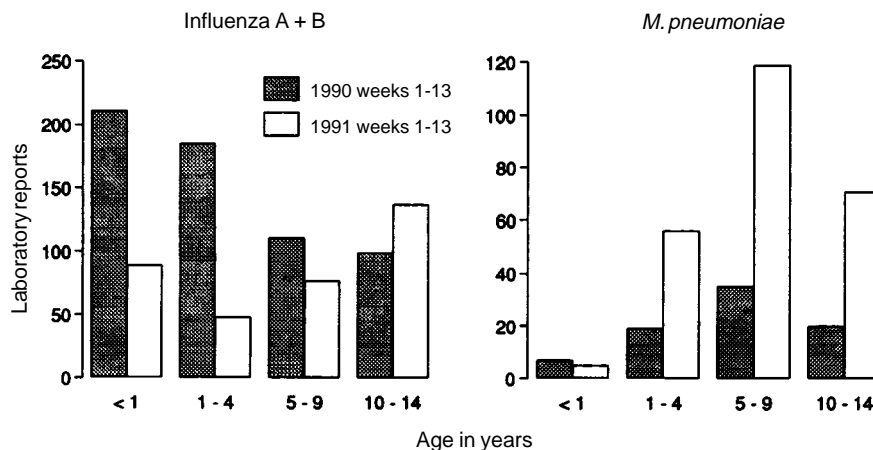


Communicable Disease Report

Respiratory infections in children

Infections due to Respiratory Syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus and rhinovirus in children under 14 years of age in England and Wales have been reported in similar numbers in the first quarter of 1991, when compared with the same quarter last year. Influenza activity has been at a lower level this year (see Figure), Ninety-eight percent of cases have been due to influenza B in contrast to 1990 when the epidemic strain was of type A. Infections with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* are considerably increased in this age group compared with the previous year. This is consistent with the epidemic of *M. pneumoniae* infection currently being observed, particularly in children and young adults. A diagnosis of mycoplasma pneumonia should be considered in any child presenting with a persistent cough, especially as notifications of pertussis continue to decline.



Infection control in general practice

A study day for practice nurses will be held at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale on Wednesday, 8 May 1991. The aim of the study day is to introduce concepts of infection control in general practice and to provide a forum for discussion on the issues raised.

For further information, contact Joyce Whitney (mornings) or Valerie Clarke (afternoons), Central Public Health Laboratory, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT (telephone 081 200 4400).

Food safety

The Institution of Environmental Health Officers (South West Centre) and the Exeter Public Health Laboratory are holding a meeting on food safety on Friday, 26 April 1991 at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Topics include the Richmond Report, the Food Safety Act 1990, microbiological standards, outbreak investigation and infection control in hospitals.

Further details are available from Dr T J Humphrey, Public Health Laboratory, Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX2 5AD (telephone 0392 402978).

Virus infections:
weeks 91/10 - 13

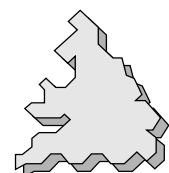
Animal-associated infections:
weeks 91/10 - 13

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/10 - 13

Unusual infections:
weeks 91/10 - 13

Selected bacterial infections:
weeks 91/10 - 13

Malaria:
October - December 1990



Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/10 - 13

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/10-13	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/10	91/11	91/12	91/13		
Coxsackie A	1	—	—	2	3	21
Coxsackie B	3	9	1	2	15	66
Echovirus	8	14	4	1	27	89
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	10
Mumps	1	—	4	2	7	17
Parvovirus B19	10	26	15	17	68	196
Rubella	6	7	13	6	32	67

Coxsackie A: A7, 1; A9, 2.

No cases of meningitis were reported.

Coxsackie B: B2, 3; B3, 6; B4, 2; B5, 4.

One case of meningitis was reported: F 19y with Coxsackie B2 infection (CSF isolate).

Echovirus: type 1, 1; type 3, 1; type 6, 1; type 7, 1; type 9, 2; type 11, 1; type 17, 1; type 18, 1; type 22, 14; type 23, 1; type 25, 1; type 30, 2.

Echovirus type 22 circulates through every year and the total number of cases (33 reports for weeks 91/01-13) is not unusual.

Only three cases of echovirus meningitis have been reported in the last four weeks: two women have had *type 9* meningitis and one has had *type 17* meningitis (all CSF isolates).

