

## Communicable Disease Report

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### Supplies of pneumococcal vaccine

Stocks of pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax-II) have fallen to a low level, following a greater than expected increase in its use. This is largely due to opportunistic immunisation at the same time as influenza vaccine but also follows recent publication of the Department of Health's recommendations on immunisation against pneumococcal disease<sup>1</sup>. The manufacturers, Merck Sharpe and Dohme, have taken steps to meet the increased demand and further supplies will be available in January. Pneumovax-II is still available through normal distribution channels but it is recommended that, at least until January, the vaccine should be reserved for the following priority groups:

- i) Patients planned to undergo chemotherapy or radiotherapy.
  - ii) Patients receiving elective transplants.
  - iii) Patients undergoing elective splenectomy.
  - iv) Patients with chronic renal disease or nephrotic syndrome.
  - v) Children over two years of age with sickle cell disease.
1. Department of Health, Welsh Office, Scottish Home and Health Department. *Immunisation against infectious disease*. London: HMSO, 1992.

### *Salmonella typhimurium* DT 49

An outbreak of infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* DT 49 has been reported from two adjacent towns in Bedfordshire. Fifty-five cases (in 50 of which the identity of the organism has been confirmed by the Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens) have been identified since 30 September. Eight patients have been admitted to hospital. A case-control study is underway to identify the vehicle of infection. CDSC and the local CCDC (Dr P Nair - telephone 0234 355122) will be grateful for any other information about cases of infection relevant to this outbreak.

**Virus infections:**  
weeks 92/41 - 44

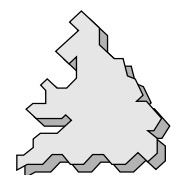
**Animal-associated infections:**  
weeks 92/41 - 44

**Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis:**  
weeks 92/41 - 44

**Unusual infections**

**Selected bacterial infections:**  
weeks 92/41 - 44

**Notice**



## Virus infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 92/41–44

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports 92/41-44	Cumulative total 1992
	92/41	92/42	92/43	92/44		
<b>Coxsackie A</b>	–	4	8	2	14	137
<b>Coxsackie B</b>	12	7	13	8	40	474
<b>Echovirus</b>	24	14	24	17	79	776
<b>Measles</b>	2	2	3	1	8	94
<b>Mumps</b>	2	2	2	–	6	39
<b>Parvovirus B19</b>	8	26	13	8	55	738
<b>Rubella</b>	3	3	–	7	13	138

**Coxsackie A:** A7, 1; A9, 7; A10, 1; A16, 2; A19, 1; A21, 2.

One neonate (nasal isolate); one infant aged less than 1 year; 7 children aged 1-14 years, including 2 with meningitis (both CSF isolates) and M 6y with encephalitis; 4 adults, including 3 with meningitis (1 CSF isolate) and M 25y with hand, foot and mouth disease; one patient, age not stated, with meningitis (no CSF isolate).

One region reported more than 2 cases: N Western (4).

**Coxsackie B:** B1, 4; B2, 4; B3, 3; B4, 8; B5, 10; B untyped 11.

Three neonates, including 2 with meningitis (1 CSF isolate); 8 infants aged less than 1 year, including M 1m with meningitis (CSF isolate), M 11m with CSF shunt and F 6m with failure to thrive; 6 children aged 1-14 years, including M 1y with myocarditis/pericarditis; 22 adults, including 3 with meningitis (2 CSF isolates) and 5 with myocarditis/pericarditis; one patient, age not stated.

Three regions reported more than 4 cases: Northern (8), Oxford (6) and N Western (6).

**Echovirus:** type 1, 1; type 3, 2; type 6, 7; type 7, 3; type 9, 6; type 11, 31; type 14, 2; type 17, 1; type 19, 1; type 20, 1; type 22, 11; type 23, 2; type 25, 1; type 27, 5; type 30, 4; untyped 1. Two neonates, including one with meningitis (no CSF isolate); 40 infants aged less than 1 year, including 4 with meningitis (3 CSF isolates) and M 5m with sudden infant death syndrome;

20 children aged 1-14 years; 14 adults, including 6 with meningitis (2 CSF isolates) and F 25y with erythema nodosum; 3 patients, age not stated.

Four regions reported more than 6 cases: Northern (13), Trent (22), SW Thames (9) and S Western (13).

**Measles:** one child aged 9 years; 7 adults.

One region reported more than 1 case: Northern (3).

**Mumps:** F 1y with meningitis (CSF isolate) 28 days after receiving Urabe-containing MMR vaccine at the end of August; 5 adults.

