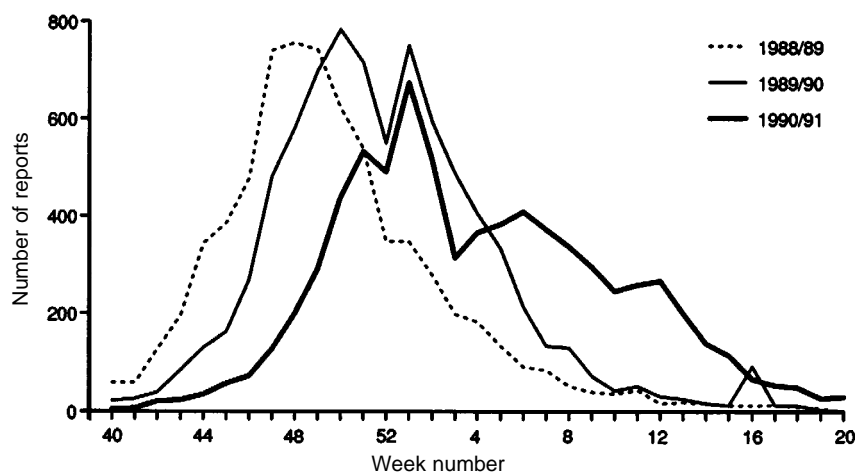


Communicable Disease Report

Surveillance of respiratory syncytial virus infection: England and Wales 1988-91

Epidemics of infections due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) occur every winter in England and Wales. The number of reports received by CDSC each winter increased during the 1980s due to the increase in the number of laboratories reporting and the increased availability of tests for this infection.

Weekly respiratory syncytial virus laboratory reports to CDSC by date of specimen collection



A similar number of reports were received for each of the winters 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 but the peak of reported infections by date of specimen collection, shown in the figure, varied from week 48 in 1988-89 to week 01 in 1990-91. This variation in the timing of the peak has also been observed in previous years. A reduction in the number of infections diagnosed in all three years is apparent over the Christmas and New Year holiday. Reports of RSV infections continue to be received at present and further reports for infections by date of specimen collection during weeks 91/17-20 may be received. Those reports have continued a little later into the summer period than in the previous two years.

Department of Health Food Safety Conference 1991

The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Campden Food and Drink Research Association, the Royal Agricultural Society for England, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, are holding a one-day conference entitled "The Strategy for Health - the roles of legislation, information and health promotion in preventing microbiological contamination of food" at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire on Friday 18 October 1991.

Further information is available from M Jacob, CEHO, Department of Health, Room 114 Eileen House, 80-94 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EF.

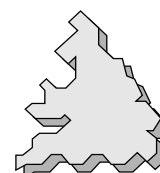
Respiratory tract infections:
weeks 91/23 - 26

Mycobacterial infections:
weeks 91/23 - 26

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:
weeks 91/23 - 26

Unusual infections

Notices



PHLS

Public Health Laboratory Service

Respiratory tract infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/23 - 26

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/23-26	Cumulative total 1991
	91/23	91/24	91/25	91/26		
Adenovirus (excluding EM faeces)	51	30	53	47	181	1369
Coronavirus	4	—	3	1	8	24
Influenza A	2	1	—	2	5	89
Influenza B	6	9	8	11	34	1937
Parainfluenza	14	29	25	38	106	345
RS virus	26	25	33	22	106	6601
Rhinovirus	7	5	5	6	23	219

Comment

Adenovirus (excluding EM faeces): 51 patients had eye infections, 7 had pneumonia, 6 had bronchiolitis and 2 had croup. F 29y had meningitis.

Influenza A: 1 patient had pneumonia.

Influenza B (3 isolates; 2 rising titres): six patients had pneumonia. M 61y with polyneuropathy also had *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*; 2 cases associated with a cruise ship.

Parainfluenza: type 1, 8; type 2, 2; type 3, 92; type 4a, 1, untyped 3. Two patients had pneumonia, 28 had bronchiolitis and 2 had croup.

RS virus: 2 regions reported more than 10% cases: Mersey (18 cases) and NW Thames (11). 78% of patients were aged less than 1 year. One patient had pneumonia and 5 had bronchiolitis.

Rhinovirus: 2 patients had pneumonia; 5 had bronchiolitis. ***Chlamydia psittaci***: 14 patients had pneumonia. 9 patients had contact with birds (budgerigars 1, canaries 1, chickens 1, parrots 2, unspecified 3, one worked in a duck slaughterhouse).

