



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 12 August 2016

Dear everyone

PHE's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards is one of several organisations based at the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire, which provides facilities for cutting-edge scientific research in life and physical sciences. This week we have agreed a number of key actions following a seminar last month to explore new areas of collaboration between PHE and these organisations, which include the European Space Agency and the Diamond Light Source. Detailed discussions were held across three areas – life sciences infrastructures, big data and environmental monitoring – where organisations at Harwell have considerable strengths. Moving forward, we will now work to improve PHE integration on campus, consider the use of cloud-based computing to enhance PHE activities and jointly organise a one day seminar to further investigate opportunities for work on topics of common interest, including health and traffic control, air quality monitoring in emergencies and vector mapping.

The festival season continues this month and we are [reminding](#) teenagers and young adults to make sure they've had their MMR vaccination against measles. We saw an increase in measles cases across the country in July, with many linked to music festivals. Measles can be more severe in young people and is extremely infectious, so these events are the ideal place for it to spread.

Our public health workforce strategy, developed in 2013 with the Department of Health and the Local Government Association, aims to secure an expert and professional workforce that can deliver innovative, effective and evidence-based interventions. On Wednesday we published a refreshed [Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework](#), developed with a wide range of bodies over the past two years. The Framework is there to support all those wishing to develop the skills needed for a career in public health, and should particularly benefit employers and training providers.

Whenever I meet colleagues from abroad, the quality of our work on infectious disease always comes up in discussion. Strengthening our scientific base to meet new technological and strategic challenges, such as the adoption of Whole Genome Sequencing and the rise of anti-microbial resistance, is one of our top priorities and essential to keep the country safe. Many of our scientific staff have put in extra time to help with the redesign of the National Infection Service and we will be able to share the proposed model in the next few weeks. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone inside and outside of PHE for their contribution to this fresh, ambitious vision for the future of public health science.

There are still a few places available for PHE's Annual Conference, taking place on 13-14 September at Warwick University. Details of all of the sessions and workshops are available [online](#), spanning cross-cutting themes including health inequalities, translation of evidence into action, community engagement and innovation. I look forward to welcoming our keynote speakers including Nicola Blackwood, the new Minister for Public Health and Innovation and Sir David King, former Chief Scientific Advisor and now Special Representative for Climate Change at the Foreign Office.

And finally, the [Be Clear on Cancer](#) roadshow begins touring on Monday, visiting shopping centres across the country. At each event, leaflets will be distributed that provide information on lung disease, including lung cancer, and heart disease. A nurse will also be on hand to talk to anyone who has questions. Early diagnosis of these conditions has the potential to save lives and improve the quality of life of those living with long-term conditions. Do look out for your local event.

With best wishes