
NOTICE TO READERS

A note from the Editor

Ana Herceg, Acting Editor, CDI

This is the last issue of *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* (CDI) for 1996. The editorial team of CDI would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 1997. We would particularly like to thank all those readers who have contributed articles, editorials, correspondence, outbreak reports and surveillance reports to CDI.

The first issue of CDI for 1997 will be published on 9 January. You will notice that the publication day of CDI is changing from Monday to Thursday in 1997, in order to accommodate printing schedules. CDI will continue to be published every fortnight except for the fortnight of Christmas/New Year.

Finally, CDI will have a new cover and content design in 1997. As always, we would appreciate your comments on CDI in 1997.



OVERSEAS BRIEFS

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Yellow Fever, Ghana

A total of 27 cases of yellow fever with five deaths has been reported over a period of a few weeks in the Upper East Region of the country. Out of 15 blood samples tested, three were positive for yellow fever. Health authorities

have initiated a vaccination campaign of the population considered to be at risk. Some stocks of vaccine are already available and WHO is sending further supplies.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

The NNDSS is conducted under the auspices of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia New Zealand. The system coordinates the national surveillance of more than 40 communicable diseases or disease groups endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Notifications of these diseases are made to State and Territory health authorities under the provisions of their respective public health legislations. De-identified core unit data are supplied fortnightly for collation, analysis and dissemination. For further information, see CDI 1996;20:9-10.

Reporting period 10 to 23 November 1996

There were 2,522 notifications received for this two-week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). The numbers of reports for

selected diseases have been compared with average data for this period in the previous three years (Figure 1).

Twenty-five notifications of measles were received in this period, 11 (44%) of which were for children under the age of 5 years. The number of cases remains low for the time of year (Figure 2).

Rubella was notified for 175 persons in this period. The number of notifications has risen in recent months but is below the level reported for the same period in the past two years (Figure 3). Eighty-four cases (48%) were for adults aged 15 to 24 years. There was a predominance of males, the male:female ratio being 2:1.

There were 324 cases of pertussis reported this period of which 60% were under the age of 20 years. Included were 137 notifications from Victoria where there is currently an outbreak.