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## News

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### Shingles vaccination programme enters second year

The second year of the shingles vaccination programme in England began on 1 September 2014, a good coverage having been achieved during the first year of the programme which ended on 31 August. As at end-July 2014, approximately 60 per cent of 70 year-olds and 58 per cent of 79 year-olds had been vaccinated, a significant achievement in view of the several other additions and changes made to the national immunisation schedule during the same period.

Details of the 2014/15 programme are outlined in a tripartite letter published on 20 August [1]. The Green Book chapter and other training resources for health professionals have been updated and will shortly to be published on the Shingles: Guidance and Vaccination Programme pages of the PHE website [2].

The second year of the programme covers those aged 70, 78 or 79 years on 1 September 2014. Those who have reached their 80th birthday on that date are no longer eligible for the vaccination, in line with the reducing efficacy of the vaccine as age increases. An eligibility calculator is available to help patients and health professionals check whether a patient is eligible for vaccination in the 2014/15 programme. An updated Patient Information Leaflet is also available [2].

Final corrected vaccine uptake figures for the 2013/14 programme will be published in HPR later this year. A report on coverage during the first eight months was published in June [3].

### References

1. "Shingles immunisation programme from 1 September 2014", DH/NHS England/PHE, 20 August 2014.
  2. "Shingles: Guidance and Vaccination Programme", PHE website.
  3. "Herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation programme 2013 to 2014: cumulative coverage data (provisional) for England to end-April 2014", *HPR* 8(21), 30 May 2014.
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## General outbreaks of foodborne illness in humans, England and Wales: weeks 32-35/2014

Preliminary information has been received about the following outbreaks.

PHE Centre/ Health Protection Team	Organism	Location of food prepared or served	Month of outbreak	Cases positive	Number ill	Suspect vehicle	Eviden ce
Anglia and Essex	Not known	Pub	August	4	Not known	Lamb, beef and gammon	D
Surrey, Sussex and Kent	Campylobacter	Club	August	30	Not known	Chicken liver parfait	D
Cheshire and Merseyside	Not known	Hotel	August	32	Not known	N/k	N/k
South East London	Not known	Restaurant	August	30	Not known	N/k	N/k

D = Descriptive epidemiological evidence: suspicion of a food vehicle in an outbreak based on the identification of common food exposures, from the systematic evaluation of cases and their characteristics and food histories over the likely incubation period by standardised means (such as standard questionnaires) from all, or an appropriate subset of, cases.

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## Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales, laboratory reports: weeks 32-35/14

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports	Cumulative total	
	32/14	33/14	34/14	35/14		32-35/14	1-35/14
Campylobacter	1441	1333	1182	1062	5018	42027	39181
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 *	41	30	13	31	115	449	437
Salmonella †	172	169	137	48	526	3996	4538
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	18	19	18	10	65	683	631
Rotavirus	44	32	39	31	146	3855	1471
Norovirus	57	48	44	88	237	3395	5581
Cryptosporidium	101	66	92	78	337	2075	2073
Giardia	71	75	57	77	280	2341	2260

\*Vero cytotoxin-producing isolates: data from PHE's Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit (GBRU).

† Data from GBRU.

## Salmonella infections (faecal specimens) England and Wales, reports to Public Health England (salmonella data set): July 2014

Details of 857 serotypes of salmonella infections recorded in July are given in the table below.

In August 2014, 568 salmonella infections were recorded.

Organism	Cases: July 2014
S. Enteritidis PT4	14
S. Enteritidis (other PTs)	388
S. Typhimurium	155
S. Virchow	24
Others (typed)	276
<b>Total salmonella (provisional data)</b>	<b>857</b>

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## **Suspected and laboratory-confirmed reported norovirus outbreaks in hospitals, with regional breakdown: outbreaks occurring in weeks 32-35/14**

The hospital norovirus outbreak reporting scheme (HNORS) recorded 17 outbreaks occurring between weeks 32 and 35, 2014, all of which led to ward/bay closures or restriction to admissions. Eleven (65 per cent) were recorded as laboratory confirmed due to norovirus.

From week 1 (January 2014) to week 35 (week beginning 25 August 2014) 421 outbreaks have been reported. Ninety-three per cent (394) of reported outbreaks resulted in ward/bay closures or restrictions to admissions and 65 per cent (273) were laboratory confirmed as due to norovirus (see table following page).