Notifications to OPCS of measles, mumps and rubella, England and Wales

Notifications					Total 91/10-13	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/10	91/11	91/12	91/13		
Measles	176	226	204	162	768	2405
Mumps	67	65	52	44	228	794
Rubella	147	137	179	156	619	1868

Measles: no laboratory reports have been received and notifications to OPCS continue at the lowest level recorded.

Mumps: 2/3 children aged less than 5 years and 2/4 adults had meningitis (CSF isolate, 1).

Parvovirus (B19): 4 regions reported more than 10% cases: Yorkshire (11 cases), S Western (9), N Western (11) and Wales (10).

Ages: 5 children aged less than 15 years; 47 patients aged 15-44 years; 9 aged 45-64 years; 7 not stated. Forty seven patients presented with arthralgia; 40 had rash; and one child with congenital haemolytic anaemia had an aplastic crisis.

Rubella: 4 regions reported 4 or more cases: NW Thames (6), Wessex (5), Oxford (4) and S Western (7).

Ages: 5 children aged less than 15 years; 23 adults aged 15-44 years, including three women two of whom were pregnant; 4 aged 45-64 years. Four patients had arthralgia. There has been a minor increase in the number of laboratory reports received in the past 4 weeks (32 compared with 18 and 14 in the previous two 4-weekly periods). It is usual to see the beginning of the annual rise by the end of March.

Herpes simplex: a woman with spontaneous miscarriage at 22nd week of pregnancy (isolate from placenta).

Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/10 - 13

Borrelia burgdorferi 2: F 46y with bilateral posterior uveitis and adult aged 26y with polymyositis (both serological diagnoses). In neither case was information given of a preceding bite.

Brucellosis 1: M 47y, a builder who drinks raw milk, presented with fever, neutropenia, sweating and severe arthralgia (serological diagnosis). This is the first report of brucellosis infection this year.

Pasteurella 21: *P. multocida* 18; *P. pneumotropica* 2;

pasteurella sp 1. 12 patients had dog bites; 6 had cat bites/scratches; F 79y had infected mastectomy wound; M 56y had sinusitis (nasal isolate). *P. multocida*, M 12d developed meningitis (blood and CSF isolates), the family own a dog. **Toxocara 2:** both adults, one of whom had choroiditis. **Toxoplasma 59:** 27 patients had lymphadenopathy (histology suggestive 4); 12 had eye lesions. One asymptomatic HIV-1 antibody positive woman was reported.

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/10 - 13

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total for 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	29	86	1	5	115 (40) *	393
group A	—	1			1 (1) *	
B	14	55			69 (27) *	
C	8	23			31 (13) *	
W135	—	1			1 (—)	
Y	1	1			2 (—)	
ungrouped	6	5			11 (—)	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	52	44	—	8	96 (9) #	359
type b	24	33			57 (7)	
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	1	2	3	—	3	15

*sulphonamide-resistant

#β-lactamase producing

Neisseria meningitidis: 4 regions reported 10% or more of cases: Trent (12 cases), SE Thames (17), S Western (12) and W Midlands (16).

30 patients presented with rash; M 18y with Hodgkin's disease, presented with pneumonia.

40 sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group B**, 27 (Northern 3, Yorkshire 1, Trent 5, E Anglia 2, NE Thames 1, SE Thames 7, SW Thames 1, Wessex 1, S

Western 1, W Midlands 3, N Western 1, Wales 1); **group C**, 13 (S Western 6, Trent, E Anglia, NE Thames, SW Thames, Oxford, W Midlands and N Western 1 each).

Also reported: **group B**, F 10y with meningitis (throat isolate only); **group C**, F 26y with rash and septic arthritis (joint isolate only), **ungroupable strain**, M 4y with meningitis and rash (throat isolate only). **Group B**, M 56y (sputum). **Group Y**, M 23y, cardiac transplant (sputum).

Notifications to OPCS of meningitis and meningococcal infections, England and Wales

Notifications	91/10	91/11	91/12	91/13	Cumulative total for 1991
Total meningitis	74	52	62	35	223
Meningococcal meningitis	39	25	27	21	112
Meningococcal septicaemia	4	6	8	3	21

Age distribution laboratory reports

Laboratory reports	Age (years)										Not stated
	<1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	≥25	
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	22*	9	7	5	4	12	10	19	7	16	4
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	35#	19	6	6	6	2	—	—	1	16	5

* includes 3 aged ≤3 months

includes 7 aged ≤3 months

Haemophilus influenzae: 3 regions reported more than 10% cases: Trent, SW Thames and W Midlands (13 cases each). The 66 children aged 3 years or less included M 1m (isolates from PM brain, blood, bronchus and spleen) and M 4m with bronchiolitis and meningitis. Seven young children had β-lactamase producing strains (Trent 3; SE Thames 2 and Wessex 2); one strain was also chloramphenicol-resistant. Two other ampicillin-resistant

strains were reported from S Western and W Midlands. The 30 other patients included 2 patients with myeloma/lymphoma and 3 with biliary tract disease. 2 β-lactamase producing strains were reported (Northern and NE Thames, 1 each).

