

## AUSTRALIA

## Communicable

## Diseases

## Intelligence

Virus reports this period: Total = 657

Interesting cases include:

Hepatitis B antigen: Fairfield Hospital reports include 29 cases involving intravenous drug users, one orderly with multiple accidental finger pricks, and 2 suspected homosexuals.

Coxsackie B4: Isolated from CSF of a female neonate with paralysis and from a male neonate with congenital abnormalities - query intrauterine infection. (Perth)

Echo 11 in Western Australia (submitted by the staff of the State Health Laboratory Services and the Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth)

An outbreak of Echovirus associated illness starting in mid-January is reported from Western Australia.

So far 28 cases have been recorded at the Princess Margaret Children's Hospital. They have come from a wide area, ranging from 350 km south of Perth, 300 km east and 2,300 km north; 22 were from the metropolitan area.

Four of the five children under a month old were seriously ill. One presented with apnoeic attacks at 3 weeks. Another had marked ascites and oedema at birth and is believed to have had intra-uterine infection. The third had suspected sepsis. This last baby died showing necrosis of the liver and kidneys at necropsy. Echo 11 was isolated from all pre- and post-mortem specimens. There has been one further death.

Four of the eight patients aged 1 month to 1 year had viral meningitis and one child aged 18 months needed intubation and ICU nursing. Another 12 year old had severe meningoencephalitis from which he has not yet (at 8 weeks) recovered.

A review of the available literature has revealed 59 reported cases of Echovirus 11 infection in children, mostly neonates and infants (10 of these were in Melbourne in 1972). All the cases have occurred in summer-autumn and 25 of them were associated with outbreaks in hospital neonatal units. Illness in adults seems

rare and only 1 isolate from an adult over this period has been found.

A feature of patients with viral meningitis (whose CSF findings are known) is the common occurrence of high leucocyte counts with preponderance of neutrophils. Typing of some isolates is proving difficult and these are thought to be prime strains of Echovirus 11.

Editor's comment: During 1978, 31 Echovirus type 11 infections were reported from all contributing laboratories, with 7 cases involving meningitis. Apart from January 1978 in which 10 cases were reported, there was no significant variation in incidence in the remaining months.

The age breakdown of 30 of the cases in 1978 is: <1yr. 9 cases; 1-4yrs. 7 cases; 5-14yrs. 7 cases; 15-24yrs. 6 cases; 25-59yrs. 1 case

Influenza isolations in Melbourne in 1979 (compiled from reports by L. Irving, Fairfield Hospital, and M. Evered, CSL, both in Melbourne)

The onset of the influenza season may have been heralded in the last weeks of April with the isolation at Fairfield Hospital of 2 strains of influenza A and one of influenza B.

Since February, 14(H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>) viruses have been isolated at CSL. The first five differed from A/USSR/90/77 and the last nine were identical to this strain. All viruses have been isolated from young people, mainly from the Melbourne University, who have presented with typical influenza symptoms.

Two patients admitted to Fairfield Hospital in mid-April, both with headache and fever, proved to have influenza. Influenza A virus, most like strains reported from Brazil, was isolated from nose and throat swabs of both patients, a 24-year old female and an 11-year old male. Influenza A/Brazil/11/78 (H1 N1) which was circulating in North America during their recent winter, is only slightly different from Influenza A/USSR/90/77 (H1 N1), the strain present in Melbourne last year.

The patient with influenza B was a nurse with upper respiratory tract symptoms.

## Cholera in Nauru

WHO has advised that 88 bacteriologically confirmed cases of cholera have been detected in Nauru since February 1979. In addition, a further 14 carriers have been bacteriologically confirmed. The communique did not give the specific serotype of the organism involved.

The first confirmed case of cholera in Nauru occurred in November 1978 in an 8 year old girl. The organism responsible was Vibrio cholerae Eltor serotype ogawa, and within one month a further 7 cases were detected. The source of infection was never established, but extensive preventive measures were recommended. No information is available on the source of the current outbreak or on the extent of which the preventive measures had been implemented at the time.

The Weekly Epidemiological Record (27 April 1979) reports that during 1978, 74,632 cases of cholera were notified in 40 countries. This compared with 58,087 cases in 1977 and 66,020 in 1976, but the 1978 figure is significant in that 8 new countries were infected.

This is the highest number of new countries involved since 1970-1971, and the actual number of cases is the highest since the beginning of the present pandemic in 1961.

## Salmonella reporting

### (1) Backlog of reports

The provisional figures for human salmonella infections in March and April reported in previous issues of the CDI do not reflect the true incidence of this disease. A large increase in the number of isolates received by the typing laboratories compared with the same period last year, has led to a backlog in reporting.

