

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NSW: JUNE 2000

TRENDS

Notifications of infectious diseases to the end of April 2000 were in line with seasonal expectations (Figure 7, Table 3). Notably, the late summer peak in **arbovirus disease** notifications (largely due to 247 Ross River virus infections, and 48 Barmah Forest virus infections in the three-month period to the end of April) was smaller than in most recent years.

The expected autumn peak in **legionnaires disease** has appeared with eight cases in NSW reported in April. No causal link has been identified for these cases, although cases are thought to increase in NSW as air-conditioning systems that use cooling towers are operated inconsistently as the weather cools down. This inconsistent use could result in an increased creation of aerosols (aerosolisation), allowing subsequent inhalation of any resident legionella bacteria. Building operators must ensure that cooling towers are properly cleaned and disinfected to minimise the risk that they will harbour these bacteria.

In April, the Victorian Department of Human Services reported a large outbreak of Legionnaires disease caused by *Legionella pneumophila* infections linked to visiting the recently opened **Melbourne Aquarium**. As of 11th May, 91 confirmed cases associated with the outbreak had been reported, including two deaths. Cases were aged between 23–89 years old, and reported visiting the Aquarium between 11–25 April.

The **urinary antigen test** for *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 has proven useful in establishing the diagnosis in many recent cases. Clinicians are encouraged to use this test in the management of suspected cases.

Cases of **meningococcal disease** can be expected to increase with the onset of winter. Clinicians are reminded of the importance of early treatment with intravenous

antibiotics for suspected cases, and notification of such cases to the local Public Health Unit. The Public Health Unit can then assist in the identification of contacts at risk, and institute preventive measures. The Public Health Unit can also advise on newly available diagnostic tests, including PCR and serological assays.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD VACCINATION SCHEDULE

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has endorsed the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule (ASVS) that commenced on 1st May 2000 (Table 2), which heralds the introduction of universal infant hepatitis B vaccination. Babies born prior to that date will remain on the previous NHMRC immunisation schedule.

The ASVS offers a choice of two 'paths' to incorporate two new combination vaccines. NSW Health has chosen to follow Path 1 of the ASVS, which will introduce the new combination vaccine, InfanrixHepB.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the new ASVS, all general practitioners will receive supporting information, including the new NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook, seventh edition, from the Commonwealth in May 2000. Additional copies may be obtained by phoning 1800 671 811. Hospitals, Community Health Centres and other service providers will receive their copies of the handbook from their local Public Health Unit.

Copies of the NSW Immunisation Schedule, a new vaccine order form, and a hepatitis B pamphlet have been widely distributed to service providers. The NSW Immunisation Schedule will also be available on the NSW Department of Health Web site. ☒

TABLE 2**NSW IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE 2000**

Babies born BEFORE 1 May

Babies born on or AFTER 1 May

AGE	ANTIGEN	VACCINE	AGE	ANTIGEN	VACCINE
2 months	DTPa Hib Polio	Infanrix HibTITER/PedvaxHIB* OPV	Birth (maternity units)	Hep B	H-B-Vax II
4 months	DTPa Hib Polio	Infanrix HibTITER/PedvaxHIB* OPV	2 months	DTPa-HepB Hib	InfanrixHepB PedvaxHIB Polio OPV
6 months	DTPa Hib Polio	Infanrix HibTITER OPV	4 months	DTPa-HepB Hib Polio	InfanrixHepB PedvaxHIB OPV
12 months	MMR Hib	Priorix PedvaxHIB*	6 months	DTPa-Hep B Polio	InfanrixHepB OPV
18 months	DTPa Hib	Infanrix HibTITER	12 months	MMR Hib	Priorix PedvaxHIB
4 years	DTPa MMR Polio	Infanrix Priorix OPV	18 months	DTPa	Infanrix
10 years 1 mths later 5 mths later	Hep B (1) Hep B (2) Hep B (3)	H-B-Vax II	4 years	DTPa MMR Polio	Infanrix Priorix OPV
15-19 years	ADT Polio	ADT OPV	15-19 years	ADT Polio	ADT OPV

