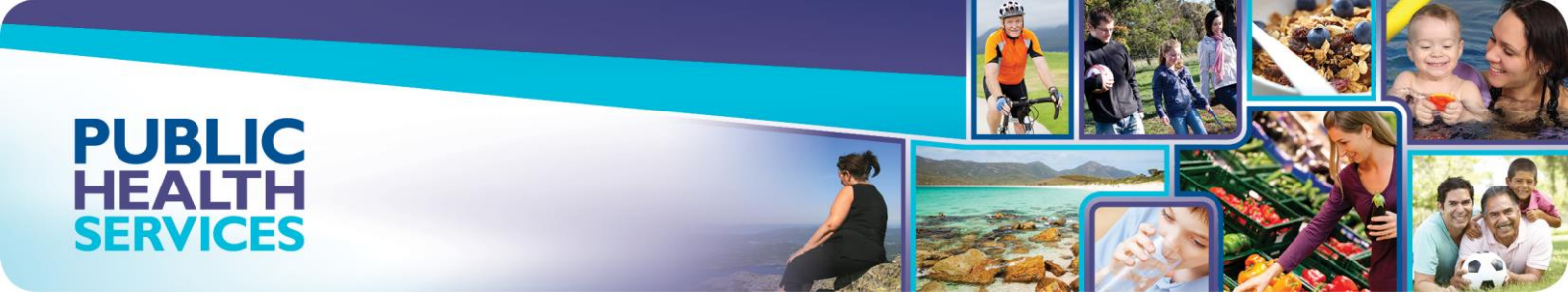

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Communicable Diseases Quarterly

Issue 9 | Q3 2015

This is the Communicable Diseases Quarterly report from Public Health Services for the period 1 July to 30 September 2015.

It includes commentary on selected diseases and a table of all diseases reported for this period.

Key Points

- There were 1150 cases of flu diagnosed this quarter. This is the highest number of cases reported per quarter in Tasmania.
- There were 41 cases of giardiasis reported, with a large proportion diagnosed through screening procedures.
- The reported numbers of *Yersinia* cases were elevated this quarter.

Influenza (flu)

There were 1150 cases of influenza (flu) this quarter, compared to five year quarterly mean of 386 cases. This was the highest number of cases reported per quarter in Tasmania, surpassing the number of cases reported in the 2009 pandemic, which peaked at 1075 cases reported in the third quarter of that year.

Flu cases reported this quarter were split evenly between Influenza A (51 per cent of cases) and Influenza B (49 per cent of cases). Of the Influenza A cases where further typing information was available, the predominant subtype reported was Influenza A (H3N2) which accounted for 42 per cent of Influenza A cases notified this quarter. Over half of the Influenza A notifications were not typed further. Limited typing data was available for Influenza B cases, most cases were not typed (97 per cent of cases). Of the small proportion that were characterised further, 13 cases were typed as B-Yamagata-lineage.

Flu affected all ages this quarter, though there were some trends apparent amongst the different flu types. Children aged less than 15 years old accounted for nearly as third of Influenza B cases. Older people 80 years and over made up 18 per cent of Influenza A cases. There was several influenza outbreaks in aged care facilities reported to the Communicable Disease Prevention Unit (CDPU), which made a contribution to the number of cases notified in the older age groups.

Flu activity was reported throughout state, but the South had the most cases (844). The rate of notification was greater in the South of the state compared to the North and North-West.

More information on flu can be found in the FluTAS report.

Giardiasis

There were 41 cases of giardiasis notified this quarter, compared to the five year quarterly mean of 25 cases. Of the cases reported, screening specimens (mostly from refugees) accounted for 41 per cent of cases. The number of cases notified may not be a reflection of the incidence of disease in the community.

Yersiniosis

There were five cases of *Yersinia* notified this quarter comparted to the five year quarterly mean of three cases. Two cases were epidemiologically linked, with one of these cases being asymptomatic and found via screening. The majority of cases were diagnosed by culture methods.

