

**National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Report**  
**Fortnight 24, 2017 Summary Notes for Selected Diseases**  
**18 November to 1 December 2017**

**Infectious syphilis**

Increases in infectious syphilis notifications are attributed to an on-going outbreak occurring in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in northern and central Australia and continued increases among men who have sex with men (MSM) in urban areas of Victoria and NSW.

*Outbreak in remote Australia*

In January 2011, an increase of infectious syphilis notifications among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was identified in the North West region of Queensland (QLD), following a steady decline at a national level in remote communities. Subsequent increases in infectious syphilis notifications were reported in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2013, Western Australia (WA) in 2014 and South Australia (SA) in 2016, following sustained periods of low notification rates. The outbreak is of significant public health concern given the: elevated rates of infectious syphilis among women of child-bearing age, increasing the risk of congenital syphilis; and the concomitant risk of HIV transmission.

For the latest information on the infectious syphilis outbreak, refer to the [Department's website](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-infectious-syphilis-outbreak.htm) (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-infectious-syphilis-outbreak.htm>)

*Increases among MSM*

Since 2010, increases in notifications of infectious syphilis have been reported in MSM, predominately 20-39 years of age, residing in urban areas of Victoria (VIC) and NSW.

**Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD)**

The number of cases of IMD due to serogroup W and serogroup Y has been increasing across most jurisdictions in Australia. The Australian Government Department of Health, in collaboration with the states and territories, is closely monitoring the incidence of IMD in Australia. For the latest information on IMD, refer to the [Department's website](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-meningococcal-W.htm) (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-meningococcal-W.htm>).

**Influenza (laboratory confirmed)**

Influenza activity at the national level continued to decline this reporting fortnight after reaching a peak in mid-August. Surveillance systems indicate that national activity levels have returned to or are approaching baseline levels. A summary of the 2017 Australian influenza season is available on the [Department's website](#). During the inter-seasonal period, influenza activity will continue to be monitored nationally.

**Hepatitis A**

There have been 71 notifications of hepatitis A in the last quarter, which is 2.7 times the quarterly rolling 5 year mean (36.4). Of these, 12 notifications occurred in the last fortnight, compared to 11 in the previous fortnight, and 7 in the same fortnight in 2016. Seven of these cases were reported to have acquired their infection in Australia, (4 South Australia, 2 Victoria and 1 New South Wales) and 3 of the 7 identified as men who have sex with men.

**Shigellosis**

There have been 463 notifications of shigellosis in the last quarter which is 2.3 times the quarterly rolling 5 year mean (2016). A major contributor to this increase is the ongoing outbreak in central Australia, which is predominantly *Shigella flexneri* 2B (114 notifications). Of these, 109 were Indigenous Australians (56 in the Northern Territory, 35 in Western Australia, 14 in South Australia and 4 in Queensland).

### **Interpretative Notes**

*Selected diseases are chosen each fortnight based on either exceeding two standard deviations from the 90 day and/or 365 day five year rolling mean or other disease issues of significance identified during the reporting period. All diseases reported are analysed by notification receive date. Data are extracted each Monday of a CDNA week.*

*Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision so there may be discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.*

<sup>1</sup>*The past quarter (90 day) surveillance period includes the date range (20/08/2017 to 1/12/2017).*

<sup>2</sup>*The quarterly (90 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 90 days up to 1/12/2016. The ratio is the notification activity in the past quarter (90 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

<sup>3</sup>*The past year (365 day) surveillance period includes the date range (18/11/2016 to 1/12/2017).*

<sup>4</sup>*The yearly (365 day) five year rolling mean is the average of 5 intervals of 365 days up to 1/12/2016. The ratio is the notification activity in the past year (365 days) compared with the five year rolling mean for the same period.*

*The five year rolling mean and the ratio of notifications compared with the five year rolling mean should be interpreted with caution. Changes in surveillance practice, diagnostic techniques and reporting may contribute to increases or decreases in the total notifications received over a five year period. Ratios are to be taken as a crude measure of current disease activity and may reflect changes in reporting rather than changes in disease activity.*

