

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

Cumulative notifications of infectious diseases for 1991 are presented in Table 7.

As a result of a review of 1991 data, previously published cumulative data have been amended. Duplicate notifications have been deleted, and some notifications have been reclassified, for example, from acute viral hepatitis to hepatitis A or B. Reporting from Public Health Units has improved, and data from backlogs of notifications have been incorporated. The data quality review is continuing and may result in further changes to cumulative figures.

This month 13 of the 14 PHUs have provided data to Epidemiology Branch, a great improvement over previous rates. However, there is delay in reporting infections to the PHUs by doctors and laboratories, so September notifications presented in tables 8 and 9 will be considerably lower than the eventual totals.

Of note this month is the continuing high rates of syphilis in the Orana/Far West region (111 cases per 100,000 population per year, compared with the State average of 10 per 100,000). Hepatitis A cases also continue to occur in the inner Areas of Sydney, predominantly among males in the 20- to 39-year age group.

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The third edition of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Service booklet *Health Information for International Travel* is expected to be published late this month. This booklet is intended as a comprehensive reference for health care providers and associated professionals who may be called on to advise overseas travellers on health matters. The new edition has been considerably revised and expanded (now about 100 pages) and includes a detailed index. In addition, three information sheets directed at intending overseas travellers, covering immunisation, malaria, and food and water-borne disease, have been included. The booklet will be available from the Australian Government Publishing Service at a cost of \$9.95.

RUBELLA IN THE ACT

More than 80 cases of rubella (german measles) were identified early in September at one primary school in Canberra. Investigations by the ACT Board of Health revealed cases at other primary schools and some child care centres. Occasional outbreaks of rubella are not unusual. Rubella is generally a mild disease, but presents a danger during pregnancy, potentially causing birth defects.

Prevention of rubella, and of the congenital rubella syndrome, relies on:

- immunisation of all children at the age of 12 months
- immunisation of schoolgirls in Year 6 or 7
- determining rubella antibody titres of all pregnant women
- postnatal immunisation of women found to have low antibody titres during pregnancy.

The rubella vaccine is contra-indicated in pregnancy. Under the NSW Public Health Act, 1991, rubella will be notifiable by laboratories.

MEASLES

Reports of measles cases continue, particularly from the Hunter and Central Sydney Areas. Prompt action by the Public Health Units to immunise susceptible school contacts prevented larger outbreaks. The Epidemiology Branch has been informed of the death of a 14-year-old NSW boy from subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), a late sequel of measles infection.

ERRATA: SEPTEMBER 1991 PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Tables 8 and 9 of the September 1991 Public Health Bulletin, on new 1991 diagnoses of HIV infection in NSW cumulative to August 30, 1991, contain several errors. The heading for Table 10 was also incorrect, and should have read "Infectious Diseases Notifications by Area and Region from January 1 to August 31, 1991". Corrected versions of these tables are provided on a re-issue of pages 94 and 95 for substitution in the September 1991 Bulletin. The corrected Tables 8 and 9 refer to the period January 1-August 31, 1991.

TABLE 7

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE
NOTIFICATIONS, NSW**
Notifications to the end of September, 1991

CONDITION	Number of Cases Notified			
	Period		Cumulative	
	September 1990	September 1991	September 1990	September 1991
AIDS	*32	*14	*255	*184
Arboviral infection (NOS)	1	1	3	384
Brucellosis	-	-	5	2
Cholera	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Foodborne illness (NOS)	242	64	1949	2281
Gastroenteritis (inst.)	N/A	-	N/A	37
Gonorrhoea	16	2	285	264
H influenzae B - epiglottitis	N/A	1	N/A	7
H influenzae B - meningitis	-	5	10	30
H influenzae B - septicaemia	-	-	2	6
H influenzae infection (NOS)	-	3	10	99
Hepatitis A	2	28	22	612
Hepatitis B - acute	-	-	6	17
Hepatitis B - carrier	-	-	-	22
Hepatitis B - unspecified	38	20	318	743
Hepatitis C	1	8	20	187
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	-	12	2	295
HIV infection	46	20	573	611
Hydatid disease	-	-	2	2
Legionnaires' disease	1	-	23	22
Leprosy	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	5	-	32	25
Listeriosis	N/A	-	N/A	4
Malaria	19	-	131	100
Measles	81	6	176	254
Meningococcal meningitis	-	2	17	30
Meningococcal septicaemia	-	-	5	10
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	12	2	51	32
Mumps	N/A	-	N/A	3
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	-	2	-	136
Mycobacterial - atypical	-	-	14	43
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	51	1	406	121
Pertussis	10	-	126	34
Plague	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
Q fever	9	-	99	158
Ross River fever	1	-	247	128
Rubella	N/A	1	N/A	25
Salmonella infection (NOS)	91	10	1117	911
Syphilis	24	26	271	431
Tetanus	-	-	-	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	5	1	29	35
Typhus	-	-	-	-
Viral haemorrhagic fevers	-	-	-	-
Yellow fever	-	-	-	-

