



Bug Bulletin

Communicable Diseases Summary

May 2011

Thank you to all doctors notifying communicable diseases to the Public Health Unit. The list of notifiable diseases for the Sydney West region is on the reverse side of this sheet.

Rotavirus vaccine and Intussusception

There has been a greater than 70% reduction in hospitalisations for acute gastroenteritis in children under 5 years of age since rotavirus vaccine was introduced on the National Immunisation Program in July 2007. Prior to this there were approximately 10 000 hospitalisations in Australia for rotavirus gastroenteritis in children under 5 years per annum.

Two large recent Australian studies have revealed a **possible increased risk of intussusception in the 7 days following the FIRST dose of rotavirus vaccination**. Studies are continuing to determine whether the increased risk continues beyond the first week post vaccination. It is not clear yet whether this represents an absolute increase in the incidence of intussusception, or is just a change in the timing of onset of illness. The current estimated annual incidence of intussusception in infants less than 12 months of age is 200 cases per year and if there is a true increase associated with rotavirus vaccination it would be no more than 6 additional cases in children under 12 months of age in Australia each year.

There may be a similar increased risk after the SECOND dose. These findings are still subject to confirmation with longer term follow up required.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommends that the use of rotavirus vaccine continue given the benefits of immunisation and the rarity of intussusception.

A history of intussusception is a contraindication for rotavirus vaccination. Rotarix® should not be given to children older than 14weeks (1st dose) and 24weeks (2nd dose). When administering the vaccine immunisation providers should advise parents about the rare risk of intussusception and alert them to look out for its symptoms and to seek medical review if concerned.

Fact sheets for parents and providers can be found on the Immunise Australia website at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/immunise-intussusception-parents>

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/immunise-intussusception-provider>

Pneumovax 23 ® Adverse Events

GPs and nurse immunisers are advised **not to administer a second or subsequent dose of any batch of the Pneumovax 23® vaccine to any patient**. This is pending an investigation by the TGA into the occurrence of a cluster of severe injection site reactions (ISR) reported by NSW Health in early March 2011. An increase in reports of adverse reactions to the vaccine, namely pain and swelling at the injection site has also been noted through analysis of adverse events reports from all States and Territories between 1st January and 14th April 2011.

The suspension of the second and third dose is in addition to the recall of batch N3336 on March 25 2011.

Given that many second doses of Pneumovax 23® are now currently due it is unclear whether these reactions are the expected and well known side-effects of the polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine; are associated with particular batches of the vaccine; or if they truly represent an emerging problem with the vaccine itself.

Please report any suspected adverse reactions to vaccines to the Public Health Unit. Further information about this issue can be found on the TGA website at:

<http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-medicine-pneumovax-110416.htm>

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After hours: telephone Westmead Hospital switch on 9845 5555 and page the Public Health Officer on-call



NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS FOR SYDNEY WEST, 2011

Condition	2010		2011												
	Mar	YTD	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Blood Borne Viruses															
Hepatitis B - Newly Acquired	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hepatitis B - Unspecified	78	210	53	67	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191
Hepatitis C - Newly Acquired	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hepatitis C - Unspecified	57	166	48	31	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
Hepatitis D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Diseases															
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis	7	23	3	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Giardiasis	39	102	19	44	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis A	-	12	5	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Hepatitis E	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Listeriosis	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rotavirus	9	31	12	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
STEC/VTEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonellosis	92	234	82	60	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	204
Shigellosis	-	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Typhoid	-	3	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Respiratory Diseases															
Influenza	12	41	25	29	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Legionellosis	4	9	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tuberculosis	4	34	2	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Sexually Transmissible															
Chlamydia	229	632	238	229	252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	719
Gonorrhoea	19	68	21	22	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
LGV	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Syphilis - >2 years or unk duration	5	12	2	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Syphilis - Infectious	3	7	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Vaccine Preventable Diseases															
Adverse Event Following	6	11	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Haemophilus influenzae type b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	1	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Meningococcal Disease	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mumps	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pertussis	55	207	201	186	207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	594
Pneumococcal Disease (Invasive)	3	7	2	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vector Borne Diseases															
Barmah Forest	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Chikungunya	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dengue	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malaria	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ross River	14	20	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Zoonoses															
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psittacosis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Q fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Conditions															
CJD (classic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
CJD (variant)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chlamydia - Congenital	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lead Poisoning	1	3	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis - Congenital	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Note: 2011 data is preliminary and subject to change