

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Communicable diseases notified August 2009

Disease name	Aug 08	Aug-09	YTD	Disease name	Aug-08	Aug-09	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	60	73	365	Mumps	1	0	6
Chemical poisoning from the environment	0	1	1	Murine Typhus	2	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	14	5	27	Non Seasonal influenza	0	24	175
Dengue fever	0	1	5	Paratyphoid fever	0	1	2
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	0	0	1	Pertussis	6	22	113
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	3	18	Poliomyelitis	0	0	1
Giardiasis	7	10	108	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	1	13
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	1	Rickettsial	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	1	2	Salmonellosis	8	8	77
Hepatitis C	1	0	0	Shigellosis	0	2	6
Invasive pneumococcal disease	0	5	60	Tetanus	0	0	1
Lead absorption	2	0	19	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	3	0	13
Legionellosis	0	0	1	Tuberculosis disease - new case	4	3	13
Leptospirosis	0	0	6	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Malaria	0	1	3	Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	1	Typhoid fever	0	0	1
Meningococcal disease	3	1	5	VTEC/STEC infection	3	5	22
				Yersiniosis	0	0	17

Hepatitis B vaccine stock

We have been informed that GSK and MSD do not currently have stocks of the Hepatitis B vaccine for purchase, occupational risk or travel. There is an arrangement with ESR for the moment to distribute their stock of HBvaxPRO (MSD) to travel doctors and those giving occupational risk Hepatitis B vaccines, e.g. university student health centres whose nursing students need Hepatitis B before starting clinical placements.

The Ministry of Health will invoice practices who order Hepatitis B vaccines from ESR separately to the vaccine delivery. ESR advised that GSK is expecting Hepatitis B vaccines in at the end of September/early October 2009. If you need to order the ESR Hepatitis B vaccine, please contact:

Dr Sarah Coddington-Lawson
 Scientist, National Vaccine Store
 Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd
 Phone: +64 4 914 0727 (DDI)
 Cellphone: +64 21 2672723

Cholera outbreak in Papua New Guinea

A public health emergency has been declared in Papua New Guinea (PNG). An outbreak of *Vibrio cholerae* 01 El Tor serogroup Ogawa (cholera) which has been associated with symptomatic illness in 243 people, and 18 deaths have been detected in PNG.

The outbreak commenced on 22 July 2009 in a coastal village of the Morobe Province before spreading to neighbouring villages.

Cases have also been identified among people living in squatter settlements near the city of Lae. The first cases were reported in a very remote area where access by health workers was difficult. The pathogen was first isolated from samples collected during the outbreak investigation in the coastal villages and has since been isolated from 14 samples collected from 53 people presenting at the provincial hospital in Lae. The National Department of Health and WHO have commenced epidemiologic investigations, and

other prevention and control activities, including active surveillance via VHF radio to identify further transmission and pre-positioning of supplies, are ongoing.

Cholera is a diarrhoeal disease caused by a bacterial infection and can result in severe dehydration and possible death. There are vaccines available, however these do not provide 100 per cent cover. Travellers are advised to rigorously follow basic hygiene precautions, which include washing hands frequently with soap and water, especially before eating or handling food; avoiding eating raw food and drinking only water that has been boiled or treated with chlorine. For more information on cholera, see the [World Health Organisation website](http://www.who.int), the [Papua New Guinea Travel Advisory](http://www.papua.govt.nz) website or www.safetravel.govt.nz

Sources: MoH circular and safe travel website

Perinatal Listeria cases

We have had a couple of cases of listeria notified recently. There were no links between the cases regarding risk factors. However, both mums had eaten many products that were high risk. Just a reminder in particular to those having second and later children that they should be made aware of the risk from certain foods and food practices of listeria and provide them with appropriate educational material.

Measles

We have yet to have any confirmed cases of measles in Waikato. However, there are still cases being seen in Auckland and Christchurch. All those under the age of 20 are being encouraged to check their MMR status and if in doubt to visit their GP for vaccination. Children from the age of 12 months can have an MMR vaccine.

Please see the IMAC website for a fact sheet on measles: www.imac.org.nz.

Pertussis

Cases of pertussis are slowly increasing as suggested earlier in the year. Please remember that if a case has been coughing for greater than three weeks, antibiotics should not be prescribed, as the person is no longer infectious. If they present with less than a three-week history of cough, prescribe antibiotics. If the case is a health care worker, works with small children or attends early childcare or school, exclude them until they have had five days of their antibiotic course.

Pandemic influenza update

Indicators of pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 activity signal that, although the virus is still present throughout New Zealand, its activity continues to decline (figure below).

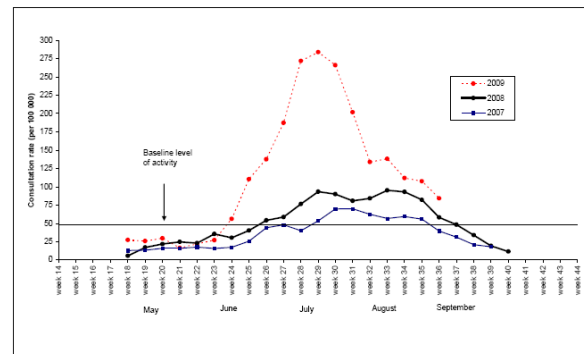
In Waikato, we have had only one notification of a positive H1N1 case in the last two weeks.

Nationally as at 12noon, 11 September 2009, there has been 3151 cumulative case notified; 826 cumulative hospitalisations (reported by DHBs), two current hospitalisations, and 17 deaths due to pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

The crude incidence rate for all reported cases is 75.4 per 100,000 (75.1 per 100,000 last week).

The crude incidence rate for all hospitalised cases is 24.5 per 100,000 (23.0 per 100,000 last week).

Figure: ESR Sentinel surveillance of GP consultations for ILI by week during 2007, 2008 and 2009. Reporting to week 36 for 2009 (which ended at 12am, Tuesday 8 September 2009).



Source: ESR and the NHCC for New Zealand.

Dell Hood -- Anita Bell -- Felicity Dumble
Medical officers of health/public health medicine specialists

MOoH after hours 021 359 650

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard and ask for the on-call MOoH.

During office hours, please call:

Population Health 07 838 2569

Email:

bellan@waikatodhb.govt.nz

dumblef@waikatodhb.govt.nz

hoodd@waikatodhb.govt.nz

Fax number

07 838 2382

Notifications

07 838 2569 ext 2065

Notifications from outside Hamilton **0800 800 977**

(in office hours)

Health protection officer (after hours) 021 999 521

After hours help

07 839 8899