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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

Public health news

Update on Ebola as British national working in Sierra Leone is repatriated

A decision was made last weekend to repatriate a British national healthcare worker residing in Sierra Leone, who has been diagnosed with Ebola virus disease. The patient is being treated in an isolation unit at the Royal Free Hospital, London. All appropriate protocols have been promptly activated by the Department of Health, PHE and NHS England and protective measures strictly maintained to minimise the risk of transmission to staff. Ebola is a form of viral haemorrhagic fever and is transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. Currently more than 3,000 cases have been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, of which there have been more than 1,500 deaths. For more information see the joint Department of Health, PHE and NHS England [press release](#).

New analysis shows improving cancer survival in England using world-leading cancer staging data

Cancer survival in England for breast, lung, prostate, colorectal and ovarian cancer continues to improve, shows new data published in a [report](#) this week from PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network. 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 the National Cancer Registration Service, one of the most advanced anywhere in the world. The report describes the 1-year survival analysis for patients in England first diagnosed in 2012. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE investigating national outbreak of Salmonella

PHE is investigating a national outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis, working with the Food Standards Agency and public health organisations in Europe. As at 22 August, total reported numbers reached 247 cases, with 99 cases in Hampshire, 54 in West Midlands, 39 in Cheshire and Merseyside and 39 in London. Overall case reporting has slowed in the last two weeks and PHE assesses the current risk as low. There is evidence to indicate that recent cases in Europe with the same strains of *Salmonella* infection were associated with consumption of eggs from a single source from outside the UK. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Whole genome sequencing to revolutionise investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease

PHE is at the forefront of using new whole genome sequencing (WGS) technologies to improve the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases and is leading the implementation whole genome sequencing HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis C in the context of the 100,000 genomes project. PHE is also working with Genomics England as part of the genomes project to apply WGS to further our understanding of why some people develop severe reactions to infections. To date the genomes of over 28,000 bacteria and viruses have been sequenced by PHE. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Standardised packaging can save lives and boost local economies

PHE has submitted its [response](#) to the Government's consultation on standardised tobacco packaging. The response includes new PHE figures on the potential benefits that standardised packaging of tobacco products could bring, not only for health, but in savings of around £500 million – providing a real economic boost to the most deprived communities. Recent official data from Australia, where standardised packaging was introduced in December 2012. Data from the Australian Treasury shows a 3.4% fall in tobacco sales by volume in the first year following the introduction of standardised packs. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE reveals winning entrepreneurs of Health X competition

PHE has unveiled the three winners of the PHE Health X initiative, the first competition of its kind that seeks to bring inspirational technology to the public by making motivational health apps widely available for free. The winning apps are:

- Fee fi fo fit, an intervention product to promote positive changes in young people using a game-based reward system
- Foodswitch, a smartphone app which provides consumers with nutritional information to help them make healthier choices when shopping

- Youniverse, a 28-day exercise and diet planner, which generates daily meal plans, shopping lists and exercise ideas.

Benefits for each winner include promotional support and help with product development. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Businesses risk losing billions unless they adapt: report reveals the future cost of dementia

PHE and Alzheimer's Society have released a new report on the future financial implications to the nation's businesses of dementia, and call on employers to adapt their working environment to support the increasing numbers affected by the condition. The report, from the Centre for Economics and Business Research reveals that by 2030, when the number of people with dementia is expected to rise to over 1 million, dementia caring obligations could cost companies more than £3 billion. The report predicts this will have a huge impact on businesses as the number of workers reducing hours, changing work patterns or even quitting is expected to grow. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

BCG vaccine prevents TB infection in children

A new study from PHE published in the British Medical Journal has found Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine may protect against M. tuberculosis (TB) infection, in addition to decreasing progression of TB from infection to disease. Prior to this review, it has been widely accepted that BCG vaccine protects against the most severe forms of disease such as tuberculosis (TB) meningitis in children. The review indicates BCG vaccine can also protect against an individual becoming infected. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

New cardiovascular disease profiles for clinical commissioning groups

PHE's National Cardiovascular Intelligence Network has published [cardiovascular disease profiles](#) for each clinical commissioning group in England. The profiles bring together information on coronary heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke and on the leading risk factors such as smoking and obesity for local areas to use in their service planning. For more information see PHE's [news story](#)