The major increase in isolations has occurred in W.A. During March, 958 isolates were made by the State Health Laboratory Services with a further 1098 between 1 and 21 April; of these S. muenchen accounted for 743 and 672 isolates respectively, while S. typhimurium, S. saint-paul, S. anatum, S. chester and S. adelaide were the most common of the remaining serotypes. These isolations are additional to the provisional figures previously reported, which did not include isolations from W.A.

### (2) New arrangements for reporting

Within the next few weeks, all clinical and public, health laboratories (except those in Victoria) should receive a supply of revised salmonella reporting forms. The revision has been undertaken to accommodate the introduction of computer recording in Canberra, and this will commence immediately. All

isolates reported to the CDI since 1 January 1979 will also be fed into the computer so that ultimately data for the whole of 1979 will be available for study.

The new system has been designed to be compatible with that already in operation in Victoria through the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit at the University of Melbourne. Laboratories in Victoria should continue to comply with the reporting requirement of the M.D.U., which will forward relevant data to Canberra for collation.

#### Amendment to Bulletin 79/7

As a result of an editorial oversight the heading was omitted from the third paragraph of International Notes, on page 3. The paragraph referred to leprosy.

#### Q. fever in Victoria

Interim advice has been received of an outbreak of Q. fever in Victoria. This involved abattoir workers involved in slaughtering goats, and the organism Coxiella burneti has been identified serologically in one worker. We hope to provide further details later.

During 1978, 625 identifications of Coxiella burneti were reported to the CDI, 378 being from Queensland and 185 from N.S.W. Only 11 of the 625 cases were under 15 years of age. So far this year, 178 cases have been reported.

Coxiella burneti is a rickettsia commonly transmitted from the natural reservoir (e.g. cattle, sheep and goats) by airborne dissemination in dust, or by droplets of the infected animal's body fluids. Transmission can occur by direct contact with infected animals or other contaminated materials (e.g. wool, straw), or by raw milk from infected cows or goats. (Ref.: Benenson A (Ed) Control of Communicable Diseases in Man 12th Edition, APNA 1975)



AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 19.4.79 - 2.5.79

BULLETIN NUMBER 79/79

VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS FROM CONTRIBUTING LABORATORIES-CONTINUED

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	ICPML (NSW)/ WVH (ACT)	RABC (NSW)	PRH/ POW (NSW)	FAIR- FIELD (VIC)	RCH (VIC)	IMVS (SA)	STATE LAB (QLD)	STATE LAB (WA)	Total
1024 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 24.....				1					1
1025 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 25.....						1			1
1030 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 30.....	4		2	4		1		1	12
1033 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 33.....			1						1
1099 ECHOVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....					1				1
1101 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 1.....					3	1			4
1102 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 2.....					2				2
1103 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 3.....				1	2				3
1200 MUMPS VIRUS.....			1	1			2	1	5
1300 HERPES VIRUS GROUP-NOT TYPED.....						1			1
1301 HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	9	1	1	1	4		19	18	53
1303 VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS.....	3		3						6
1306 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 1.....	1	1		17		8			27
1307 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 2.....	39			17		6			62
1399 HERPES VIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	2				2				4
1401 COXIELLA BURNETI.....	2			1		2	8		13
1502 PICORNA VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....								22	22
1521 MEASLES VIRUS.....	1				1		2		4
1522 RUBELLA VIRUS.....			1			1	1	9	12
1530 HEPATITIS A VIRUS.....								1	1
1532 HEPATITIS B ANTIGEN.....	2		4	30		3	8	9	56
1541 CHLAMYDIA A - TRIC TYPE.....								21	21
1543 CHLAMYDIA A - LGV TYPE.....			1						1
1553 LCM - LYMPHOCYTIC CHORIOMENINGITIS VIRUS.....							1		1
1556 CMV - CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.....	10		11	11	1	2		1	36
1564 ROTAVIRUS.....	2			1		1			4
1571 ENTEROVIRUS TYPE 71 (BRCH).....				3					3
1599 ENTEROVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....		1			13	3	3		20
ROSS RIVER VIRUS.....						2	47	4	53
Total.....	107	10	40	119	61	79	118	129	663

AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 19.4.79 - 2.5.79 BULLETIN NUMBER 79/79  
 VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS CATEGORISED INTO SOURCE SPECIMENS

