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PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

## Public health news

### Trend in alcohol-related deaths continues to decline

New figures from PHE published yesterday show a continued decline in alcohol-related deaths. The figures are the latest update to the [Local Alcohol Profiles for England \(LAPE\) data tool](#) and include a new measure of alcohol-related harm. The last update was published in 2012. National figures for alcohol-related mortality for men are down 1.9% since the last update and 7.3% over a 5-year period. For women, alcohol-related mortality figures are down 1.4% since the last update and 6.8% over a 5-year period. However, while the overall trend is downward there are still large variations between affluent and deprived areas, with some of the deprived communities seeing an increase in deaths. For more information see the [PHE press release](#).

### PHE publishes new sexual and reproductive health evidence summaries

PHE has published a package of new resources providing the latest evidence on the impact and economics of opportunistic chlamydia screening, and HIV screening and testing. For both subjects, PHE has produced evidence summaries, reviewing the latest evidence on opportunistic [chlamydia screening](#) and [HIV screening and testing](#), and leaders' briefings, covering frequently asked questions and considerations for local action. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#)

### Flu plan for winter 2014 to 2015 published

PHE, the Department of Health and NHS England have published the winter [2014 to 2015 Flu Plan](#). It will aid the development of robust and flexible operational plans by

local organisations and emergency planners within the NHS and local government. The plan provides the public and healthcare professionals with an overview of the coordination and the preparation for the flu season and signposting to further guidance and information. This year the flu plan also includes details about the extension of the flu vaccination programme to children in 2014 and 2015. The Flu plan is supported by the annual [Flu Letter](#) issued alongside the Flu plan.

### **Guidance for managing the continuing increase in scarlet fever cases**

PHE has reported a continued substantial increase in scarlet fever notifications across England with 1,049 new cases reported from 31 March to 6 April. A total of 7,198 new cases have now been reported since the season began in September 2013. Earlier this month PHE published new [guidance](#) on the public health management of scarlet fever outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other child care settings. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Living well for longer**

“[Living Well for Longer](#)”, the five-year plan for the health and care system, has been published. This sets out in one place the actions being taken across the national health and wellbeing partnership of government, PHE and NHS England to reduce premature avoidable mortality and will support the local actions and ambitions that each local authority and clinical commissioning group will take across the country. It relates to the Secretary of State for Health's call to action published in March last year and his commitment for England to have among the lowest rates of premature mortality in Europe by focusing on the five big killer diseases.

### **Government response to tobacco standardised packaging review**

The Government has announced that it is minded to introduce regulations to provide for standardised packaging of tobacco products, subject to a short consultation. The announcement follows Sir Cyril Chantler presenting the [report](#) of his independent review into whether or not the introduction of standardised packaging is likely to have an effect on public health, particularly for children. The report makes a compelling case that if standardised packaging were introduced it would be very likely to have a positive impact on public health and that would include health benefits for children. PHE has warmly welcomed Sir Cyril Chantler's conclusions. For more information, see the [press release](#).

### **Chief Medical Officer publishes annual report on state of the public's health**

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Professor Dame Sally Davies has published her latest [annual report](#) on the state of the public's health. Her concerns include the normalisation of being overweight, possible links between deafness, blindness and dementia, and pedestrian and cycle safety. This surveillance report is the first of two volumes of CMO's annual report. For more information, see the [press release](#).

### **Small bite, big threat – Lyme disease awareness**

In support of the World Health Organization's [World Health Day](#) earlier this month, PHE has urged people to be aware of the risk of Lyme disease transmitted by ticks. [Ticks](#) are most prevalent in spring, summer and autumn, and can transmit the bacterial infection Lyme disease through tick bites. Over the last three years (2011 to 2013), between 950 and 1050 people have been diagnosed with Lyme disease annually in England and Wales according to provisional figures based on laboratory testing. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **PHE reminds travellers about the risks of malaria**