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

Infectious diseases

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TABLE 8

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION
For September, 1991**

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	SWR	SER	U/K	TOTAL
Arboviral infection (NOS)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Foodborne illness (NOS)	2	11	2	5	7	8	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	8	14	—	64
Gonorrhoea	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
H. influenzae B	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
H. influenzae epiglottitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
H. influenzae meningitis	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hepatitis A	10	4	—	1	2	1	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	28
Hepatitis B — Unspecified	—	4	—	4	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	20
Hepatitis C	—	—	—	1	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	8	—	12
HIV infection	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	20
Measles	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Meningococcal meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rubella	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Salmonella infection (NOS)	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	10
Syphilis	2	2	—	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	11	1	—	—	26
Typhoid & paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE 9

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS,
BY HEALTH AREA & REGION
For period January 1 to September 30, 1991**

CONDITION	CSA	SSA	ESA	SWS	WSA	WEN	NSA	CCA	ILL	HUN	NCR	NER	OFR	CWR	SWR	SER	OTH	U/K	TOTAL
AIDS*	30	6	79	3	17	7	17	5	3	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	184
Arboviral infection (NOS)	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	—	138	188	4	35	5	—	—	384
Brucellosis	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Foodborne illness (NOS)	175	333	480	123	229	140	1	35	16	89	277	125	109	24	106	2	17	—	2281
Gastroenteritis (instit.)	—	—	5	10	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	37
Gonorrhoea	16	6	118	23	16	—	7	1	11	4	6	4	43	—	7	1	1	—	264
H. influenzae epiglottitis	1	—	—	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
H. influenzae meningitis	1	3	—	6	2	1	8	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	30
H. influenzae septicaemia	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
H. influenzae infection (NOS)	11	18	8	2	13	12	1	2	9	2	—	1	5	2	9	4	—	—	99
Hepatitis A	81	38	297	28	21	2	102	—	5	13	3	9	4	—	3	5	1	—	612
Hepatitis B — Acute	11	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	17
Hepatitis B — Carrier	9	11	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Hepatitis B — Unspecified	103	66	67	164	84	5	86	—	5	33	17	36	56	—	3	16	2	—	743
Hepatitis C	67	22	—	7	13	—	40	1	2	12	8	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	187
Hepatitis, acute viral (NOS)	—	—	5	4	198	14	1	2	8	5	—	3	28	—	7	20	—	—	295
HIV infection	56	14	139	16	24	11	15	5	2	15	15	—	2	2	1	5	269	—	611
Hydatid disease	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Legionnaires' disease	—	—	—	5	6	2	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	22
Leptospirosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	3	4	—	4	—	3	—	25
Listeria	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Listeriosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria	7	7	4	3	10	3	45	3	3	4	1	3	—	—	4	2	1	—	100
Measles	64	5	12	12	20	5	32	11	9	55	13	2	4	—	1	9	—	—	254
Meningococcal meningitis	2	3	—	11	1	—	1	1	2	5	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	30
Meningococcal septicaemia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	10
Meningococcal infection (NOS)	—	—	4	3	1	2	3	5	—	1	5	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	32
Mumps	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Mycobacterial atypical	20	19	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	43
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	22	15	36	21	8	—	—	2	7	13	—	—	3	2	3	2	1	—	136
Mycobacterial infection (NOS)	—	—	7	1	29	8	46	—	11	—	3	6	9	—	3	1	—	—	121
Pertussis	—	2	5	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	9	—	—	—	—	—	34
Q Fever	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	5	7	44	93	3	2	1	—	—	158
Ross River fever	1	—	4	—	—	—	6	1	1	1	11	71	23	—	6	—	—	—	128
Rubella	—	1	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	25
Salmonella infection (NOS)	67	90	74	112	124	62	72	1	39	18	63	61	14	22	11	18	—	—	911
Syphilis	36	12	33	47	30	7	26	—	6	16	64	17	116	3	14	1	3	—	431
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Typhoid & paratyphoid	10	4	11	—	2	—	2	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	35

*Data from January to August 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.