

Table 7. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 17 to 30 July 1997

State and Territory	Laboratory	Reports
Australian Capital Territory	The Canberra Hospital, Canberra	187
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	31
	New Children's Hospital, Westmead	226
	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown	18
Queensland	Queensland Medical Laboratory,	172
	West End State Health Laboratory, Brisbane	389
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	214
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	23
	Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart	1
Victoria	Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Melbourne	9
	Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne	4
	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	51
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	173
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield	121
Western Australia	PathCentre, Virology, Perth	512
TOTAL		2131

Overseas briefs

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Monkeypox, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The rise in the number of reported cases of monkeypox which began last year, has continued in 1997. From March to May 1997, 170 suspected cases were reported. There were no deaths. Most cases (79%) were in children under 16 years of age. In February 1997 a team of investigators was sent to study the cause of the outbreak. Due to the unstable political and social situation in the country, the team had to be evacuated after 10 days. WHO is planning to resume the investigations in September 1997.

Dengue, Malaysia

For the year to date (to 26 July), health authorities nationwide have received 11,328 notifications of cases of dengue. Of these 10,841 were dengue fever and 487 were dengue haemorrhagic fever. There were 28 deaths. The WHO Collaborating Centre in Kuala Lumpur has confirmed 99 cases of dengue haemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome. For the same period last year, only 43 severe cases were diagnosed. Of the 57 dengue virus isolates

investigated by the WHO Collaborating Centre this season, 37 were dengue type 1, 17 dengue type 2 and three dengue type 3. It is expected that the outbreak will peak in the next few weeks. The nation has been put on alert and aggressive integrated control programs have been instigated.

Plague, Mozambique

The Ministry of Health reported 115 cases of plague for the period 7 June to 4 July, in the Mutarara District, Tete Province; a plague endemic zone. No deaths have been reported. The last outbreak in this area occurred in late 1994, when 216 cases were reported. Appropriate measures to control this outbreak are being taken.

Yellow fever, Liberia

A case of yellow fever in a 35 year old male in the northern part of Liberia was confirmed on 6 July. A second case is being investigated. Surveillance activity is being increased by Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN), a non-government organisation in the area. A mass vaccination campaign is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Health and several other agencies.

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Contributions covering any aspects of communicable diseases are invited. Instructions to authors can be found in *CDI* 1997;21:9.

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