



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 29 August 2014

Dear everyone

Cancer survival in England for breast, lung, prostate, colorectal and ovarian cancer continues to improve, in one of the most accurate, stage-specific, one-year survival [analysis](#) of patients diagnosed in 2012. This work draws on the huge advances in the quality and completeness of cancer staging data by the NHS and the timeliness of the information gathered through our National Cancer Registration Service, one of the most advanced anywhere in the world. The findings also emphasise the importance of early diagnosis and being able to analyse data for the whole population so quickly gives the NHS front line what they need in making treatment decisions, and is incredibly important for supporting research.

You may have seen in the media that PHE is investigating an [outbreak](#) of Salmonella infection, with almost 250 cases reported across several English regions. This is the first time that whole genome sequencing has been used as part of a national investigation of this kind, and confirms that the cases share a common source. The use of this technology which has made the data available in 'real time' has contributed to containing an outbreak while it is still underway. Fortunately case reporting has slowed in recent weeks and, together with our European partners, there is now evidence to indicate that the outbreak is associated with the consumption of eggs from a single source from outside the UK.

The Alzheimer's Society and PHE have recently published a [report](#) revealing how businesses risk losing billions unless they adapt their working environment to support the increasing numbers of people affected by dementia. We know that by 2030 the number of people with dementia is expected to rise to over 1 million and caring obligations could cost companies more than £3 billion. Encouraging more businesses to become dementia friendly not only improves understanding of the condition but it also makes commercial sense. The national campaign to recruit 1 million Dementia Friends is making great progress with almost half that number already trained and is on track to hit the 1 million mark by next year.

The Department of Health is seeking honour nominations of people from the public health family who have made an outstanding contribution, for the Queen's Birthday 2015 honours round. This is an opportunity to recognise those who quietly get on with making a positive difference and touch the lives of people in our communities. The deadline for submitting nominations is 12 September – forms and guidance available [here](#) or contact me personally.

And finally, our Stoptober campaign is back for its third year and will run throughout September and October, as we encourage the nation's 8 million smokers to take part in the 28 day challenge – the evidence says that if you can stop smoking for 28 days, you are five times more likely to quit for good.

With best wishes