

OUTBREAK OF ECHO 9 VIRUS INFECTION IN THE NURSERY AT "ALLAMBIE" RECEPTION CENTRE (contributed by the staff of Fairfield Hospital and Dr Joy James)

There has been a confirmed outbreak of Echo 9 virus infection in one section of the babies in the Nursery at "Allambie" Reception Centre, Burwood, Victoria. This followed about one week to ten days after an epidemic of exanthem thought to be rubella in an older section of the institution. As the rash in the babies did not appear to be characteristic of rubella, viral throat swabs were done on most of the babies concerned.

Between the second week of March and the end of the month, 12 of 18 babies in the section developed an exanthematous illness characterised by a scattered pink, papular rash, mainly on the trunk, neck and limbs, a bright red throat and palate, a varying degree of lymphadenopathy and a moderately high fever. Although several had palpable posterior occipital glands, the rash was not characteristic of rubella and faded more slowly. Some of the children were quite ill and developed bronchitis for which an antibiotic cover was given. All recovered in about a week without further complications.

There have been no further cases since the end of March, but as some of the children have been transferred to other sections there could be another outbreak.

Echo 9 has been isolated from 6 throat swabs from these babies.

BACILLUS CEREUS FOOD POISONING (reported by Mr G. Davey, Food Bacteriology Section, N.S.W. Health Commission Analytical Laboratories)

On 8 February 1978, a family of three purchased fried chicken, cooked corn and refrigerated plastic containers of banana custard from a take-away food outlet in Sydney. The one member of the family who ate any of the custard became ill about 4½ hours later with abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhoea and fever. These symptoms lasted for about 8 hours.

Laboratory examination of the remaining portion of the implicated food and the two unopened containers of custard provided B. cereus counts of  $1.7 \times 10^7$ /gm,  $1.4 \times 10^6$ /gm and  $4.8 \times 10^6$ /gm respectively. No other potential pathogens were detected, but it is emphasised that the samples were left unrefrigerated for 16 hours before collection by a health inspector.

In the following fortnight, a further 8 samples of banana custard from the same manufacturer and retail outlet were submitted for microbiological analysis. B. cereus was detected in each sample with counts between  $1.0 \times 10^2$  and  $9.2 \times 10^6$ /gram, suggesting that temperature control during preparation and/or storage of the custard may have been inadequate.

The suspected food poisoning incident associated with this product emphasises the need for the careful handling of take-away foods, and for the control by health authorities of the conditions under which they are stored and sold.

#### SILVER NITRATE PROPHYLAXIS FOR GONOCOCCAL OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(based on articles in the Canada Diseases Weekly Report, March 4, 1978 and MMWR March 31, 1978)

Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum (GON) is a potentially serious disease and is preventable. Although it is generally recognized that 1% silver nitrate drops provide an efficient prophylaxis against GON, there is widespread reluctance to its use because of the resulting chemical conjunctivitis. This chemical conjunctivitis is transient, and is usually self-resolving within 24 to 72 hours after onset. It is less severe and less frequent if the drops are used within their expiry date and if individual wax capsules are used, thus avoiding evaporation and a resulting higher concentration of the solution.

Silver nitrate prophylaxis is not 100% effective although the risk of GON developing after its use appears to be small - one study by the U.S. CDC of 46 cases estimated the risk to be less than 2% for an infant born to an infected mother. Failure of the treatment can be attributed to several factors: (1) - Improper application, (2) - washing with saline or water, (3) - silver cation precipitation by saline to form silver chloride crystals, (4) - infection of the eyes before delivery because of premature rupture of the membranes in an infected woman, and (5) - failure to treat an infected mother with subsequent transmission to her infant after the delivery.

Irrigation with saline or sterile water does not reduce the chemical irritation caused by the silver nitrate, but diminishes the concentration of the solution, thereby decreasing the efficacy of the prophylaxis. Although this practice is widespread, both the Canadian and U.S. Centres for Disease Control recommend against it.

Although the use of antibiotic drops instead of 1% silver nitrate may be equally as effective and less irritating, as a general rule this is not recommended. These drops can needlessly sensitize the infant to the particular antibiotic, and can be subject to the problems of antibiotic resistance.

In addition to proper instillation of silver nitrate without rinsing, other measures essential in preventing GON include prenatal screening of pregnant women and appropriate evaluation of all neonatal conjunctival discharges with gram stain and culture.

AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 23 MARCH - 5 APRIL '78 BULLETIN NUMBER 78/7  
 VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS FROM CONTRIBUTING LABORATORIES

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	ICPMB	HARC (NSW)	FAC/ FOR (NSW)	FAIR- FIELD (VIC)	SCB (VIC)	INVS (SA)	STATE	STATE	TOTAL
	(NSW) NTH (ACT)						LAB (QLD)	LAB (WA)	
0100 ADENOVIRUS NOT TYPED.....	1	-	14	2	-	1	1	2	21
0101 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 1.....	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
0102 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 2.....	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	4
0103 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 3.....	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
0105 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 5.....	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
0107 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 7.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
0109 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 9.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
0114 ADENOVIRUS TYPE 14.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
0199 ADENOVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
C203 INFLUENZA B VIRUS.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
0301 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
0302 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 2.....	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	6	12
0303 PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS TYPE 3.....	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	7
0400 RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RS)....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
0500 RHINOVIRUS (ALL TYPES).....	-	-	-	6	2	-	1	7	16
0600 MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE.....	11	-	4	5	-	1	-	2	23
0700 ORNITHOSIS-PSITTACOSIS.....	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
0800 COXSACKIEVIRUSES GROUP A - NOT TYPED.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
0816 COXSACKIEVIRUS A16.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
0901 COXSACKIEVIRUS B1.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
0904 COXSACKIEVIRUS B4.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
0905 COXSACKIEVIRUS B5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1000 ECHOVIRUS NOT TYPED.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
1006 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 6.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1009 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 9.....	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	2	13
1015 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 15.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
1017 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 17.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1018 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 18.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1019 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 19.....	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
1021 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 21.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1022 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 22.....	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	1	7
1025 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 25.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1030 ECHOVIRUS TYPE 30.....	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	3
1099 ECHOVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5

AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 23 MARCH - 5 APRIL '78 BULLETIN NUMBER 78/7  
 VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS FROM CONTRIBUTING LABORATORIES - CONTINUED

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	ICPMR (NSW) WVH (ACT)	RAHC (NSW)	PHH/ POW (NSW)	FAIR- FIELD (VIC)	RCH (VIC)	IMVS (SA)	STATE LAB (QLD)	STATE LAB (WA)	TOTAL
1102 POLIOVIRUS TYPE 2.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1104 POLIOVIRUS-VACCINAL STRAIN.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1200 MUMPS VIRUS.....	3	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	7
1300 HERPES VIRUS GROUP-NOT TYPED.....	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	9
1301 HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	5	2	11	-	3	-	21	7	49
1302 EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS (EB VIRUS).....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1303 VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS.....	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	8
1306 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 1.....	6	-	-	8	-	5	-	2	21
1307 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 2.....	24	-	-	2	-	8	-	9	43
1399 HERPES VIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1401 COXIELLA BURNETI.....	3	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	11
1502 PICORNA VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
1512 VACCINIA VIRUS.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1521 MEASLES VIRUS.....	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	6
1530 HEPATITIS A VIRUS.....	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1532 HEPATITIS B ANTIGEN.....	2	-	12	34	-	7	9	8	72
1533 HEPATITIS B ANTIBODY.....	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	21	31
1541 TRIC - TRACHOMA-INCLUSION CONJUNCTIVITIS.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
1556 CMV - CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.....	2	-	5	1	2	1	8	2	21
1562 CORONAVIRUS.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1564 ROTAVIRUS.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
1599 ENTEROVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	6
TOTAL.....	86	3	60	78	24	61	66	100	478

MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS ..... 3..... 3  
 DENGUE FEVER VIRUS..... 1..... 1  
 ROSS RIVER VIRUS..... 7..... 7



AUSTRALIA - COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INTELLIGENCE

REPORTING PERIOD - 23 MARCH - 5 APRIL '78 BULLETIN NUMBER 78/7  
 VIRAL IDENTIFICATIONS CATEGORISED INTO SOURCE SPECIMENS - CONTINUED

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	PA	QL	WA	CS	SP	EY	SA	BR	GE	OT	TOTAL
1104 POLIOVIRUS-VACCINAL STRAIN.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1200 MUMPS VIRUS.....	-	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
1300 HERPES VIRUS GROUP-NOT TYPED.....	-	5	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	9
1301 HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	-	11	5	-	16	-	-	-	10	1	49
1302 CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (EB VIRUS).....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1303 VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS.....	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1304 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 1.....	-	-	5	-	6	2	-	-	7	1	21
1307 HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE 2.....	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	34	-	43
1309 HERPES VIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1401 CHICKENPOX.....	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
1502 FICTIONA VIRUS-NOT TYPED.....	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1512 VACCINIA VIRUS.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
1521 MEASLES VIRUS.....	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1530 HEPATITIS A VIRUS.....	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1532 HEPATITIS B ANTIGEN.....	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
1533 HEPATITIS B ANTIBODY.....	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
1541 TFO - TRACHOMA-INCLUSION CONJUNCTIVITIS.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
1550 CMV - CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.....	-	7	4	-	-	-	8	-	1	1	21
1562 CORONAVIRUS.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1584 ROTAVIRUS.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1595 ENTEROVIRUS TYPING PENDING.....	1	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
TOTAL.....	46	197	102	20	37	4	9	1	66	3	487

MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS.....	3.....	3
DENGUE FEVER VIRUS.....	1.....	1
ROSS RIVER VIRUS.....	7.....	7



17. 3. '78

LIST B COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND AGENTS NOTIFIED AFTER HOSPITAL AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS

DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED DURING WEEK								CUMULATIVE TOTAL - year to date*							
	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	N.T.	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	N.T.
AMOEBIASIS	N.N.								N.N.	1	1		2			
ANKYLOSTOMIASIS	N.N.				1				N.N.				3			29
ARBO VIRUS INFECTION			N.N.		N.N.						N.N.		N.N.			
DENGUE					N.N.					1			N.N.			
MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS			N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.				N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
OTHER (STATE TYPE)				N.N.	N.N.		N.N.					N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
HYDATID									1	1		1				
MALARIA		1							7	10	16	5	9			5
ORNITHOSIS (PSITTACOSIS, etc)																
Q. FEVER				1			N.N.		6	6	50	10			N.N.	
SALMONELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	24	6	8	12	16			1	294	41	38	105	62	5	5	27
SHIGELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	N.N.			1				4	N.N.		24	7			1	53

N.N. - NOT NOTIFIABLE

\* - INCLUDES ADJUSTMENTS FOR REVISED DIAGNOSIS OR OTHER AMENDMENT.

QLD. (+) - MONTHLY NOTIFICATION OF GONORRHOEA AND SYPHILIS.



10. 3. '78

LIST B COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND AGENTS NOTIFIED AFTER HOSPITAL AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS

DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED DURING WEEK								CUMULATIVE TOTAL - year to date*							
	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	N.T.	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	T. & G.
AMOEBIASIS	N.N.				1				N.N.	1	1		2			
ANKYLOSTOMIASIS	N.N.								N.N.				2			29
ARBO VIRUS INFECTION			N.N.		N.N.						N.N.		N.N.			
DENGUE					N.N.					1			N.N.			
MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS			N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.				N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
OTHER (STATE TYPE)				N.N.	N.N.		N.N.					N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
HYDATID		1							1	1		1				
MALARIA	4			1					7	9	16	5	9		5	
ORNITHOSIS (PSITTACOSIS, etc)																
Q. FEVER	1	3	3				N.N.		6	6	50	9			N.N.	
SALMONELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	26	2	2	7	3			9	270	35	30	93	46	5	5	26
SHIGELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	N.N.		1					6	N.N.		24	6			1	49

N.N. - NOT NOTIFIABLE

\* - INCLUDES ADJUSTMENTS FOR REVISED DIAGNOSIS OR OTHER AMENDMENT.

QLD. (+) - MONTHLY NOTIFICATION OF GONORRHOEA AND SYPHILIS.

Director-General of Health



3. 3. '78

LIST B COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND AGENTS NOTIFIED AFTER HOSPITAL AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS

DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED DURING WEEK								CUMULATIVE TOTAL - year to date*							
	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	N.T.	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	N.T.
AMOEBIASIS	N.N.	1							N.N.	1	1		1			
ANKYLOSTOMIASIS	N.N.								N.N.				2			29
ARBO VIRUS INFECTION			N.N.		N.N.						N.N.		N.N.			
DENGUE					N.N.					1			N.N.			
MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS			N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.				N.N.	N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
OTHER (STATE TYPE)				N.N.	N.N.		N.N.					N.N.	N.N.		N.N.	
HYDATID									1			1				
MALARIA	1		5	3	1		1		3	9	16	4	9		5	
ORNITHOSIS (PSITTACOSIS, etc)																
Q. FEVER		3	1	2			N.N.		5	3	47	9			N.N.	
SALMONELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	38	2	2	17	2	2		3	244	33	28	86	43	5	5	17
SHIGELLA (LABORATORY ISOLATES)	N.N.						1	3	N.N.		23	6			1	43

N.N. - NOT NOTIFIABLE

\* - INCLUDES ADJUSTMENTS FOR REVISED DIAGNOSIS OR OTHER AMENDMENT.

QLD. (+) - MONTHLY NOTIFICATION OF GONORRHOEA AND SYPHILIS.

N.B. Monthly notifications by Queensland for gonorrhoea and syphilis are for the month of February.

Director-General of Health