Coxiella burnetii: 4 patients had pneumonia.

Legionella pneumophila: 6 males and 2 females, age range 34-77 years. Recent travel abroad: Greece 1, Italy 1, Spain 2. Seven patients had pneumonia.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae: 2 regions reported more than 10% cases: E Anglia (37 cases) and S Western (27). 34% of cases were aged less than 14 years and 47% were in the 15-44 years age group. 105 patients had pneumonia and 2 had bronchiolitis. Four patients had rash, including F 7y with erythema multiforme and F 19y with erythema nodosum. M29y had acute haemolysis.

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/23-26	Cumulative total 1991
	91/23	91/24	91/25	91/26		
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>	4	16	8	7	35	216
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	1	2	5	3	11	38
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	—	2	—	6	8	64
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	51	75	36	49	211	1443

Mycobacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/23 - 26

Mycobacterium tuberculosis 139: 76 males, 56 females, 7 sex not stated.

Pulmonary infections 83: 52 males, 27 females, 4 sex not stated. 33 were sputum smear positive. 1 patient was aged under 15 years and 24 were aged 65 years or more; 1 male aged M 71y died. 4 isolates were from pleural aspirates and 1 from post mortem lung.

Disseminated 7: 2 males with miliary infection. M 71y with ileal tuberculosis and meningitis (peritoneal isolate, no CSF). 4 females (2 from Indian subcontinent) one with miliary infection, one with leukaemia, 2 with pulmonary and genitourinary infection.

Meningitis 3: M 11y, F 36y and F 56y (all CSF isolates).

Lymph nodes 14: 5 males, 8 females and 1 sex not stated (2 from Indian subcontinent).

Genitourinary 8: 6 males, 2 females.

Bone/joint 8: 5 males (2 from Indian subcontinent), 2 females and 1 sex not stated; 5 with spinal infections.

Abdomen 1: female from Indian subcontinent.

Abscess 13: 4 males, 8 females and 1 sex not stated. Site: neck 7, chest wall 3, thigh 1 and site not stated 1.

Skin 2: 1 male, 1 female.

M. kansasii 5: 3 females aged 52-63y, M 56y and M 78y all pulmonary infections, 4 sputum smear positive.

M. xenopi 2: M 62y and M 73y both pulmonary infections (1 sputum smear positive).

Avium-intracellulare group 9: HIV-1 antibody positive M 48y (blood, spleen, liver, lung) and HIV-1 antibody positive male with pulmonary disease (sputum). Two other males, including M 3y, with pulmonary infections. Four females aged 2y, 3y, 12y and one age not stated, with lymphadenopathy.

M. malmoense 9: 5 males aged 49y-76y, 4 females aged 49y-

58y with pulmonary infections, 3 sputum smear positive. **M. marinum 2:** M 19y skin infection after contact with tropical fish. F 52y with fish tank granuloma (hand lesion).

M. fortuitum 1: immunocompromised M 75y with ankle lesion.

M. terrae group 1: M 54y with septic arthritis (interphalangeal joint).

Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: weeks 91/23 - 26

Laboratory reports	No. of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total 1991
	blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	<1m	≥65y		
Staphylococci						
S. aureus	405	3	7	164	408 (5)*	1872
Coagulase negative	183	1	16	45	184	1171
Streptococci						
group A	38	1	—	18	39	325
group B	51	5	23	16	56	358
group C & G	35	—	—	20	35	206
enterococci	150	1	12	75	151	707
α and non-haemolytic	107	—	6	39	107	703
S. pneumoniae	314	20	6	154	334	2414

* methicillin-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*

Bacteraemia

Staphylococci:

S. aureus: 23 of 87 patients with intravascular lines were on haemodialysis; 33 had UTI/GU surgery, including 10 women with post partum infections; 22 had pneumonia/lung abscess. F 11m has suppurative pericarditis (blood, pericardium isolates); M 16y had cerebral abscess (blood isolate) and M 72y had CSF shunt (blood isolate).

Coagulase negative: 4 of 105 patients with intravascular lines were on haemodialysis; 6 had UTI/GU surgery; F 18y with CSF shunt.

Also reported: M 70y with septic arthritis (joint isolate).