New figures from PHE published last week for World Malaria Day show an overall increase of 9% in imported malaria infections reported in the UK in 2013 (1,501) compared with 2012 (1,378). 79% of malaria cases in 2013 (compared with 73% in 2012) were caused by the more severe *Plasmodium falciparum*. This high proportion of falciparum malaria reflects the fact that most malaria imported to the UK is acquired in Africa. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

### **PHE launch weight management economic assessment tool**

PHE has launched a new [Weight Management Economic Assessment Tool](#) for public health professionals. The newly developed tool will help local authorities to assess the financial benefit of adult weight management programmes to prevent and reduce obesity. Local authorities will now be able to compare the cost of a programme with potential future healthcare savings that may result. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Nigerian team aim to tackle sickle cell disease by emulating success of NHS Screening Programme**

The NHS sickle cell screening programme is being used as a 'gold-standard' model by a team in Nigeria led by Sickle Cell Cohort Research who hope to emulate its

success. Nigeria has the largest population of people with sickle cell disease in the world with around 150,000 babies born with this serious condition every year. For more details, see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Kidney cancer survival improves over 2 decades**

Incidence of kidney cancer, the eighth most common cancer in England, have risen over two decades although survival rates have improved, a new [report](#) by PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network reveals. The report examines trends in survival of kidney cancer in England over 20 years (1990 to 2010) and found that people diagnosed with the main type of kidney cancer, renal cell carcinoma, have seen an overall improvement in survival. However, for around 10% of patients diagnosed with rarer types of kidney cancer such as transitional cell carcinoma, there has been no significant change. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

### **New end of life care resources**

PHE's National End of Life Care Intelligence Network (NEoLCIN) has published [end of life care profiles](#) for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for the first time. The profiles draw together a wide range of information to give an overview of variations in cause and place of death, by age and sex, for each CCG in England. Together with the NHS Improving Quality organisation, NEoLCIN has also published the results of a 2013 survey of clinical commissioning groups on the implementation of electronic palliative care co-ordination systems in England. The [report](#) highlights progress and challenges and sets out recommendations and next steps.

### **Estimates of mortality in local authority areas associated with air pollution**

Estimates of the number of deaths in UK local authorities that can be attributed to long term exposure to particle air pollution have been published by PHE. The figures are calculated by modelling annual average concentrations of man-made particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as PM<sub>2.5</sub> and their impacts on health. For the first time, the [PHE report](#) estimates the number of deaths that can be attributed to particle air pollution in all local authorities in the UK. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **PHE launches new sexual and reproductive health tool**

PHE has launched a new online data [tool](#), the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Profiles. The profiles provide data across a range of topics, such as teenage pregnancy, abortion, contraception, HIV, sexually transmitted infections and sexual

offences. Wider influences on SRH are also included, such as alcohol use, education and deprivation levels. PHE has also published: an updated [Under 18 conception rate forecast](#): and [A guide to national and local SRH data](#). For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Meningitis C leaflet for university students**

PHE has produced a [leaflet](#) encouraging prospective university students to have a Meningitis C vaccination before they go into halls of residence. The leaflet contains information about how to spot symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia and advice about the MenC vaccination.

### **Treating antibiotic resistant bacteria with NDM enzyme remains enormous challenge**

Bacteria with the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase or NDM enzyme remain susceptible to only one antibiotic known as colistin with only limited susceptibility to three others, a study by PHE has found. This means that infections caused by bacteria with this mechanism are very hard to treat. This paper is published online in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*. The study reports on one of the largest collections of NDM isolates outside of the Indian subcontinent and analysed 326 bacterial isolates from 250 patients collected over five and a half years. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Successful start to rotavirus vaccination**

Preliminary [data](#) published recently show an excellent start to the uptake of the rotavirus vaccination programme introduced last year by PHE, the Department of Health and NHS England. Covering the period from July 2013 to March 2014, 93% of children in the survey had received the first dose and 88% had completed the two-dose course. In addition, laboratory reports of rotavirus showed 70% fewer cases during the same period when compared to the average over the last 10 seasons. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Latest bowel cancer screening technique reaps benefits**