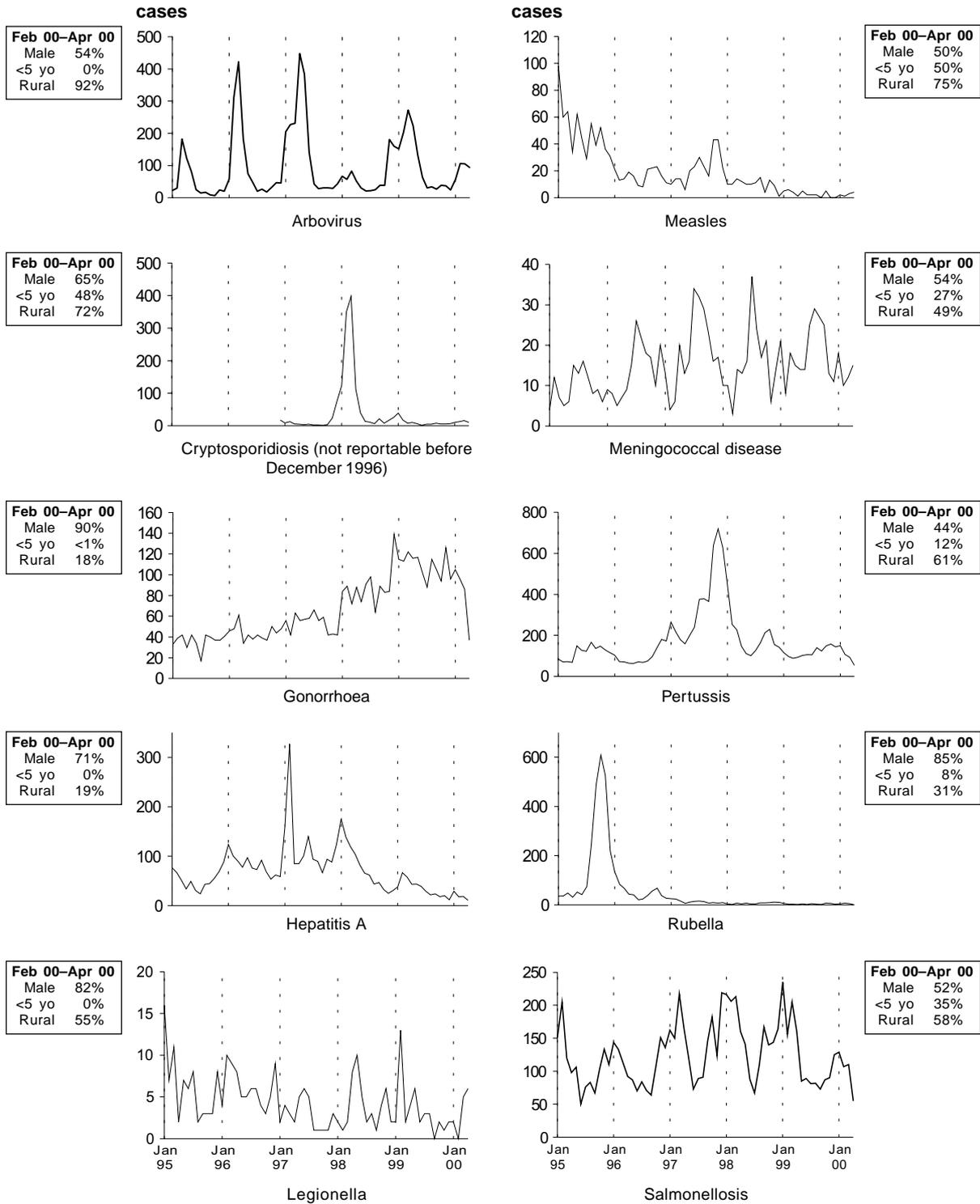
* Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children born before the 1st of May 2000 should continue to receive PedvaxHIB. All children born on or after that date should receive PedvaxHIB.