### **Seasonal comparison of laboratory reports of norovirus (England and Wales)**

In the current season † (from week 27, 2014, to week 35, 2015) to date, there were 493 laboratory reports of norovirus. This is 52 per cent higher than the average number of laboratory reports for the same period in the seasons between 2007/08 and 2011/2012 (324)\* (see graphs below). The number of laboratory reports in the most recent weeks will increase as further reports are received.

† The norovirus season runs from July to June (week 27 in year one to week 26 in year two) in order to capture the winter peak in one season.

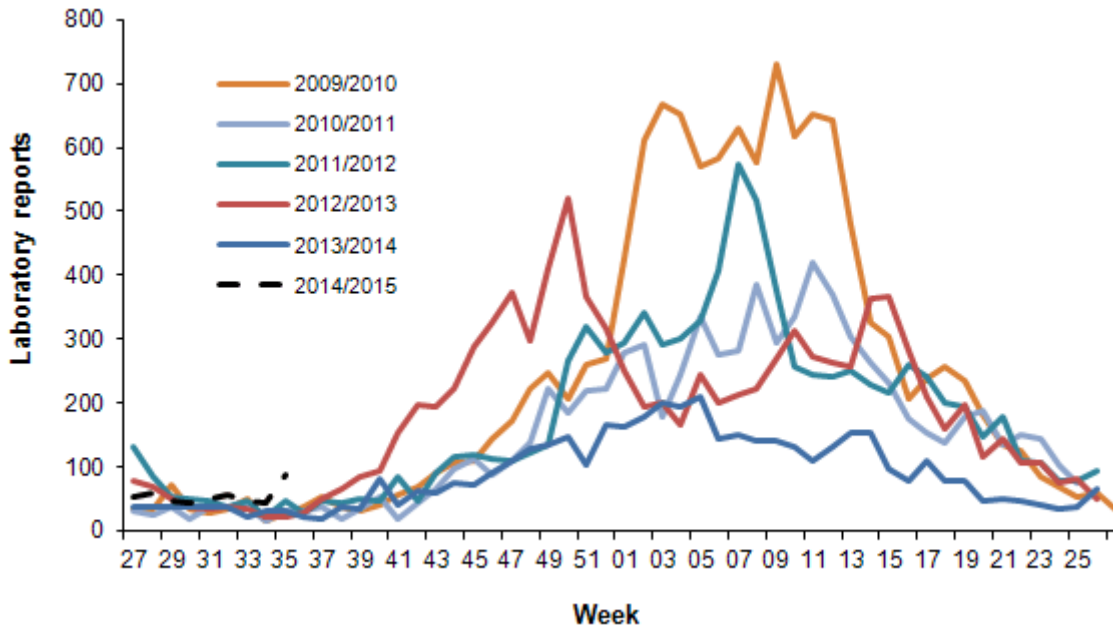
\* The 2012/2013 season began earlier than normal so comparisons between with that year would not be valid.

**Suspected and laboratory-confirmed reported norovirus outbreaks in hospitals, with regional breakdown: outbreaks occurring in weeks 32-35/2014 (and 1-35/2013)**

Region/ PHE Centre	Outbreaks between weeks 32-35/2014			Total outbreaks 1-35/2013		
	Outbreaks	Ward/bay closure*	Lab- confirmed	Outbreaks	Ward/bay closure*	Lab- confirmed
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	3	3	3	50	50	32
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cheshire and Merseyside	–	–	–	1	1	1
Cumbria and Lancashire	3	3	1	19	19	10
Devon, Cornwall and Somerset	3	3	1	44	43	21
Greater Manchester	–	–	–	15	14	4
Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset	–	–	–	22	22	13
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire	–	–	–	36	35	27
London	–	–	–	7	7	5
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex	–	–	–	–	–	–
North east	1	1	1	42	36	29
Sussex, Surrey and Kent	3	3	2	23	23	17
Thames Valley	–	–	–	12	12	4
West Midlands	1	1	–	51	50	26
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	3	3	99	82	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>273</b>

\* Note: not all outbreaks result in whole wards closures, some closures are restricted to bays only.

**Seasonal comparison of laboratory reports of norovirus (England and Wales)**



**Current weekly norovirus laboratory reports compared to weekly average 2006-2010**