Also reported: **type b**: F 1y with septic arthritis (joint isolate) and F 4y with epiglottitis (isolate from epiglottitis).

H. influenzae clinical features recorded on laboratory reports

Clinical features	Age (years)				Not stated
	≤3	4-14	15-64	≥65	
Meningitis (blood isolate only)	42 (1)	2 (—)	—	—	2
Epiglottitis	11	3	2	—	1
Pneumonia	2	1	1	3	1
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	2	—	1	—	—
Facial cellulitis	4	—	—	—	—

H. parainfluenzae 1: female, age not stated, with biliary tract disease (blood isolate).

Listeria monocytogenes: 2 neonates with meningitis (CSF isolates) and preterm neonate with rash (blood isolate).

Unusual infections

Bacillus sp 2: M 4m with intravascular line. *B. cereus* and *Clostridium perfringens* type A, M 40y with endophthalmitis after perforating eye injury (intra-ocular isolates).

Branhamella catarrhalis: M 1y with pneumonia (blood isolate).

Diphtheroids: F 30y with leukaemia had IV-line (blood isolate).

Gardnerella vaginalis: F 21y with septic abortion (blood isolate).

Hafnia alvei: M 70y on ventilator (blood isolate).

Pasteurella multocida meningitis (see animal-associated infections).

Providencia stuartii: M 58y with urinary catheter (blood isolate).

Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/10 - 13

Bordetella pertussis 37, including 2 pairs of siblings and a father and child. 3 regions reported more than 4 cases: Trent (5), NE Thames (5) and N Western (12).

Ages: 7 aged less than 6 months, 6 of whom were aged 3 months or less; 17 aged 1-5 years; 9 aged 6-14 years; M 37y and 3 age not stated. Whooping cough notifications continue to show a gradual decline.

Chlamydia trachomatis: F 1m (eye, nasopharyngeal aspirate isolates).

Corynebacterium ulcerans 1: an adult with tonsillitis (throat isolate).

Streptococcus group A: 4 serological diagnoses: M 10y with erysipelas; M 3y and M 17y with glomerulonephritis; F 42y with erythema nodosum.

Malaria: October - December 1990 (Reports to the Malaria Reference Laboratory)

Plasmodium species	Country of infection			Total
	Africa	Indian sub-continent	Rest of world/not stated	
<i>P. falciparum</i>	165	28	30	223
<i>P. vivax</i>	17	72	50	139
<i>P. malariae</i>	9	—	—	9
<i>P. ovale</i>	26	—	2	28
Mixed	6	3	—	9
Total	223	103	82	408

The number of cases this quarter (408) compares with 439 in the fourth quarter of 1989, and 424 in 1988. The cumulative total for 1990 is 2096, which compares with 1987 (corrected total, see CDR 90/20, p.4) for 1989, and 1674 for 1988.

There has been a slight decrease (7%) in the number of reports of all plasmodium species this quarter compared with the same period last year, except for *P. vivax* infections which have increased by 18% (from 118 in 1989 to 139 in 1990). The cumulative total of all malaria cases for 1990 however, is the highest since the last peak of 2309 infections recorded in 1986, which itself was the largest number of cases ever reported to the Malaria Reference

Laboratory.

The largest proportion of the 139 *P. vivax* infections recorded this quarter were acquired in the Indian sub-continent (72); a further 17 were acquired in Africa, and of the remaining 50 cases, 23 were known to be acquired in other parts of the world.

Of the 165 *P. falciparum* infections acquired in Africa, most (113) were from West Africa, and 34 from East Africa. There was one death recorded, the fourth this year, that compares with a total of four in 1989 and eight in 1988. A British woman aged 51 years was taken ill one week after returning from a holiday in Gambia, and died three weeks later. She had not taken any malaria prophylaxis.

From week 91/01 data in CDR will be from England and Wales only, unless otherwise stated.

Weekly numbers are provisional and should not be used to indicate trends