Significant scope to improve antibiotic prescribing

A new study by scientists at PHE and University College London has found that the likelihood of general practitioners prescribing antibiotics for coughs and colds increased by 40% between 1999 and 2011, despite Government recommendations to reduce prescribing for illnesses largely caused by viruses. The researchers also found substantial variation in prescribing between general practices, with the highest

prescribing practices twice as likely to give a prescription for coughs and colds as the lowest prescribers. The research is published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Earlier screening recommended for serious abnormalities in pregnancy

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) has recommended earlier screening for the rare chromosomal abnormalities, Edward's Syndrome (Trisomy 18) and Patau's Syndrome (Trisomy 13) during pregnancy, giving women the information they need to access support and make choices about their pregnancy at an earlier stage. The recommendation was made at the UK NSC committee meeting in June 2014 and is published in its [minutes](#). The UK NSC recommended against population screening for atrial fibrillation, Type 2 diabetes and parvovirus B19 infection. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE urges freshers to get MenC vaccine before beginning university

PHE is urging new students (freshers) to ensure they get vaccinated against meningococcal C (MenC) infection before beginning university in September. In the UK, all children are offered MenC vaccine to protect them against MenC infection but as the protection can wane, a booster for teenagers was added last year. For the next few years, university freshers will also be eligible for vaccination until the teenagers who have had the booster reach university age. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Guidance on multidisciplinary public health teams

PHE has published [guidance](#) on organising and managing multidisciplinary public health teams in local government which has been co-produced with the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Public Health and the Faculty of Public Health. The guidance concerns the appropriate employment of public health professionals who carry out roles as consultants in public health and directors of public health and who are included on the General Medical Council Specialist Register, the General Dental Council Specialist List or the UK Public Health Register for Public Health Specialists.

Public Health Outcomes Framework data tool updated

The [Public Health Outcomes Framework data tool](#) was updated earlier this month. The web-based tool brings together available indicators from the framework to help local authorities and others understand how well the public's health is being improved and protected. Indicators on air pollution, population affected by noise,

physical activity in adults and preventable sight loss were newly updated in this quarter's update.

Feedback sought for Child Health Profiles 2015

Earlier this year, PHE published [Child Health Profiles](#) 2014 for each top tier local authority in England. PHE is currently reviewing the content of last year's profiles and inviting stakeholders to complete a short [survey](#) on the priorities they would like to see reflected next year.

Obesity and physical activity facts sheets updated

A series [of PHE factsheets](#) which compile up-to-date key information and data about obesity and physical activity in an easily readable format have been updated this month. The data factsheets will be a useful resource for policy makers, and practitioners. There is also an update to the [physical activity data sources](#).

PHE's health protection web content to move to Government website

The HPA.org.uk website will be closing on 2 September 2014 and PHE's health protection content will move to GOV.UK, the UK public sector information website created to provide a single point of access to HM Government services. Users who continue to use the HPA.org.uk web address will be re-directed automatically to the new content on GOV.UK, or to the National Archive for older, less-used information. This is the start of a process to bring together all PHE's information in one place and to make sure we are meeting the needs of our users.

Results from PHE's first annual public opinion survey

The results from PHE's first annual [public opinion survey](#), carried out by Ipsos MORI, are now available. The PHE commissioned survey complements provides an independent measurement of how the public perceives public health and PHE's role in the delivery of public health services. PHE chief executive Duncan Selbie said "a third of the public say they have heard of us and, when given an explanation of our role, two thirds would be confident in our advice. This is a sound beginning for us to build on".

Recent PHE Blogs

[What does the digital age mean for the public's health?](#) by Kevin Fenton (4 August 2014). Through initiatives like HealthX and Be He@lthy, Be Mobile, PHE is already heavily involved in the digital health and mHealth revolution. In a new blog, Director for Health and Wellbeing Professor Kevin Fenton asks where we go next.