New figures from PHE show that nearly 37% of bowel scope screening centres in England are operational, clearly exceeding the 30% roll out target, set out in ['Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' document \(2011\)](#). Bowel scope screening, also known as flexible sigmoidoscopy, is a one-off test offered to men and women at the age of 55. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Common questions on HIV testing addressed in new PHE publication**

A new [HIV testing & self-testing: answers to frequently asked questions](#) publication has been released by PHE. The resource provides information on why, when and how to get tested, to help individuals make these important decisions. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

### **PHE 2013 to 2014 stakeholder report**

The results from PHE's first annual quantitative stakeholder survey are now available. PHE commissioned Ipsos MORI to carry out the research, seeking the views of local authority chief executives and directors of public health, as well as leaders from other professional organisations and sectors. The Ipsos MORI [report](#) provides a snapshot of stakeholder perceptions of PHE from January this year.

## **PHE people news**

### **PHE's Dr Edmund Newman assisting with Ebola screening**

PHE scientist Dr Edmund Newman is among a group of EU scientists delivering support to Guinea to help with an Ebola outbreak. This follows a formal request for assistance to the European Mobile Outbreak Response Laboratory from the Guinean Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. Ebola haemorrhagic fever have been reported from south eastern Guinea and Liberia and there are concerns about spread into the bordering countries of Sierra Leone and Senegal. PHE's virology group is a key members of the EU laboratory consortium, and Dr Newman is among the group of EU scientists delivering support on the ground. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

## PHE campaign news

### Dementia Friends Campaign

PHE and Alzheimer's Society have come together to create the Dementia Friends campaign which will launch on 7 May 2014. Its objectives are to make the nation more aware of dementia and improve attitudes towards the disease whilst creating a clear call to action to become a dementia friend. Ultimately, the campaign hopes to create a more dementia-friendly society. For workplace promotional materials and other campaign support information contact the PHE partnerships marketing team at [partnerships@phe.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@phe.gov.uk).

### Be Clear on Cancer – skin cancer pilot

PHE will be running a Be Clear on Cancer local pilot campaign on skin cancer in the Devon, Cornwall and Somerset PHE Centre area from 2 June for six weeks. The campaign aims to raise awareness of symptoms of skin cancer and encourage those who notice these signs to visit their GP.

### New NHS Health Check Identity Guidelines now available

PHE are developing new branding support tools for those at different stages of implementing the NHS Health Check locally. The first element of the [marketing toolkit](#) is now available along with the NHS Health Check conference presentation, which explains in more detail the steps taken to reach this point.

### Change4Life schools pack will kick-start an active summer

A Change4Life [schools pack](#) with ideas for end-of-term summer fun is available for teachers to order now. The free pack – suitable for key stage 1 and 2 pupils – will also introduce Change4Life's summer holidays campaign by providing leaflets and stickers for children to take home. Their parents can then sign up to receive a pack full of ideas to keep the whole family active during the summer break.

## News from other organisations

### National Statistician makes recommendation on the future of the census and population statistics

Following extensive research and a three-month public consultation, the National Statistician has made a [recommendation](#) to the Board of the UK Statistics Authority on the census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales, for a predominantly online census in 2021 supplemented by the further use of administrative and survey data. A [summary report](#) on the consultation has also been published.

## Events news

### PHE annual conference 2014

PHE's second annual conference will be held on 16-17 September 2014 at Warwick University. Booking details and the draft programme can be found on the [conference website](#). The deadline for submitting abstracts on new public health research and developments in practice is 8 May.

### PHE Board's sixth open meeting

The sixth open meeting of PHE's Board was held at Skipton House in London on 30 April 2014 starting at 11am. Meeting details, board papers for this and earlier meetings and information on future board meetings can be found [here](#).

### Cancer outcomes conference 2014

The Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014 of PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network and United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Cancer Registries will be held on 9-10 June in Birmingham. See [here](#) for details.