

# Hunter New England and Central Coast Public Health Units

## Communicable Diseases Report

### Nov 2017

Increased parechovirus infection in neonates  
HIV Awareness day and quiz  
Meningococcal disease update

#### Parechovirus infection in neonates:

- There has been an increase in infant parechovirus infections detected in NSW and locally
- Parechovirus is a relatively newly characterised virus, previously part of the enterovirus group, and outbreaks are now recognised to recur in two-yearly cycles in the summer months, mainly affecting infants in the first 3 months of life. Previous parechovirus outbreaks have occurred in NSW in 2013 and 2015.
- Infants with parechovirus infection may present with a septic picture or viral meningitis, early confirmation of parechovirus infection can avoid unnecessary prolonged antibiotics and investigations. Note that parechovirus may not be included in routine pathology testing or detected by all enterovirus PCR tests, hence clinicians should specifically request parechovirus testing.
- For more information refer to the [NSW Health factsheet](#)

#### World AIDS Day and the HIV Quick Quiz Challenge 2017:

[World AIDS Day](#) is held on 1 December each year. It raises awareness across the world and in the community about the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.

**Did you know...** around 64% of the HIV diagnoses in NSW are made in services other than sexual health clinics, which means that doctors and nurses working across the health system are seeing people with HIV who have not been diagnosed. HIV testing is easier than ever. Patient 'informed consent' is all that is needed. Pre-test counselling is no longer required and the [NSW HIV Support Program](#) offers individual assistance to health professionals at that critical time of making a diagnosis.

Recent treatment advances mean that people with HIV can enjoy significantly improved health outcomes and have near normal life expectancy. **The target is to end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020, and we need your help to get there. Test your knowledge about which of your patients should be screened for HIV.**

**Can you score 100%? There are just five questions to answer.**

**Take the 2 minute HIV testing Quick Quiz Challenge**

<http://selectsurvey.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mIM3854M>

**Hold down Ctrl and click on the link above**

- Click [here](#) for more information and tools for decision-making about HIV testing.
- NSW Health staff can access 'Normalise HIV Testing' training through [HETI Online](#).

## Immunisation

**Infectious Meningococcal Disease** – There have been 354 meningococcal notifications reported across Australia so far this year (91 from NSW, 16 from HNE and 1 from CC). Changing epidemiology shows an [increase in serogroups W](#) and Y: 134 B, 12 C, 124 W, 65Y. This pattern is reflected across HNE (8B, 6W and 1C) and CC (1C). The case fatality rate for W remains approximately twice that for B with 13 W deaths and 6 from serogroup B. Vaccination advice can be found on the [NCIRS website](#).

**Updated Zostavax contraindications** - The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) is constantly being updated with the on-line version providing the latest and most accurate information. There have been changes to the [list of contraindications for the herpes zoster vaccine, Zostavax](#).

## Communicable disease notifications:

**Table 1.** Summary of selected notifiable conditions (YTD\* by year), 2013 – 14 Nov 2017

	Hunter New England (YTD* by year)					Central Coast (YTD* by year)				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	127	89	120	44	127	38	60	26	10	28
<b>Gonorrhoea</b>	334	346	231	236	183	181	115	82	63	87
<b>Syphilis</b>	44	57	52	33	33	11	33	33	34	28
<b>Chlamydial Infection</b>	2522	2623	2502	2477	2616	909	940	809	924	750
<b>Influenza</b>	11888	3174	2606	2797	431	4102	1062	729	373	77
<b>Meningococcal Disease</b>	16	7	7	9	11	1	4	2	3	2
<b>Pertussis</b>	605	1119	929	355	226	82	355	447	19	33
<b>Ross River Virus</b>	349	90	356	177	112	64	11	71	24	17
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	349	362	367	407	351	200	149	114	151	111

\*YTD, Year to date for each year (reporting delays may result in changes to 2017 figures)

### **Population Health contact details (note, 1300 066 055 will find your local PHU)**

Hunter New England: Wallsend Office 4924 6477 - Tamworth Office 6764 8000

Central Coast Public Health Unit: Gosford Office 4320 9730

This [Communicable Disease Report](#) and previous editions are available on the internet

Public Health contact [HNELHD-PHENquiries@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-PHENquiries@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)