

## Communicable Disease Report

### Water contamination incident in Greater London

During the early evening of Saturday 20 July, a fault at a pumping station in Buckinghamshire led to partially treated water entering the mains supply for a period of up to three hours, covering an area of 80 square miles and a population of 500,000 people predominantly located in Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and North Parkside health districts. The water had been through treatment stages, including filtration, but had not been chlorinated.

No confirmed cases of illness attributable to the incident have yet been reported although consultants in communicable disease control in the affected districts have increased surveillance, including contacting local general practitioners, hospitals, and local authorities.

A water boiling notice was lifted on Monday 22 July following discussions between the water authority, consultants in communicable disease control and environmental health officers. The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre will be interested to receive reports of infections which may relate to this incident.

### *Salmonella hadar* phage type 10

A cluster of 30 cases of salmonella infection has been identified in persons from an area encompassing the borders of West Essex and East Herts health authorities. Fourteen have been confirmed by the Division of Enteric Pathogens at the Central Public Health Laboratory as having *Salmonella hadar* PT 10 infection. Investigations are under way to identify the source of these infections. CDSC will be grateful for details of further cases thought to be associated with this cluster.

CDSC has received 80 reports, geographically widespread, of *S. hadar* so far this year, of which only two were phage type 10. A similar number of reports of *S. hadar* (81) was reported in the same period last year, of which four were phage type 10.

### *Escherichia coli* O 157

Six faecal isolates of *Escherichia coli* O 157 have been reported by Nottingham Public Health Laboratory during the last three weeks. Two were associated with haemolytic uraemic syndrome, two with haemorrhagic colitis and two were asymptomatic carriers (and family contacts of the four cases). Three isolates have been identified as phage type 2. CDSC is assisting with the local investigation of this apparent cluster and the gastrointestinal section will be grateful for information about other related cases.

### Life insurance and hepatitis B virus vaccine for health care workers

The Association of British Insurers has produced a statement which explains that the life insurance prospects of health care workers will not be adversely affected by the fact that HBV vaccine has been given for occupational risk of HBV infection, nor by blood tests related to it.

Copies of the statement are available from the Hepatitis Section at CDSC (telephone 081 200 6868, ext 3404).

**Virus infections:**  
weeks 91/26 - 29

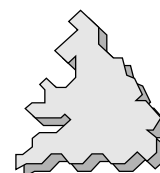
**Animal-associated infections:**  
weeks 91/26 - 29

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:**  
weeks 91/26 - 29

**Selected bacterial infections:**  
weeks 91/26 - 29

**Unusual infections**

**Notice**



## Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/26 - 29

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 91/26-29	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/26	91/27	91/28	91/29		
Coxsackie A	—	—	1	—	1	37
Coxsackie B	9	20	12	9	50	206
Echovirus	4	5	6	4	19	172
Measles	—	—	2	—	2	23
Mumps	—	—	1	—	1	28
Parvovirus B19	18	12	12	18	60	511
Rubella	2	6	3	4	15	173

**Coxsackie A:** A3, 1.

**Coxsackie B:** B1, 4; B2, 2; B3, 20; B4, 13; B5, 11.

Five patients had meningitis (CSF isolate, 4): M 15d, M 23d, F 2m, M 10y and female, age not stated. **B3**, F 2y with pneumonia died (faecal isolate). **B3**, M 32y and **B4**, M 53y, both with Bornholm disease.

**Echovirus:** type 4, 1; type 5, 1; type 9, 6; type 17, 1; type 18, 2; type 25, 1; type 30, 6; untyped 1.

Eleven patients had meningitis (CSF isolate, 7): 2 children aged less than 15 years; one adult aged 15-24 years; 6, 25-44 years; 1, 65 or more years; one age not stated.

Reports of echovirus type 30 were lower than for the previous two four-week periods. Approximately 50% of Coxsackie B reports were made by laboratories in SW England (Wessex 13, S Western 11).

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

Notifications					Total 91/26-29	Cumulative total for 1991
	91/26	91/27	91/28	91/29		
Measles	212	324	288	251	1075	5822
Mumps	77	79	59	59	274	1768
Rubella	173	201	186	184	744	4409

**Measles:** 2 adults.

**Mumps:** one child aged 4 years.

**Parvovirus (B19):** 2 regions reported 7 or more cases: E Anglia (11) and Wales (9).

Ages: 4 children aged less than 15 years; 46 adults aged 15-44 years; 6, 44 or more years; 4 age not stated.

41 patients had rash and 41 had arthritis/arthritis.

**Rubella:** only one region reported more than 2 cases: SW Thames (5).

Ages: 2 children aged less than 15 years; 11 adults aged 15-44 years including 5 women, 2 of whom were pregnant. Five patients presented with arthralgia.

## Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports weeks 91/26 - 29

**Borrelia burgdorferi** 2: F 42y with rash and arthritis and M 63y with rash and arthritis following a tick bite two years ago (both serol).

**Brucella melitensis** 2: F 21y with fever, recently visited Pakistan and F 24y with fever and liver granuloma after travel abroad (both serol).

**Brucella sp.** M 67y, farmer, with fever and history of previous brucella infection.

**Leptospirosis** 2: M 31y, farmer, and female (age not stated), canoeist (both serol).

**Orf paravaccinia** 1: M 59y.

**Pasteurella** 22: *P. multocida* 16; *P. pneumotropica* 1; *pasteurella sp* 5. Twelve patients had dog bites; 3 had cat bites; 2 had infected wounds. M 40y with liver failure and M 75y with pneumonia had bacteraemia.