Institutional Outbreaks

During this quarter there were seven non-foodborne institutional outbreaks of gastroenteritis reported to the Communicable Disease Prevention Unit (CDPU). This was less than the five year quarterly mean (14 outbreaks). Of the outbreaks reported this quarter, six were classified as due to person-to-person transmission and for the one remaining outbreak the transmission route was classified as unknown.

Outbreaks occurred throughout the state, with four outbreaks in the South and three outbreaks in the North.

These outbreaks were in aged care facilities (four outbreaks) and childcare centres (three outbreaks).

Norovirus was identified as the cause in three institutional outbreaks this quarter (all aged care facilities). The cause in the remaining four outbreaks was unable to be determined as either no specimens were collected or no pathogens were detected in the specimens submitted.

Gastroenteritis in a residential, educational or childcare institution (similar gastrointestinal illness in two or more people within three days) is notifiable in Tasmania and should be reported to the CDPU via the Public Health Hotline - Tasmania **1800 671 738.**

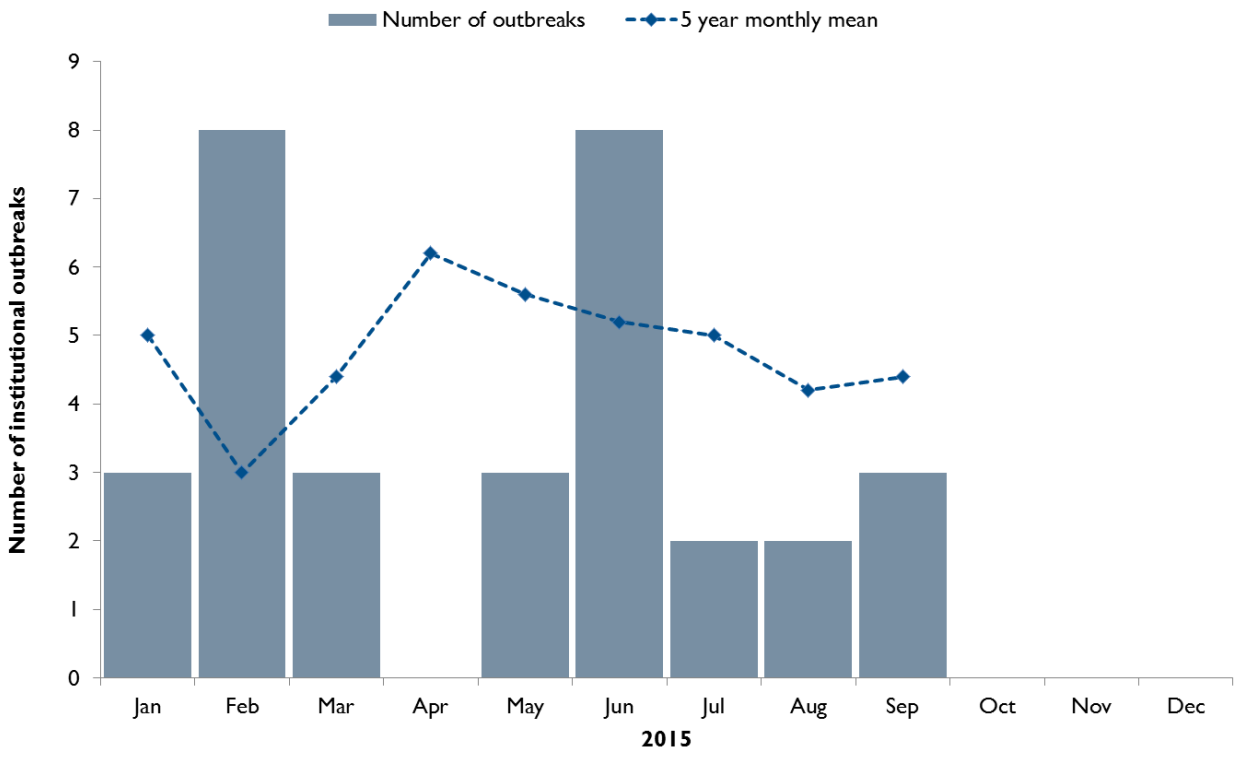

Figure: Number of institutional outbreaks reported in Tasmania up to 30 September 2015 and five year monthly mean (2010-2014).