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	FA	QL	NA	CS	SK	BY	OR	BR	GE	OT	TOTAL
0100 ADENOVIRUS NOT TYPED.....	5	7	4				1				17
0102 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 2.....			2								2
0103 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 3.....	1		1			3					5
0105 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 5.....	1										1
0107 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 7.....	2										2
0199 ADENOVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	2		5			2					9
0201 INFLUENZA A VIRUS.....		3	2								5
0203 INFLUENZA B VIRUS.....		3	1								4
0301 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 1.....		2	35					1		1	39
0302 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 2.....		3	10								13
0303 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 3.....		1	10							2	13
0399 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPING PENDING.....			8								8
0400 RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RS)....		1	4								5
0500 RHINOVIRUS (ALL TYPES).....			7								7
0600 MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE.....		37									37
0700 ORNITHOSIS-PSITTACOSIS.....		8									8
0809 COXSACKIEVIRUS A9.....			1			1					2
0901 COXSACKIEVIRUS B1.....	1										1
0903 COXSACKIEVIRUS B3.....	2	1	4	2			1				10
0904 COXSACKIEVIRUS B4.....	1		2	2							5
0906 COXSACKIEVIRUS B6.....	1		1								2
1003 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 3.....	1		1	1							3
1006 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 6.....	2										2
1007 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 7.....	1		1	1							3
1011 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 11.....	7		9	4						1	21
1013 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 13.....	1										1
1014 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 14.....				2							2
1015 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 15.....			1								1
1018 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 18.....			1	1							2
1020 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 20.....	2										2
1022 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 22.....	4		2							1	7
1024 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 24.....			1								1
1030 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 30.....	3		3	6							12

AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 19.4.79 - 2.5.79 BULLETIN NUMBER 19/9  
 VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS CATEGORISED INTO SOURCE SPECIMENS-CONTINUED

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	FA	BL	NA	CS	SK	BY	QR	SR	GE	OT	TOTAL
1033 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 33.....	1										1
1099 ECHOVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....			1								1
1101 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 1.....	3		1								4
1102 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 2.....	1		1								2
1103 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 3.....	1		1				1				3
1200 MUMPS VIRUS.....		3		2							5
1300 HERPES VIRUS GROUP-NOT TYPED.....		1									1
1301 HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....		8	7		18				22		55
1303 VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS.....		6									6
1306 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 1.....			7		15				5	1	28
1307 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 2.....					3	2			58		63
1399 HERPES VIRUS TYPING PENDING.....			3		1						4
1401 COXIELLA BURNETI.....		13									13
1502 PICORNA VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	8		10	1			1			2	22
1521 MEASLES VIRUS.....		2	1	1							4
1522 RUBELLA VIRUS.....		12									12
1530 HEPATITIS A VIRUS.....		1									1
1532 HEPATITIS B ANTIGEN.....		56									56
1541 CHLAMYDIA A - TRIC TYPE.....									21		21
1543 CHLAMYDIA A - LGV TYPE.....		1									1
1553 LCM - LYMPHOCYTIC CHORIOMENINGITIS VIRUS.....		1									1
1556 CMV - CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.....		23	3				9			4	39
1564 ROTAVIRUS.....	4										4
1571 ENTEROVIRUS TYPE 71 (BRCR).....	1		1	1							3
1599 ENTEROVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	10		7	1			2				20
POSS RIVER VIRUS.....		53									53
Total.....	66	246	159	25	38	7	15	1	106	12	675



DISEASE	Total	N.S.W.	VIC	QLD	S.A.	W.A.	T.S.	N.T.	A.C.T.	CUMULATIVE TOTAL TO DATE BY STATE
Salmonella infections	268	47	8	8	52	101	6	46		792
Shigella infections	39			1	11	11		16		149
Smallpox	-									-
Syphilis	224	55	6	68	26	13		56		* 447
Tetanus	-									3
Trachoma	-									-
Tuberculosis (all forms)	128	43	33	23	3	19	2	2	3	* 394
Typhoid fever	5	5								* 10
Typhus (all forms)	-									1
Vibrio parahaemolyticus infections	-									
Yellow Fever	-									
Yersinia enterocolitica infections	-									

Data collected under the Notifiable Diseases Returns may bear little or no correlation to that collected under the QDI Laboratory scheme. Whilst the latter is a sampling program, the Notifiable Diseases data is dependent upon voluntary reporting by medical practitioners etc.

- \* Ankylostomiasis - 14 cases have been added to N.T. figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 38 instead of 24.
- \* Arbovirus infection - 1 case has been deleted from Victoria's figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 29 instead of 30.
- \* Gonorrhoea - 1 case has been deleted from N.T. figures and 20 have been added to ACT figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 2992 instead of 2973.
- \* Hepatitis A - 2 cases have been deleted from Victoria's figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 560 instead of 562.
- \* Syphilis - 1 case has been added to N.T. figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 447 instead of 446.
- \* Tuberculosis - 8 cases have been deleted from Victoria's figures and 1 case deleted from W.A. figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 394 instead of 403.
- \* Typhoid - 1 case has been added to W.A. figures since the last report. The cumulative total is now 10 instead of 9.