ADT FN24 Notification Received Date 18/11/2017 to 01/12/2017																				
Disease	State or Territory								Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period			Historical 365 Day Period				
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	This Reporting Period	Previous Reporting Period	Same Reporting Period Last Year	2017 YTD	Past Quarter	Quarterly Rolling 5 year mean	Ratio Past Quarter /5 year mean	Exceeds Quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year	Yearly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio Past year /5 year mean	Exceeds Yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
<b>Bloodborne diseases</b>																				
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	2	7	128	27	38.4	0.7	-	139	168.8	0.8	-
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	12	66	0	29	2	1	69	19	198	189	222	5,506	1,446	1,619.6	0.9	-	5,940	6,438.6	0.9	-
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	0	0	0	13	1	0	0	2	16	26	27	585	163	160.2	1.0	-	642	619.2	1.0	-
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	4	123	4	119	0	10	72	50	382	344	416	9,323	2,439	2,555.4	1.0	-	10,212	9,996.4	1.0	-
Hepatitis D	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	52	19	13.0	1.5	-	57	49.8	1.1	-
<b>Gastrointestinal diseases</b>																				
Botulism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	1.6	0.0	-
Campylobacteriosis	23	NN	8	370	151	47	268	136	1,003	899	1,209	20,682	5,717	5,176.8	1.1	-	22,970	19,177.4	1.2	-
Cryptosporidiosis	0	23	1	28	4	1	30	8	95	83	146	4,520	534	509.6	1.0	-	4,914	3,720.8	1.3	-
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	4	4.4	0.9	-	19	17.6	1.1	-
Hepatitis A	0	2	0	1	5	0	4	0	12	11	7	177	71	36.4	2.0	2.7	193	182.0	1.1	-
Hepatitis E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	52	6	7.2	0.8	-	54	40.2	1.3	-
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	6	65	16	18.6	0.9	-	73	81.4	0.9	-
Paratyphoid	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	3	53	12	12.2	1.0	-	60	76.6	0.8	-
STEC	0	3	0	1	17	0	1	2	24	16	18	441	126	50.8	2.5	0.4	495	165.6	3.0	186.6
Salmonellosis	2	109	27	141	50	14	94	82	519	542	544	15,263	3,044	2,934.6	1.0	-	16,774	14,911.4	1.1	-
Shigellosis	0	7	26	12	3	2	24	10	84	73	57	1,581	463	201.6	2.3	84.5	1,690	896.4	1.9	67.7
Typhoid Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	8	4	125	22	22.0	1.0	-	136	121.4	1.1	-
<b>Quarantinable diseases</b>																				
Avian influenza in humans (AIH)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.6	1.7	-	1	2.6	0.4	-
Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Viral haemorrhagic fever (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Sexually transmissible infections</b>																				
Chlamydial infection	63	1,015	45	905	203	9	0	425	2,665	2,845	3,441	80,478	18,274	20,675.8	0.9	-	86,431	85,287.4	1.0	-
Donovanosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.4	0.0	-
Gonococcal infection	11	333	38	188	44	3	261	100	978	947	1,065	26,271	6,577	4,414.4	1.5	183.2	28,159	17,249.2	1.6	3,268.5
Syphilis < 2 years	0	22	8	34	1	0	30	16	111	139	127	3,916	1,002	596.6	1.7	24.0	4,176	2,262.0	1.8	358.6
Syphilis > 2 years or unspecified duration	0	1	3	6	1	0	70	10	91	48	80	1,854	462	448.0	1.0	-	1,981	1,766.0	1.1	-
Syphilis congenital	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	2	1.8	1.1	-	8	3.8	2.1	-

**Footnotes:**

\* Ratio of the 90 day prior surveillance period to the past 90 day 5 year rolling mean, or ratio of the 365 day prior surveillance period to the 365 day 5 year rolling mean.

NN = Not Notifiable, NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

Dates used are:

Past Quarter (90d prior surveillance period): 03/09/2017 to 01/12/2017

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean):

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean) 1: 03/09/2016 to 01/12/2016

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean) 2: 03/09/2015 to 01/12/2015

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean) 3: 03/09/2014 to 01/12/2014

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean) 4: 03/09/2013 to 01/12/2013

Quarterly rolling 5Yr Mean (90d 5Yr Mean) 5: 03/09/2012 to 01/12/2012

Past year (365d prior surveillance period): 02/12/2016 to 01/12/2017

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean):

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean) 1: 03/12/2015 to 01/12/2016

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean) 2: 02/12/2014 to 01/12/2015

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean) 3: 02/12/2013 to 01/12/2014

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean) 4: 02/12/2012 to 01/12/2013