Streptococci:

group A: 14 patients had skin infections, including 4 with chickenpox; 4 women had puerperal infections. F 36y with necrotising fasciitis, had pneumonia and acute renal failure. Immunosuppressed F 67y had exudative tonsillitis (blood and throat isolates).

Also reported: M 70y with myonecrosis of chest wall (muscle isolate).

group B: 23 neonates; 7 patients with UTI/GU surgery including 2 women with puerperal infections; 7 patients with

skin infections.

Also reported: F 2m with septic arthritis (joint isolate) and M 65y with osteomyelitis (bone isolate).

group C, 9 and group G, 26: 15 patients had skin infections; 5 had UTI/GU surgery; M 61y was on haemodialysis.

enterococci: *S. bovis* 16; *S. faecalis* 72; *S. faecium* 25. 26 patients had UTI/GU surgery and 18 had biliary tract disease/surgery including three after ERCP and one after liver biopsy.

α- and non-haemolytic: *S. acidominimus* 2; *S. cremoris* 3; *S. milleri* 21; *S. mitior* 19 (*S. mitis* 17); *S. morbillorum* 1; *S. mutans* 2; *S. salivarius* 7; *S. sanguis* 32. 8 patients had UTI/GU surgery including 5 women with puerperal infections; 6 had biliary tract disease/surgery. *S. milleri*, F 15y with pansinusitis had cerebral abscess (blood, sinus isolates). *S. sanguis*, M 5m with CSF shunt.

S. pneumoniae: 30 children aged 4 years or less including 6 neonates and 8 children with pneumonia. 132 other patients had pneumonia/lung abscess. F 27y with history of splenectomy presented with purpuric rash; F 30y had pericarditis; three patients, including F 6y, had peritonitis.

Also reported: F 10m with osteomyelitis (bone isolate).

Laboratory reports	Total bacteraemia	Acute bone/joint	Age		IV/CVP lines	Pace-makers	Endocarditis (with prostheses)	IVDA (with endocarditis)
			<15y	≥65y				
Staphylococci								
S. aureus	405	39	12	13	87	11	9 (-)	3 (1)
Coagulase negative	183	—	—	—	105	2	10 (1)	—
Streptococci								
group A	38	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
group B	51	3	—	2	1	—	2 (-)	—
group C & G	35	1	—	1	1	1	1 (1)	2 (-)
enterococci	150	—	—	—	27	—	7 (2)	—
α and non-haemolytic	107	1	1	—	2	1	25 (2)	1 (-)
S. pneumoniae	314	3	—	3	2	—	1 (-)	—

Meningitis**Staphylococci:**

S. aureus: F 3y; F 56y with CSF shunt; F 58y with endocarditis.

Coagulase negative: F 53y with CSF shunt; M 48y with CSF rhinorrhoea had meningitis (blood isolate only).

Streptococci:

group A: M 81y

group B: 3 neonates; F 1m and F 2m.

S. faecalis: F 2m with CSF shunt.

S. pneumoniae: 10 children aged 4 years or less including M 1y with CSF shunt and F 3y with recurrence 5 weeks after treatment; 11 patients aged 5-64 years (blood isolate only, 2) including M 63y with pneumonia (PM meninges); 3 patients aged 65 years or more (blood isolate only, 1).

Unusual infections

Corynebacterium aquaticum: F 5y with leukaemia had intravascular line (blood and line-tip isolates).

C. jeikeium: M 72y with aplastic anaemia had intravascular line (blood isolate).

C. xerosis: F 74y with leukaemia had intravascular line (blood and line-tip isolates).

Diphtheroids: F 50y with IV-line (blood isolate).

Hafnia alvei: female with intestinal obstruction and acute renal failure (blood isolate).

Lactobacillus sp.: F 38y with fever after delivery of stillborn baby (blood isolate).

Ochrobactrum anthropi: F 28y with acute renal failure after Caesarean section (blood and IV line-tip isolates).

Providencia stuartii: M 76y (blood isolate).

Developing skill in communicable disease control

A workshop entitled 'Catching Outbreaks' will be held at the George Hotel, Chollerford, Northumberland from 7-10 October 1991. The course, run by the Northern Regional Health Authority, is designed for Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, in post or in training, who are already familiar with principles of routine surveillance, outbreak investigation and Epi Info 5.

Further details are available from Dr N M I Black, Regional CCDC, Northern Regional Health Authority, Benfield Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 4PY.

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