FIGURE 7

REPORTS OF SELECTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NSW, JANUARY 1995 TO APRIL 2000, BY MONTH OF ONSET

These are preliminary data: case counts in recent months may increase because of reporting delays

NSW population	
Male	50%
<5 yo	7%
Rural*	42%



* For definition, see *NSW Public Health Bulletin*, April 2000

TABLE 3

REPORTS OF NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS RECEIVED IN APRIL 2000 BY AREA HEALTH SERVICES

Condition	Area Health Service (2000)																	Total		
	CSA	NSA	WSA	WEN	SWS	CCA	HUN	ILL	SES	NRA	MNC	NEA	MAC	MWA	FWA	GMA	SA	for Apr †	To date †	
Blood-borne and sexually transmitted																				
AIDS	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	53	
HIV infection*	-	-	-	-Reported every two months						-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Hepatitis B - acute viral*	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	28	
Hepatitis B - other*	1	26	56	5	-	3	5	4	41	1	3	2	1	-	4	3	4	159	1,295	
Hepatitis C - acute viral*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	20	
Hepatitis C - other*	94	33	102	44	-	28	52	19	91	42	18	10	7	31	1	17	18	609	3,001	
Hepatitis D - unspecified*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hepatitis, acute viral (not otherwise specified)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chancroid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chlamydia (genital)*	-	11	20	9	-	1	13	21	42	13	9	7	5	2	4	2	2	162	856	
Gonorrhoea*	9	5	2	1	1	-	3	1	39	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	66	381	
Syphilis	15	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	18	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	41	187	
Vector-borne																				
Arboviral infection (BFV)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	13	67	
Arboviral infection (RRV)*	1	-	3	-	-	-	17	3	1	2	31	3	4	7	10	17	2	101	269	
Arboviral infection (Other)*	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	15	
Malaria*	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	9	52	
Zoonoses																				
Brucellosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Leptospirosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	
Q fever*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	39	
Respiratory and other																				
Blood lead level*	2	2	-	2	-	-	5	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	23	1	-	40	248	
Legionnaires' Longbeachae*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	
Legionnaires' Pneumophila*	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	
Legionnaires' (Other)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal infection (invasive)	2	2	2	1	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	17	58	
Mycobacterial tuberculosis	4	1	5	1	-	1	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	144	
Mycobacteria other than TB	6	8	-	1	1	5	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	27	107	
Vaccine-preventable																				
Adverse event after immunisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	
H.influenzae b infection (invasive)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	5	10	
Mumps*	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	
Pertussis	4	4	6	4	7	9	15	7	1	-	1	1	-	6	-	1	5	71	516	
Rubella*	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	39	
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Faecal-oral																				
Botulism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cholera*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cryptosporidiosis*	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	15	51	
Giardiasis*	1	13	8	3	-	5	6	-	8	14	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	72	351	
Food borne illness (not otherwise specified)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	
Gastroenteritis (in an institution)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	
Hepatitis A*	2	1	1	2	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	16	82	
Hepatitis E*	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	
Listeriosis*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	
Salmonellosis (not otherwise specified)*	-	11	-	1	-	4	6	4	10	11	3	6	1	2	1	6	2	70	444	
Typhoid and paratyphoid*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	
Verotoxin producing Ecoli*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

* lab-confirmed cases only

† includes cases with unknown postcode

CSA = Central Sydney Area
 NSA = Northern Sydney Area
 WSA = Western Sydney Area

WEN = Wentworth Area
 SWS = South Western Sydney Area
 CCA = Central Coast Area

HUN = Hunter Area
 ILL = Illawarra Area
 SES = South Eastern Sydney Area

NRA = Northern Rivers Area
 MNC = North Coast Area
 NEA = New England Area

MAC = Macquarie Area
 MWA = Mid Western Area
 FWA = Far West Area

GMA = Greater Murray Area
 SA = Southern Area