edition of the *Public Health Bulletin* will inform health care workers how they can make the system work. Distribution of the new forms and promotion of the new system are planned for September.

The infectious diseases data received by Epidemiology Branch up to July 1 fail to reflect the infectious diseases situation in NSW. Substantial delays in notification are still encountered. As an example, those cases reported for the month of May in the June *Public Health Bulletin* represented only 24 per cent of total notifications for that period.

Only 265 notifications have been received through the Infectious Diseases Database System (IDDS) for June. It is notable that only one case of Hepatitis A has been entered on to IDDS. The other cases were elicited by active surveillance through Public Health Units.

To address concerns about IDDS a series of one-day tutorials involving Epidemiology Branch and Public Health Unit staff has been arranged. The tutorials will cover IDDS (version 1.7), a review of all records held by each Public Health Unit and the distribution of version 1.7 (disc and accompanying manual).

Reports of Hepatitis A notifications have risen significantly this year. For 1990, 36 cases were reported in the Public Health Bulletin compared to more than 214 cases of Hepatitis A reported to the Health Department for the period January to June 1991. Hepatitis A rates range from 53.8/100,000 population/year in the Eastern Sydney Area, 11.6/100,000 in the Northern Sydney Area, 10.2/100,000 in the Central and Southern Sydney Area to less than 6/100,000 population/year in the Regions. Males account for more than 72 per cent of all notifications.

In response to the notifications, staff of the Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit have contacted all general practitioners in the area informing them of the outbreak and offering assistance with management protocols. A media release was prepared by the staff of Health Public Affairs, Epidemiology Branch and the Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit.

Eleven PHUs have notified measles this year. Eight cases have been notified from the Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit for a rate of 29.7/100,000 population per year.

Leptospirosis has attracted increased attention recently through the Department of Agriculture's awareness campaign. South West Region notified leptospirosis at a rate of 3.98/100,000 population/year. Public Health Units that recognised that this condition is of regional importance have been encouraged to collaborate with Department of Agriculture officers. Immunisation of livestock is recommended.

TABLE 1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NOTIFICATIONS, NSW  
To the end of June 1991

CONDITION	Number of Cases Notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	June 1990	June 1991	June 1990	June 1991
AIDS	17	N/A	*143	*77
Arboviral infections (NOS)	—	3	1	300
Brucellosis	2	1	5	3
Cholera	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Foodborne illness (NOS)	1	148	11	1629
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	N/A	—	N/A	24
Gonorrhoea	37	10	243	180
H influenzae infection (NOS)	2	4	10	59
H influenzae B — meningitis	2	—	10	—
H influenzae B — septicaemia	1	—	2	1
Hepatitis (NOS)	—	70	2	655
Hepatitis A	3	27	17	63
Hepatitis B — acute	4	—	6	2
Hepatitis B — carrier	—	—	—	7
Hepatitis B — unspecified	30	1	235	126
Hepatitis C	1	—	17	32
HIV infection	N/A	N/A	*273	*299
Hydatid disease	—	—	2	—
Legionnaires' disease	1	—	18	15
Leprosy	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	3	—	26	22
Listeriosis	N/A	—	N/A	—
Malaria	13	4	95	20
Measles	11	8	51	93
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	1	—	16	15
Meningococcal meningitis	6	—	17	6
Meningococcal septicaemia	2	—	5	5
Mumps	N/A	1	N/A	5
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	—	5	—	75
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	48	1	252	7
Mycobacterial — atypical	5	—	14	8
Pertussis	4	—	103	28
Plague	—	—	—	—
Polioyielitis	—	—	—	—
Q fever	10	—	77	90
Ross River fever	23	—	219	114
Rubella	N/A	3	N/A	18
Salmonella infection (NOS)	99	2	821	512
Syphilis	28	1	171	179
Tetanus	—	—	—	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	3	—	6	15
Typhus	—	—	—	—
Viral haemorrhagic fever	—	—	—	—
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—

\* Data January-April only

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TABLE 2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION  
FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1991

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	OTH	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS*	9	2	33	3	7	3	10	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	77
Arboviral infection (NOS)	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	134	105	4	36	2	-	-	300
Brucellosis	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Foodborne illness (NOS)	28	34	845	40	85	81	43	6	13	53	185	72	44	23	65	2	10	-	1629
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	-	-	-	4	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Gonorrhoea	-	3	116	18	5	-	1	-	4	3	6	1	18	-	5	-	-	-	180
H Influenzae infection (NOS)	-	-	15	-	8	7	-	-	4	4	-	-	1	-	7	2	-	-	48
Haemophilus influenzae B	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	11
Haemophilus septicaemia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis (NOS)	3	-	388	28	124	6	-	-	8	20	-	22	34	-	8	14	-	-	655
Hepatitis A	11	5	-	1	4	-	7	1	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	63
Hepatitis B - acute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Hepatitis B - carrier	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Hepatitis B - unspecified	40	8	3	7	6	3	13	-	2	9	17	6	11	-	-	-	1	-	126
Hepatitis C	15	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
HIV infection	21	6	71	8	17	2	18	1	2	10	8	-	1	1	-	1	2	130	299
Legionnaires' disease	-	-	-	4	4	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	15
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	1	2	2	-	5	-	3	-	22
Malaria	-	-	4	-	3	1	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	20
Measles	1	-	10	6	16	1	5	-	3	27	13	2	1	-	1	7	-	-	93
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	4	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	15
Meningococcal meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Meningococcal septicaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Mumps	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Mycobacterial atypical	2	3	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	-	-	18	7	20	6	1	-	9	1	3	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	71
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Mycobacterial - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
Pertussis	-	-	10	3	2	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	28
Q Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	7	17	55	3	3	1	-	-	-	90
Ross River fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	11	71	21	-	4	-	5	-	114
Rubella	-	-	15	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Salmonella infection (NOS)	38	38	7	55	86	45	32	5	35	14	41	38	37	10	10	8	13	-	512
Syphilis	10	4	12	23	15	3	1	1	3	13	30	12	44	3	3	1	1	-	179
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	2	-	4	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	15

\* Data January-April only

TABLE 3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS  
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION  
FOR MONTH OF JUNE, 1991

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWR	U/K	TOTAL
Arboviral infection (NOS)	-	-	2	1	-	3
Brucellosis	-	-	1	-	-	1
Foodborne illness (NOS)	1	1	140	6	-	148
Gonorrhoea	-	-	10	-	-	10
H Influenzae infection	-	-	4	-	-	4
Hepatitis (NOS)	-	-	69	1	-	70
Hepatitis A	1	-	-	-	26	27
Hepatitis B - unspecified	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malaria	-	-	4	-	-	4
Measles	-	-	8	-	-	8
Mumps	-	-	2	1	-	3
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	-	-	5	-	-	5
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rubella	-	-	3	-	-	3
Salmonella infection (NOS)	2	-	-	-	-	2
Syphilis	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	5	2	249	9	26	291

## Abbreviations used in this Bulletin:

CSA Central Sydney Health Area, ESA Eastern Sydney Health Area, SSA Southern 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, IS Interstate, U/K Unknown, OS Overseas, 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.