**Parvovirus (B19):** eight children aged 1-14 years, including M 5y with glomerulonephritis, M 12y with haemolytic crisis and F 7y with leukaemia; 44 adults, including HIV-1 antibody positive M 34y, F 21y with spherocytosis, F 40y with haemolytic anaemia, 3 women with intra-uterine devices and 6 pregnant women, one of whom (F 27y) had spontaneous abortion at 20 weeks and one (F 31y) had polyhydramnios at 21 weeks; 3 patients, age not stated.

Four regions reported more than 4 cases: Northern (10), E Anglia (5), W Midlands (10) and N Western (7).

**Rubella:** 12 children aged 1-14 years; unvaccinated F 25y. Two regions reported more than 1 case: E Anglia (4) and Wessex (4).

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

Notifications					Total 92/41-44	Cumulative total 1992
	92/41	92/42	92/43	92/44		
<b>Measles</b>	177	171	186	184	718	8693
<b>Mumps</b>	52	49	52	42	195	1998
<b>Rubella</b>	140	121	120	105	486	4965

## Animal-associated infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 92/41–44

**Borrelia burgdorferi:** M 32y.

**Brucella sp:** M 17y, from Portugal, who had been known to consume unpasteurised cheese and goats' milk, had high fever and splenomegaly (serology).

**Echinococcus granulosus** (hydatid disease) 2: M 28y from Morocco with abdominal pain. One cyst was removed and another drained (microscopy and serology); F 70y, with pleural effusion/empyema, had a liver cyst aspirated (microscopy).

**Leptospira** 4: *L. hardjo* 3: M 25y and M 37y, both farmers;

M 33y. *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*, M 28y, a sewage worker, with jaundice and renal failure.

**Pasteurella** 21: *P. multocida* 15: three patients aged 18-70 years had dog bites, 3 aged 45-91 years had cat bites/scratches and 4 had unspecified animal bites (all pus isolates); female, age not stated, with lymphoma had contact with cats, and F 64y with myeloma reported contact with dogs and cats (both blood isolates); 3 patients aged 67-79 years had respiratory tract infection (2 sputum, 1 alveolar lavage isolates). *Pasteurella sp* 6: M 55y and F 55y both had dog

bites, and M 87y had unspecified animal contact; 3 patients aged 11-51 years had wounds (all pus isolates).

**Streptococcus suis** 2: type 2: male butcher, in his 60s, with confusion, pyrexia and meningism after upper respiratory tract infection (blood and CSF isolates). Untyped: M 40y (blood).

**Toxocara sp**: M 73y with malaise, jaundice and eosinophilia;

F 8y with posterior uveitis; female, age not stated, with eye leison and eosinophilia.

**Toxoplasma gondii** 41: sixteen patients aged 11-52 years had lymphadenopathy (histology suggestive 3); M 24y and M 33y both had eye lesions; M 23y had a bone marrow transplant; one patient was HIV-1 antibody positive.

## Bacteraemia and bacterial meningitis, England and Wales: weeks 92/41-44

Laboratory reports of blood and CSF isolates of bacteria are grouped into the following four categories and published in a weekly sequence:

1. Staphylococci and streptococci (excluding anaerobic cocci).
2. Enterobacteriaceae ie, *Citrobacter*, *Enterobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus* and *Salmonella species*.
3. Environmental and anaerobic bacteria ie, *Bacteroides*, *Clostridia*, *Acinetobacter*, *Aeromonas*, *Pseudomonas*, *Serratia* and anaerobic cocci.
4. *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Haemophilus species* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

This week's CDR contains reports for category 4. Less commonly reported causes of bacteraemia or bacterial meningitis are listed under **Unusual infections**.

Laboratory reports	No of reports received		Age		Total reports 92/41-44	Cumulative total 1992
	Blood only	CSF only or CSF & blood	< 1m	≥ 65y		
<b><i>Neisseria meningitidis</i></b>	18	29	1	3	47 (9) *	779
group A	1	—			1	
B	11	15			26 (8) *	
C	4	9			13 (1) *	
W135	—	1	—	1	1 (—) *	
ungrouped	2	4			6 (—) *	
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	47	35	2	5	82 (3) §	884
type b	24	17			42 (3) §	
<b><i>Listeria monocytogenes</i></b>	6	2	—	5	8	79

\* sulphonamide-resistant

§ β-lactamase producing

***Neisseria meningitidis***: four regions reported more than 10% of cases: Northern (6 cases), W Midlands (5), N Western (5) and Wales (8).

Nine sulphonamide-resistant strains were reported: **group B**, 8 (Northern 3, NW Thames, Wessex, W Midlands, Mersey, N Western); **group C**, 1 (Wales).

