

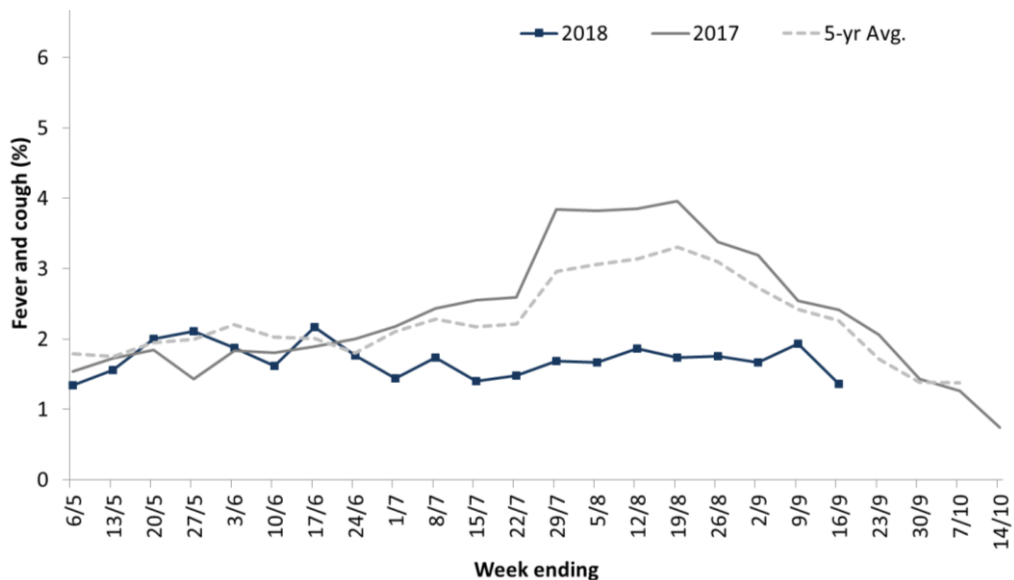
Hunter New England and Central Coast Public Health Units Communicable Diseases Report September 2018

Influenza
Travel health resources
Updated online Immunisation Handbook
Sexual Health
Global Updates

Influenza:

- Low levels of influenza like illness persist in Hunter New England and Central Coast LHDs (Fig 1)
- Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 is the most common strain followed by Influenza B Yamagata
- Weekly influenza updates are available on the [NSW Health](#) and [Flutracking](#) websites.

Figure 1. Flutracking: influenza-like illness symptoms reported in HNECC LHDs, 6 May – 16 Sep, 2018



Travel health resources: Current travel health advice for clinicians and travellers

- The Commonwealth’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s: [Smart Traveller](#)
- [WHO – International Travel and Health](#); current advice, including disease distribution maps and information about yellow fever vaccination requirements.
- [CDC – Travellers’ Health](#); advice for both travellers and clinicians in a simple online database, including a list of [current travel health notices](#).

The online Immunisation Handbook has just been upgraded with the latest information, links and search functionality. Save the link on your desktop.

We suggest you dispose of paper copies of the Handbook and only use the [on-line version](#) which provides the latest and updated information

The online Handbook retains the familiar structure of the book version with an improved recommendations section to aid clinicians in locating the appropriate vaccine for their patients’ situation.

Example: *What is the age recommendation for the second dose of Rotarix?*

From the [immunization handbook online](#) *Diseases Tab* select *Rotavirus* from the list, then *Recommendations/ Infant aged < 6 months* yielding the following information...

Rotarix (human monovalent rotavirus vaccine)
The vaccination course of Rotarix is 2 doses, at 2 and 4 months of age:

- Give the 1st dose between 6 and 14 weeks of age — that is, before turning 15 weeks old.
- Give the 2nd dose by 24 weeks of age — that is, before turning 25 weeks old.
- Ensure that the interval between the 2 doses is at least 4 weeks.

Sexual health: The NSW Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2017 [Annual Data Report](#) has now been published with the following findings:

- In 2017 the number of gonorrhoea notifications rose markedly compared to 2016 with increased reports from women, suggesting greater involvement amongst heterosexuals
- There has also been a continued increase in the number of syphilis and chlamydia notifications. Available data suggests this is likely due to increased and targeted testing
- The NSW 2017 survey data suggest a decline in condom use in gay and bisexual men with casual sexual contacts. Initiatives to promote condom use continue to be a priority.

Global updates

Polio in Papua New Guinea: 12 confirmed cases of polio have been reported in PNG since 12 September. The circulating strain is the vaccine derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1). The PNG National Department of Health announced the expansion of its Polio Vaccination Campaign, while the WHO recommends that all travellers to affected areas be fully vaccinated against polio.

Communicable disease notifications

Table 1. Summary of selected notifiable conditions (YTD* by year), 2014 – 11 Sep 2018

Condition	Hunter New England# (YTD* by year)					Central Coast# (YTD* by year)				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Cryptosporidiosis	68	116	74	91	38	30	34	58	21	9
Gonorrhoea	402	275	288	186	203	165	129	83	68	50
Syphilis	55	44	41	43	27	4	24	26	28	31
Chlamydial Infection	2278	2014	2159	1950	2041	750	715	751	647	760
Influenza	1099	9236	2189	2007	2358	204	3097	806	593	343
Meningococcal Inf'n	6	9	6	3	6	2	1	3	2	2
Pertussis	588	554	835	608	230	57	71	308	215	14
Ross River Virus	136	315	81	313	149	10	59	10	68	16
Salmonellosis	265	295	306	303	355	115	117	119	96	127

*YTD, Year to date for each year (reporting delays may result in changes to 2018 figures)

Hunter New England population: 920,000 #Central Coast population: 350,000

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