Yearly rolling 5Yr Mean (365d 5Yr Mean) 5: 03/12/2011 to 01/12/2012

ADT FN24 Notification Received Date 18/11/2017 to 01/12/2017																				
Disease	State or Territory								Totals for Australia				Historical 90 Day Period				Historical 365 Day Period			
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	This Reporting Period	Previous Reporting Period	Same Reporting Period Last Year	2017 YTD	Past Quarter	Quarterly Rolling 5 year mean	Ratio Past Quarter /5 year mean	Exceeds Quarterly rolling mean +2 SD by	Past Year	Yearly rolling 5 year mean	Ratio Past year /5 year mean	Exceeds Yearly rolling mean +2 SD by
<b>Vaccine preventable diseases</b>																				
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	1.0	1.0	-	7	2.6	2.7	-
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	13	4	3.6	1.1	-	14	17.8	0.8	-
Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	20	390	12	417	218	21	167	137	1,382	1,866	1,612	235,279	91,742	23,143.8	4.0	42,207.9	237,710	65,957.4	3.6	#####
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	84	21	50.0	0.4	-	98	174.6	0.6	-
Mumps	0	7	2	27	1	0	0	0	37	37	8	728	208	105.6	2.0	-	762	404.0	1.9	-
Pertussis	3	168	9	46	57	0	80	64	427	496	993	11,556	2,991	5,351.2	0.6	-	13,141	18,619.6	0.7	-
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)	0	14	2	8	10	4	23	7	68	85	70	1,965	658	438.6	1.5	127.6	2,067	1,619.8	1.3	179.2
Poliovirus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Rotavirus	NN	72	0	69	78	13	NN	15	NN	NN	NN	6,505	2,905	N/A	N/A	806.5	6,755	N/A	N/A	2,447.1
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	4.4	0.2	-	12	22.4	0.5	-
Rubella congenital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0.0	-	0	0.8	0.0	-
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1.6	0.0	-	4	4.4	0.9	-
Varicella zoster (chickenpox)	11	NN	3	4	16	3	28	26	91	123	207	2,774	826	687.4	1.2	-	3,078	2,320.6	1.3	6.0
Varicella zoster (shingles)	16	NN	13	1	79	10	48	57	224	297	344	7,812	2,059	1,480.0	1.4	-	8,498	5,679.4	1.5	573.4
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	8	NN	0	328	53	12	279	77	757	600	668	16,133	4,338	3,189.6	1.4	91.6	17,295	12,088.2	1.4	737.2
<b>Vectorborne diseases</b>																				
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	5	1	9	0	0	1	0	16	16	12	416	97	274.8	0.4	-	441	1,551.6	0.3	-
Chikungunya virus infection	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	6	4	11	92	31	24.0	1.3	-	103	95.8	1.1	-
Dengue virus infection	0	15	0	5	1	1	0	5	27	21	52	984	169	266.6	0.6	-	1,088	1,808.8	0.6	-
Flavivirus infection (unspecified)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	15	1	6.4	0.2	-	20	32.8	0.6	-
Japanese encephalitis virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.6	0.0	-	1	1.8	0.6	-
Malaria	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	6	8	8	334	71	76.6	0.9	-	360	328.2	1.1	-
Murray Valley encephalitis virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.8	0.0	-
Ross River virus infection	0	19	8	43	3	0	7	29	109	77	93	7,258	571	794.0	0.7	-	7,670	5,408.0	1.4	-
West Nile/Kunjin virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0.4	2.5	-	6	1.0	6.0	3.6
<b>Zoonoses</b>																				
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Australian bat lyssavirus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.2	0.0	-
Brucellosis	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	18	5	5.4	0.9	-	20	19.6	1.0	-
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	129	18	14.0	1.3	-	137	99.0	1.4	-
Lyssavirus infection (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
Ornithosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	17	4	15.8	0.3	-	18	41.6	0.4	-
Q fever	0	5	0	6	4	1	0	0	16	10	27	432	79	125.2	0.6	-	480	491.4	1.0	-
Tularaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	-	0	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Other bacterial infections</b>																				
Legionellosis	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	9	28	11	355	97	110.6	0.9	-	384	411.8	0.9	-
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	7	3	3.8	0.8	-	8	13.0	0.6	-
Meningococcal disease (invasive)	0	2	1	1	0	1	4	2	11	17	3	362	148	56.4	2.6	61.6	384	191.0	2.0	125.6
Tuberculosis	0	10	0	4	0	0	9	7	30	52	49	1,241	347	355.8	1.0	-	1,377	1,303.8	1.1	-
	174	2,420	211	2,827	1,005	153	1,580	1,290	9,413	9,929	11,569	465,631	147,823				487,062			

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