

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Communicable diseases notified September 2009

Disease name	Sep-08	Sep-09	YTD	Disease name	Sep-08	Sep-09	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	64	58	424	Mumps	1	0	6
Chemical poisoning from the environment	0	0	1	Murine Typhus	2	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	38	39	66	Non Seasonal influenza	0	1	176
Dengue fever	0	0	5	Paratyphoid fever	0	0	2
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	0	0	1	Pertussis	4	27	140
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	2	20	Poliomyelitis	0	0	1
Giardiasis	13	13	121	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	2	15
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	1	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	1	1	1
Hazardous substances injury	3	0	0	Rickettsial	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	2	Salmonellosis	16	5	82
Invasive pneumococcal disease	0	6	67	Shigellosis	0	0	6
Lead absorption	1	2	21	Tetanus	0	0	1
Legionellosis	1	0	1	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	1	0	13
Leptospirosis	2	2	8	Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	1	13
Listeriosis	1	3	3	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Listeriosis – Perinatal	0	1	1	Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	2	0	1
Malaria	0	0	3	Typhoid fever	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	1	VTEC/STEC infection	1	1	23
Meningococcal disease	0	2	7	Yersiniosis	3	4	21

Change to Mantoux requirements before BCG vaccination and new resources (recent Ministry letter: 18 October 2009)

The age cut-off for pre-vaccination Mantoux has been changed from greater than 12 weeks to greater than six months in children with no identifiable risk factors.

The change was made nationally after a review of the available literature and local data. The Ministry has developed new resources with information about BCG vaccination.

1. A resource for lead maternity carers and other health professionals about TB and which children should be offered BCG vaccination (HE 2204)

2. Resources for parents:

- Information on TB and BCG (HE 2205)
- If a child has had the BCG, information on how to care for the site (HE 2206).

These are translated in to a variety of languages. Please see www.healthed.govt.nz

Listeria

Waikato has recently investigated four cases of perinatal listeria notified within three weeks of each other.

Regrettably, one infant died after being delivered at 20 weeks gestation, one infant was delivered at

37 weeks and survived, and one infant presented with bloody diarrhoea in their first week of life and survived.

The remaining perinatal case was a mother who presented with symptoms at 33 weeks gestation. The infection did not result in either pre-term delivery or intrauterine death.

Initial investigations did not identify any potential sources that linked all four cases.

All had eaten foods, which were potentially high risk.

After further PFGE typing it was identified that two of the cases had an indistinguishable profile, the other two had separate profiles; one similar to a recent Auckland case.

These are being investigated to look for potential links. Further investigation of the two indistinguishable cases identified several potential links but on further investigation, these were ruled out. The investigations are still on going.

Please remind all pregnant women, in particular those on the second or subsequent pregnancies, of the health risks associated with listeria, and provide information regarding safe and risk foods.

Pertussis

We are continuing to see an increase in pertussis infection, which is possibly signalling the start of an

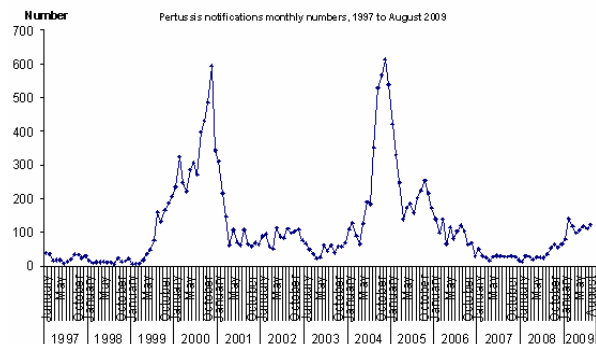
epidemic that tends to happen every three to four years (Figure).

In New Zealand, there have been 876 cases; more than four times the number notified in the same period last year.

In the Waikato, we have seen to the end of 140 cases to the end of September compared with 45 in the same period last year.

Please ensure all individuals are up-to-date with vaccination. A recent letter was sent to all DHB chief executives regarding the increase, asking them to ensure all front line staff are immunised, particularly those in neonatal and paediatric wards. This is to prevent the disease being passed from adults to children.

Infants and babies are at the highest risk of serious complications from pertussis. Boosterix is available free to all DHB staff. Please contact Health and Safety for further information.



Antibiotics are not indicated to prevent transmission if a cough has been present for greater than three weeks.

Antibiotics are used in the first three weeks to prevent transmission and only minimise symptoms if given with the first few days of illness.

Vaccine composition for next season's influenza vaccine

The WHO has recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2010 Southern hemisphere influenza season.

Hence, the swine flu vaccine will be a part of the influenza vaccine for the 2010 season:

- A/ California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Pandemic update

The WHO has released a new update (Update 68-2 October 2009) of pandemic influenza (H1N1) 09. Key points for the global situation include:

* In North America, transmission of influenza is increasing and geographically dispersed.

* For the past two weeks, Mexico has reported a high intensity of respiratory illness. Large increases in cases have been reported in the north and northwest regions of the country.

* Rates of ILI continue to be above baseline levels in several countries in Europe and Central and

Western Asia, and an additional 10 countries have reported geographically localized influenza spread. However, overall influenza transmission remains low in this part of the world.

* Influenza activity continues to increase in Japan. It has been above the seasonal epidemic threshold since week 33.

* The trends of respiratory illness in the tropical regions of the Americas and Asia are varied. Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela, and some Southeast Asian nations have reported a declining trend while Columbia, Cuba, parts of India and Cambodia have reported an increasing trend.

* Influenza transmission has returned to baseline, or has declined substantially in the temperate regions of the southern hemisphere (New Zealand).

Recent dog death at Tapu beach-Coromandel

A dog that recently died after visiting Coromandel's Tapu Beach, has tested positive for Tetrodotoxin (TTX) – the same toxin found in dogs and sea slugs recently on Auckland beaches.

The following precautions are recommended when visiting a beach:

- children and pets must be closely supervised at all times
- children and pets should not eat things found on the beach
- parents need to be aware of where their children are swimming or playing and what they are handling
- people should take care not to touch any sea life (dead or alive) found on the beach
- sea slugs on any beach must be avoided.

Any person who becomes seriously unwell after going to the beach should see their GP or go to a medical centre. For more information, visit www.arphs.govt.nz

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 outside Hamilton **0800 800 977**

(in office hours)

Health protection officer (after hours) 021 999 521

After hours help

07 839 8899