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

Notifications					Total 92/41-44	Cumulative total 1992
	92/41	92/42	92/43	92/44		
Total meningitis	48	57	51	36	192	2112
Meningococcal meningitis	17	16	14	13	60	878
Meningococcal septicaemia	2	3	6	4	15	230

## 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>	14 *	8	2	—	1	2	2	6	2	8	2
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i></b>	25 §	21	11	12	1	1	—	—	—	8	3

\* includes 4 aged ≤3 months

§ includes 5 aged ≤3 months

**Haemophilus influenzae:** three regions reported more than 10% of cases: NW Thames (9 cases), SW Thames (14) and W Midlands (10).

Thirteen ampicillin-resistant strains were reported: F 1y (Yorkshire), M 1y and F 1y (both Trent), M 3y (E Anglia), F 7m (NW Thames), M 2y (NE Thames), M 9m (SW Thames), F 3y (Wessex), M 3y (S Western), F 1y (W Midlands), M 6m and

M 1y (both N Western) and M 2y (Wales).

Also reported: F 2y with septic arthritis/osteomyelitis (pus isolate) and F 70y (pleural fluid isolate).

**Listeria monocytogenes:** bacteraemia: M 71y; M 81y and female, age not stated, were both immunocompromised; M 83y died; F 75y; F 87y had congestive cardiac failure and cellulitis. Meningitis: M 50y had heart transplant; F 40y.

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

Clinical features	Age in years				
	≤3	4–14	15–64	≥65	Not stated
Meningitis (blood isolate only)	7 (7)	1 (1)	–	1 (1)	–
Epiglottitis	10	–	–	–	1
Pneumonia	–	–	–	1	–
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	2	–	–	–	1
Facial cellulitis	4	–	–	–	–

#### **Unusual infections**

**Aerococcus viridans:** M 81y (blood isolate).

**Agrobacterium radiobacter** 3: M 67y (peritoneal dialysate isolate); F 23y with IV-line, and F 41y were both immunocompromised (both blood isolates).

**Alcaligenes sp:** immunocompromised M 60y with IV-line (blood isolate).

**Branhamella catarrhalis** 3: M 75y, M 83y with chronic obstructive airways disease, and F 54y with leukaemia and IV-line (all blood isolates).

**Capnocytophaga ochracea:** M 8y with leukaemia (blood isolate; *Streptococcus sanguis* type 2 also isolated).

**Chromobacterium violaceum:** M 78y with chronic obstructive airways disease (blood isolate).

**Comamonas acidovorans:** F 68y on haemodialysis (blood isolate).

**Escherichia fergusonii:** M 80y (blood isolate).

**Flavobacterium sp 2:** *F. indologenes*, F 32y with Hodgkin's lymphoma (blood isolate). *Flavobacterium sp*, premature neonate with IV-line (blood isolate).

**Gemella haemolysans:** M 75y (blood isolate).

**Oerskovia sp:** M 88y had pneumonia (blood isolate).

**Kluyvera sp:** F 75y with urinary tract infection (blood isolate).

**Propionibacterium sp 2:** M 70y with endocarditis, and female, age not stated (both blood isolates).

**Rahnella aquatilis** 2: F 1m with urinary tract infection, and female infant, age not stated (both blood isolates).

#### **Selected bacterial infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports, weeks 92/41–44**

**Bordetella pertussis** 7 (Northern, NW Thames, SE Thames, SW Thames, Wessex, S Western and N Western).

Ages: 3 babies aged less than 6 months; 1, 6–11 months; one child aged 1 year; M 8y and F 8y.

**Corynebacterium sp:** *C. jeikeium*, M 47y, an injecting drug

user, M 69y with Guillain-Barré syndrome and IV-line, and F 79y (all blood isolates). *Corynebacterium sp*, M 52y (blood isolate).

**Streptococcus group A:** F 39y had glomerulonephritis (throat isolate).

#### **Diagnostic kit technology**

The Association of Clinical Microbiologists is to hold a one day meeting (Update No 12) on recent advances in diagnostic kit technology relevant to medical microbiology on Wednesday 25 November 1992 at the PHLS Central Public Health Laboratory. Topics covered include the development of new biochemical identification test kits, PCR diagnostics, developments in HIV screening, the Opus immunoassay system, and detection of *Clostridium difficile* toxins. Kits will be on display during the afternoon. The fee is £10 for ACM members and £20 for non-members. Further information is available from Mr J A Connell, PHLS Central Public Health Laboratory, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT (telephone 081 200 4400, ext 3071).

Data are for England and Wales only, unless otherwise stated. Weekly numbers are provisional and should not be used to indicate trends.