Waikato District Health Board

September 2010

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Communicable diseases notified September 2010

Disease name	Sep-09	Sep-10	YTD	Disease name	Sep-09	Sep-10	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	57	96	484	Murine Typhus	0	0	7
Chemical poisoning from the environment	0	0	0	Non Seasonal influenza A (H1N1)	1	36	262
Cryptosporidiosis	39	58	107	Paralytic shellfish poisoning	0	0	2
Dengue fever	0	0	5	Paratyphoid fever	0	0	1
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	2	1	18	Pertussis	27	2	71
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	0	5	5	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Giardiasis	13	8	134	Q fever	0	0	1
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	3	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	13
Hepatitis A	0	1	4	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	2	0	3
Hepatitis B	0	0	1	Ross River virus infection	0	0	1
Hepatitis NOS	0	1	1	Salmonellosis	5	9	68
Invasive pneumococcal disease	6	11	39	Shigellosis	0	1	11
Lead absorption	2	1	14	Tetanus	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	1	3	Toxic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0	2
Leptospirosis	1	1	14	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	1	3	14
Listeriosis	0	0	1	Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	3	18
Listeriosis – Perinatal	4	0	0	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Malaria	0	0	1	Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	0	Typhoid fever	0	0	2
Meningococcal disease	2	0	4	VTEC/STEC infection	1	2	22
Mumps	0	0	1	Yersiniosis	4	4	16

Cryptosporidiosis-seasonal increase

There has been an increase in the number of notifications of Cryptosporidiosis during September. While this happens at this time every year, this year's increase is almost 50% compared with last year.

Common risk factors are living in a rural area and/or living on a farm, contact with farm animals – in particular calves – and drinking untreated water. Several small outbreaks have been observed generally associated with the same household. Several cases were also associated with drinking unpasteurised milk.

This year, Population Health has altered questionnaires to collect more information on drinking water including types of treatment, which allows better risk factor collection, and more preventative advice to be provided to cases and their families.

This information is mainly collected via environmental health officers in local territorial authorities.

Drinking unpasteurised milk

There has been a recent increase in the sale of unpasteurised milk in the community.

The general retail sale of raw drinking milk is not permitted in New Zealand. However under the Food Act 1981, an individual is allowed to purchase up to five litres from the farm gate, if they intend to drink it themselves or provide it to their family.

It is important to note that such milk must have been produced in accordance with an approved Risk Management Programme under the Animal Products Act 1999.

Everyone can get sick from drinking unpasteurised milk. Vulnerable groups such as the very young, the

elderly, pregnant women and the immune compromised are at greater risk of getting sick and the consequences for them can be more severe.

Outbreaks of food borne disease such as Salmonellosis, Campylobacteriosis and *E. coli* infection have been attributed to drinking raw milk.

It is very important that people drinking unpasteurised milk are fully aware of the risks of this product. There has been some local information on this issue circulated by Waikato DHB on the radio.

It appears that some private groups within communities have established networks that source raw milk in larger than permitted quantities.

Should anyone become aware of any groups or co-operatives involved in the sourcing of unpasteurised milk for drinking purposes, please refer this information to John Gibson, Compliance and Investigation Group of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (04) 920 2500 or contact the duty health protection officer at Population Health (see below).

Tutin in honey reminder

As you may remember, 22 people became ill; some seriously, from eating tutin contaminated comb honey from Whangamata during March 2008.

The neurotoxin tutin has been a known safety risk in honey for more than 100 years, but documented cases of illness from the toxin have been reported only infrequently over the years.

Since that poisoning event, the New Zealand Food Safety Authority has introduced a standard that sets maximum levels for tutin in honey sold for human consumption.

Provided all beekeepers comply with the standard – and take the necessary precautions to keep tutin at acceptable levels – we should see no repeat of the poisonings which occurred that March.

Even so, with the peak honey season fast approaching, we are reminding health professionals of the wide range of symptoms of tutin poisoning which include vomiting, giddiness, increased excitability, delirium, stupor, convulsions and coma.

Honey can become contaminated with the potentially lethal tutin neurotoxin when bees gather honeydew from the tutu plant. While the toxin mainly affect hives in the North Island and northern South Island, honey consumed in other parts of the country could have been produced in affected areas so you should always notify suspicious symptoms to Population Health, even just to rule out toxic honey. Ask the case to retain any of the honey they have eaten.

Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust

The Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust has provided information and delivered services for migrants and refugees in the city since 1999.

Starting as an interpreting service, it now has six other programmes running from the Waikato Migrant Resource Centre (Settlement Support, Computers in Homes, Get Reel Movies, Stepping Up to Study, Health Promotion, and Events); Von Tempksy St (Interpreting Service, Migrant Internship), and recently Caro Street (Settlement Support).

They also hold events and collaborative projects like the NZ Ethnic Soccer Festival, Indigo Festival, Emergent Art, and Homeworx. The trust is in the process of rebranding and has so far:

- revisited their vision, mission, goals and values
- shortened or simplified the name to HMS Trust
- changed their logo to better represent the organisation as well as the individuals and communities they work with
- rebranded Hamilton Interpreting Service to Decypher – Interpreting Translating
- installed a new PABX system for better communication and access across all sites
- changed email addresses to reflect HMS Trust

Main contact details are now:

HMST and Waikato Migrant Resource Centre reception P: (07) 853 2192 F: (07) 853 0469 E: info@hmstrust.org.nz or wmrc@hmstrust.org.nz
Interpreting Service P: (07) 853 0480 F: (07) 853 2194 E: decypher@hmstrust.org.nz
Please ask reception for contact details of the other programmes.
This information was provided by Jovi Abellanosa, the Director of the Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust.

Dell Hood -- Anita Bell -- Felicity Dumble:
Medical officers of health

MOoH after hours 021 359 650
If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH. During office hours, please call **Population Health (07) 838 2569**

Email: anita.bell@waikatodhb.health.nz
felicity.dumble@waikatodhb.health.nz
dell.hood@waikatodhb.health.nz
Notifications **07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020**
Notifications outside Hamilton **0800 800 977**
(In office hours)

Health protection officer (after hours) 021 999 521