This report is produced by the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit of Public Health Services. For any queries and feedback please make contact via cdpu.surveillance@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Information about influenza activity in Tasmania is available in the **fluTAS Report**. Information about notifiable diseases in **Tasmania** is available from the CDPU website.

National communicable disease information and reports are available from the Department of Health and **summary** national **data** is available from the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System**.**

Table: Notifiable diseases reported in Tasmania during the third quarter of 2015 (July-September) with comparison to previous quarters by derived diagnosis date.

	Q3 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2014	Q3 5y Mean*	Ratio ^	2015 YTD#
Barmah Forest Virus	**1**	0	0	**1**	1	1
Campylobacteriosis	**241**	198	200	**177**	1.36	686
Chlamydia	**395**	411	429	**439**	0.9	1290
CJD	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	**7**	3	9	**14**	0.5	10
Dengue	**3**	7	3	**2**	1.5	13
Food or Waterborne Illness	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Giardia	**41♦**	24	28	**25**	1.64	92
Gonococcal Infection	**12**	13	15	**9**	1.33	43
Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Infection (invasive)	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Hepatitis A	**0**	1	1	**1**	0	1
Hepatitis B-Newly Acquired	**0**	1	1	**2**	0	1
Hepatitis B-Unspecified	**13**	11	8	**12**	1.08	30
Hepatitis C-Newly Acquired	**8**	9	4	**5**	1.6	21
Hepatitis C-Unspecified	**65**	54	45	**57**	1.14	169
Hepatitis E	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	1
HIV infection - newly acquired	**0**	0	1	**1**	0	0
HIV infection - unspecified	**5**	4	3	**3**	1.67	13
Hydatids	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Influenza	**1150♦**	134	482	**386**	2.98	1322
Legionellosis	**2**	2	4	**3**	0.67	5
Leptospirosis	**0**	0	1	**0**	0	2
Listeriosis	**0**	0	2	**1**	0	0
Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Malaria	**0**	1	2	**2**	0	2
Measles	**0**	0	5	**1**	0	0
Meningococcal Disease (invasive)	**1**	0	2	**3**	0.33	1
Mumps	**0**	4	2	**1**	0	7
Pertussis	**13**	8	11	**99**	0.13	25
Pneumococcal Disease (invasive)	**16**	10	12	**16**	1	30
Psittacosis(Ornithosis)	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Rickettsial Infection	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Ross River Virus	**0**	2	0	**0**	0	4
Rotavirus	**6**	11	10	**22**	0.27	37
Rubella	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Salmonellosis	**34**	44	27	**36**	0.94	178
Shiga toxin producing E.coli	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Shigellosis	**2**	0	1	**1**	2	3
Syphilis-infectious	**4**	4	4	**3**	1.33	15
Syphilis-unknown duration	**2**	5	4	**3**	0.67	13
Tuberculosis	**2**	4	4	**3**	0.67	9
Tularaemia	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Typhoid	**1**	0	0	**0**	0	1
Typhus	**0**	0	0	**0**	0	0
Varicella zoster (chicken pox)	**19♦**	9	11	**9**	2.11	52
Varicella zoster (shingles)	**55**	46	62	**59**	0.93	166
Varicella zoster (unspecified)	**40**	40	38	**21**	1.9	108
Vibrio Infection	**0**	0	1	**0**	0	0
Yersinia	**5♦**	3	1	**0**	0	8

*This figure is based on the five-year quarterly mean, calculated for this report quarter, for the years 2009-2013.

^The ratio is the number of cases notified in the quarter compared to the five-year mean for that quarter.

#Year to date count at the end of the reporting quarter.

♦Disease case numbers are beyond two standard deviations of the historical five-year mean for this period of time.

Data are extracted based on the available date closest to the disease onset date. Data are subject to change over time due to ongoing data review processes.

As well as true changes in disease incidence, changes in surveillance practice, diagnostic techniques and reporting may also contribute to increases or decreases in notifications received over time.