**Toxocara** 1: M 5y had lymphadenopathy and jaundice.

**Toxoplasma** 40: 15 patients had lymphadenopathy (histology suggestive 4); 5 had eye lesions; one had hepatosplenomegaly; 4 patients were known to be HIV-1 antibody positive.

## Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 91/26 - 29

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total received	Cumulative total for 1991
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	< 1m	≥ 65y		
<b><i>Neisseria meningitidis</i></b>	24	33	—	4	57 (16) *	687
group A	—	1			1	
B	13	19			32 (9) *	
C	3	7			10 (3) *	
W135	—	—			—	
Y	3	1			4 (3) *	
ungrouped	5	5			10 (1) *	
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	47	26	3	4	73 (9) §	672
type b	11	17			28 (7) §	
<b><i>Listeria monocytogenes</i></b>	6	2	—	2	8	46

\*sulphonamide-resistant

§β-lactamase producing

***Neisseria meningitidis***: two regions reported more than 10% of cases: W Midlands (10 cases) and Wessex (6). Ten patients presented with a rash. Sixteen sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group B**, 9 (Trent, NE Thames, Wessex, W Midlands 2, N Western 2 and Wales 2); **group C**, 4 (Yorkshire 2, Wessex and S Western); **group Y**, 2 (SE Thames and Wessex); **ungrouped**, 1 (Wessex).

Also reported: **group B**, F 20y with meningitis (throat isolate only); **group C**, M 3m with rash (throat isolate only) whose brother had infection with group C; M 72y with cardiac tamponade (pericardial fluid isolate); **group Y**, M 17y with meningitis and splenectomy (blood isolate only); M 11y with arthritis (joint isolate only); **ungrouped**, F 3y with meningitis (throat isolate only).

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

Notifications	91/26	91/27	91/28	91/29	Total 91/26-29	Cumulative total for 1991
Totamenigitis	40	38	58	55	191	1618
Meningococcal meningitis	16	12	13	9	50	786
Meningococcal septicaemia	4	4	4	2	14	170

### Age distribution recorded on laboratory reports

Laboratory reports	Age (years)										Not stated
	<1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	≥25	
<b><i>Neisseria meningitidis</i></b>	12*	5	7	1	2	7	4	3	2	12	2
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	15§	15	8	5	1	1	—	1	3	9	3

\* includes 1 aged ≤ 3 months

§ includes 7 aged ≤ 3 months

***Haemophilus influenzae***: two regions reported more than 10% of cases: SW Thames (9 cases) and S Western (9). Nine β-lactamase producing strains, from 7 children, 1 adult and 1 patient age not stated, were reported (Northern, E Anglia, SW Thames 3, Wessex, W Midlands 2 and Mersey). Three other ampicillin-resistant strains, from 2 children and 1 adult, were reported (Northern, NE Thames and SW Thames).

***H. parainfluenzae***: male, age not stated, with lumbar collapse

and pleural effusion (pleural fluid isolate).

***Haemophilus sp.*** M 55y with leukaemia and chest infection (blood isolate).

***Listeria monocytogenes***: meningitis: F 74y and F 74y (both CSF isolates). Bacteraemia: one stillborn (blood and amniotic fluid isolates); F 32y with systemic lupus on steroids; F 38y with leukaemia; F 63y with aplastic anaemia; F 63y with alcoholic liver disease; M 40y with perforated diverticulitis (all blood isolates).

### *H. influenzae*: clinical features recorded on laboratory reports

Clinical features	Age in years					Not stated
	≤ 3	4-14	15-64	≥ 65		
Meningitis (blood isolate only)	23 (3)	1 (1)	1 (-)	—	1	
Epiglottitis	4	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	3	—	1	1	—	
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	5	—	—	—	—	
Facial cellulitis	3	—	—	—	—	

## Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports 91/26 - 29

---

**Arcanobacterium (Corynebacterium) haemolyticum** 1: M 32y with quinsy and rash (throat isolate).

**Bordetella pertussis** 24: only one region reported 2 or more cases: Yorkshire (3).

Ages: 5 babies aged less than 6 months, including 4 aged 3 months or less; one infant aged 6-11 months; 12 children aged 1-5 years and 6 aged 6-14 years.

**Clostridium tetani** 1: M 78y with tetanus following skin wound.

**Corynebacterium ulcerans** 1: F 69y with skin wound.

**Streptococcus group A** 3: M 11y with haematuria (ASO and anti-DNAse B titres); F 35y with pleural effusion (pleural fluid isolate); M 66y died suddenly at home (prostate isolate).

## Unusual infections

---

**Achromobacter sp** 2: F 20y with septic abortion (blood isolate) and F 42y with fever and liver disease (ascitic fluid isolate).

**Agrobacterium radiobacter (agrobacterium tumefaciens)** 1: F 58y with leukaemia (blood isolate).

**Diphtheroids** 2: two males, age not stated, with leukaemia and neutropenia respectively (both blood isolates).

**Hafnia alvei** 3: F 42y with haematemesis and pneumonia; M 72y with biliary tract disease and IV-line; F 74y with urinary tract disease (all blood isolates).

**Providencia stuartii** 1: F 56y with urinary tract disease (blood isolate).

## Association of Clinical Pathologists

---

The Association of Clinical Pathologists is holding a scientific meeting at Kensington Town Hall, London on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 October 1991. The first day focuses on paediatric infections. The second day covers immunology, mycology and laboratory management. Further details are available from Dr D A Winfield, Department of Haematology, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, S10 2JF.

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