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NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL LABORATORY REPORTING SERVICE

8 AUG 1977

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BULLETIN 15
15-27 July 1977

It is with pleasure that we welcome two new contributors to the Service in this Bulletin, namely, Queensland and the A.C.T. The Queensland contribution comes from the State Health Laboratory, George Street, Brisbane, whilst the A.C.T. is represented by the Australian Government Pathology Laboratory at the Woden Valley Hospital in Canberra. The A.C.T. results however will not be treated as a separate entity, but will be incorporated into the ICPMR column, since it is to this laboratory that much of its work is referred.

Current distribution of Bulletin

The mailing list for the Bulletin is now up to 200 - and still growing.

S. bredney contamination of milk products

Infections with this organism from contaminated milk powders continue to be detected in infants in all States. As of Friday 29 July, the following number of cases had been recorded this year in each State:

<u>Vic.</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>Qld</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>W.A.</u>	<u>Tas.</u>	<u>A.C.T.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>
56	30	4	14	1	7	1	4

It is interesting to note that considerable difficulty has been experienced in isolating the organism from the milk powder. It has been necessary to use samples of up to 500 or 600 grams of powder from each specimen (e.g. 4 x 150 gram samples from each specimen) and even this quantity was unable to guarantee isolation from a suspect tin of powder. A pre-enrichment phase was very necessary, since the organisms were sub-lethally affected by the heat-drying process of the milk.

Investigations at the Tongala plant are continuing in an attempt to confirm the source of the infection, including analyses of the water supply to the factory.

Report from Woden Valley Hospital

The following information has been supplied by Ms Jenny Donnelly at Woden Valley Hospital, Canberra:

Mycoplasma pneumoniae in Canberra

Infection with Mycoplasma pneumoniae is confirmed by the complement fixation test. Titres of 64 or greater are considered as significant convalescent titres.

The incubation period is approximately three weeks and transmission is thought to occur chiefly via the respiratory route. Epidemics are rare, usually endemic throughout the year.

Interest in *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* resulted from the findings of an intrafamily infection which caused pericarditis - Med. J. Aust., 1976, 2: 643-644.

Serology for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is performed on the first blood specimen and in several cases this practice has brought an earlier diagnosis.

Date	Age	Sex	History	Titre
12.1.77	10	F	URTI	2048
24.2.77	2½	F	Atypical pneumonia	256
1.4.77	11	M	Wheezy pneumonitis	256
1.4.77	4	M	Wheezy pneumonitis	128
12.4.77	7	M	LUL pneumonia	64
3.5.77	69	M	Persistent cough	128
4.5.77	29	M	Chest pain	64
4.5.77	11	F	LUL pneumonia	16-512
10.6.77	17	M	Chest infection 5/52	2048
23.6.77	6	F	Chest infection	128
23.6.77	3	M	Cough, fever 3/52	2048
13.7.77	27	F	Pneumonia	1024

Herpes simplex in Canberra

Viral isolation work is still only a small section of the Pathology laboratory in Canberra. Of the 409 specimens cultured in the first six months of this year, viruses have been isolated from 73 of these specimens. There is no evidence of any viral epidemics amongst the isolates, but as always Herpes simplex is prevalent. The table below shows the source and the number of isolates for this year.

<u>Source of specimen</u>	<u>Herpes virus not typed</u>
Oral lesions	18
Genital lesions	22
Skin lesions	4
Eye lesions	<u>1</u>
Total isolates	<u>45</u>

Report from State Health Laboratory, Brisbane

(a) Hand-foot and mouth disease in Brisbane

In the last six weeks coxsackievirus A16 has been isolated from nine children with lesions on the soles of feet or the palms of the hand. Some patients also had a rash on the buttocks.

(b) Influenza in Queensland

A strain of influenza close to A/Victoria/3/75 has been isolated from two children in S.E. Qld. in late July. The strains have been dispatched to the W.H.O. Influenza Reference Laboratory for final typing.

S. chester outbreak (provided by Dr Mackay-Scollay, Western Australia)

There has been an outbreak of infections with Salmonella chester in the northern suburbs of Perth. To date, 150 cases have been recorded, and of these, 127 have been analysed.

Of the 127 cases, 82% were children aged between birth and 6 years with approximately 2/3 of these being below 2 years of age. The average age of the latter group is 7.2 months (i.e. post-weaning).

Investigations are continuing.

NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL LABORATORY REPORTING SERVICE

PERIOD 15
 DATES 15 July '77 to 28 July '77

LABORATORY

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	BRISBANE STATE LAB.	SYDNEY/CANBERRA			MELBOURNE		ADELAIDE	PERTH STATE LAB.	TOTAL
		ICPMR/ WVH	RAHC	PHH/POW	FAIR- FIELD	RCH	IMVS		
0100 Adenovirus not typed	5	3		3				2	13
0101 " type 1							1	2	3
0102 " " 2				2	1				3
0103 " " 3				1	1				2
0104 " " 4							1		1
0105 " " 5					1		1		2
0106 " " 6		1							1
0107 " " 7								1	1
0108 " " 8					1			1	2
0119 " " 19								2	2
0201 Influenza A virus		1						1	2
0301 Parainfluenza virus type 1					2	5	6	4	17
0302 " " " 2								1	1
0303 " " " 3					1		1	3	5
0400 Respiratory syncytial virus (RS)		2	2	2	11	47		2	66
0500 Rhinovirus (all types)	4				2	3			9
0600 Mycoplasma pneumoniae		5			3				8
0700 Ornithosis-psittacosis				2			1		3
0809 Coxsackievirus A9								5	5
0816 " A16	3								3
0901 " B1							1		1
1001 Echovirus type 1				1					1
1006 " " 6				2	1	1			4

PERIOD 15
 DATES 15.7.'77 to 28.7.'77

LABORATORY

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	BRISBANE STATE LAB.	SYDNEY/CANBERRA			MELBOURNE		ADELAIDE	PERTH STATE LAB.	TOTAL
		ICPMR/ WVH	RAHC	PHH/POW	FAIR- FIELD	RCH	IMVS		
1007 Echovirus type 7				1				1	2
1009 " " 9	1	1		2	2		1		7
1017 " " 17					2	1			3
1019 " " 19					1				1
1022 " " 22							1		1
1025 " " 25		1			1				2
1028 " " 28 (Rhinovirus)		2							2
1101 Poliovirus type 1							1		2
1104 " - vaccinal strain		1							1
1105 Sabin poliovirus				5					5
1200 Mumps virus	1	4			5	1	1		12
1300 Herpes virus not typed								3	3
1301 " simplex virus - not typed	14	6	2	4		10			36
1303 Varicella-Zoster virus		1		1			1		3
1306 Herpes simplex type 1		16			13		5		34
1307 " " " 2		19			5		10		34
1401 Coxiella burneti		4		1			1		6
1515 Contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf virus)	1								1
1521 Measles virus		3		3	1				7
1522 Rubella virus								1	1
1532 Hepatitis B antigen	10	3		4	30		5	7	59
1533 " B antibody	9		7				13	7	36
							.../3		

PERIOD: 15

DATE: 15 July '77 to 28 July '77

SOURCE OF SPECIMEN

VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	SOURCE OF SPECIMEN										TOTAL
	FA	BL	NA	CS	SK	EY	UR	GE	BR	OT	
1007 Echovirus type 7	1			1							2
1009 " " 9	3		5	2							10
1017 " " 17	1		2								3
1019 " " 19	1										1
1022 " " 22			1								1
1025 " " 25	1		1	1							3
1028 " " 28 (Rhinovirus)			2								2
1101 Poliovirus type 1	2										2
1104 " - vaccinal strain										1	1
1105 Sabin poliovirus	5										5
1200 Mumps virus		5	6	2							13
1300 Herpes virus not typed		1			2						3
1301 " simplex virus - not typed	1		13		11			9		2	36
1303 Varicella-Zoster virus		2			1						3
1306 Herpes simplex type 1		3	5		15	1		4	1	5	34
1307 " " " 2					1			30			31
1401 Coxiella burneti		6									6
1515 Contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf virus)										1	1
1521 Measles virus		7									7
1522 Rubella virus		1									1
1532 Hepatitis B antigen		59									59
1533 " B antibody		36									36

PERIOD 15
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VIRUS OR VIRAL ANTIGEN	FA	BL	NA	CS	SK	EY	UR	GE	BR	OT	TOTAL
1541 TRIC - Trachoma-Inclusion conjunctivitis								14			14
1556 CMV - cytomegalovirus	1	5	6	1			6	4			23
1562 Reovirus (all types)	2										2
1564 Rotavirus	33										33
TOTAL TYPED VIRUSES	73	149	145	8	31	6	6	61	1	11	491
0199 Adenovirus type pending			1								1
0299 Influenza virus type pending			2								2
0399 Parainfluenza virus type pending			6								6
0499 Respiratory syncytial virus - type pending			1								1
0899 Coxsackievirus group A type pending					1						1
1099 Echovirus type pending	2		2				1			1	6
1199 Poliovirus type pending	1										1
1399 Herpes virus type pending					13	1		6			20
1599 Enterovirus type pending	6			1			2				9