[Through health and high water: a young carer's perspective](#) by Viv Bennett and Sophie (6 August 2014). Sophie, a young carer, talks to PHE Director of Nursing Professor Viv Bennett about the difficulties she and other young carers experience.

[We are what we eat](#) by Julian Flowers (7 August 2014). How do differences in income and education relate to differences in diet? Julian Flowers looks at what the data show in the first of a series of blogs focusing on the wealth of available public health data and what those data can tell us.

[Just how close is ICT to the frontline these days?](#) by Michael Brodie (20 August 2014). The dramatic ways in which modern information and communications technology has improved opportunities for protecting and improving the public's health has meant equally dramatic changes in the roles of ICT teams. Finance and Commercial Director Michael Brodie looks at what some of these changes mean for staff on the frontline.

[Cancer registration as good as the world's best](#) by Jem Rashbass (26 August 2014) With this week's release of new cancer survival and staging data we've shown that our cancer registration service is world-class. Director for Disease Registration Jem Rashbass explains how we got to this point and why it matters.

Campaigns news

New Change4Life smart tools launched, ready for the new school year

Get Going and Smart Restart join the collection of year-round Change4Life [smart tools](#) to help families make a healthy change. [Get Going](#) provides families with personal activity plans to learn what sort of activity is right for them. [Smart Restart](#) is another fun way for parents to create healthier eating and activity habits for their children.

PHE annual flu campaign launches in October

The PHE flu campaign will launch on 6 October 2014, running for four weeks and consisting of press, radio and online search supported by PR. The campaign will target under 65s with long-term conditions, pregnant women and parents of children aged two, three and four. It will be based on a simple message encouraging people not to put off getting their flu vaccination. Printed leaflets are available now from the Department of Health [orderline](#) and a toolkit for local use will be available in the first week in September.

New Be Clear on Cancer: “Blood in Pee” campaign briefing

A [briefing](#) to help local teams prepare for the autumn rerun of PHE’s national Be Clear on Cancer “Blood in Pee” campaign has been produced. It includes information about the background, aims, and likely impact of the campaign which starts on 13 October 2014. For more information see the [Cancer Research UK website](#).

Break the habit toolkit for Stoptober 2014

PHE’s marketing team at partnerships@phe.gov.uk can provide a new free ‘Break the Habit’ workplace toolkit. It is intended to provide employers with the guidance to bring Stoptober to life in the workplace and employees with the means by which to stay motivated throughout the 28-day journey.

New NHS Health Checks marketing resource

A new marketing toolkit is available to provide support for all those promoting and implementing the NHS Health Check programme locally. It includes NHS Health Check identity guidelines, templates for press advertising, and other marketing advice and materials. The resource is on the NHS Health Check [website](#).

News from other organisations

NHS England's first Annual Report published

NHS England has published its first [Annual Report and Accounts](#) setting out its achievements over the last year and its aspiration for 2014-2015. The report features key milestones since its creation in April 2013, the annual accounts and a Directors' report.

Queen's Birthday Honours nominations

The Department of Health is looking for honour nominations of worthy candidates who have made an outstanding contribution to the health and care system for the Queen's Birthday 2015 honours round. Deadline for submitting nominations is 12 September 2014. Nomination forms and guidance are available [here](#).

National review of choices in end of life care consultation

The National Council for Palliative Care is running a [public consultation](#) on the Government's review of choices in end of life care. The information gathered will outline the kinds of choices that people would like to be able to make at the end of life and information about the funding, systems and processes that would be needed to enable choices to be acted upon. The review focuses on end of life care for adults aged 18 and over, and within the current legal framework. The consultation closes on 30 September 2014.

Department of Health factsheet on transfer of children's public health services to local authorities.

The Department of Health has published a [factsheet](#) on planning and paying for public health services for 0 to 5 year olds which will transfer from the NHS to local authorities in October 2015.

Events news

PHE annual conference 2014

PHE's second annual conference will be held on 16 to 17 September 2014 at Warwick University and will include keynote addresses by Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, Una O'Brien, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England. The full programme for the conference and booking details can be found on the [conference website](#).

PHE Board's next open meeting

The eighth open meeting of PHE's Board will take place on 24 September 2014, from 11am to 3pm, in London. The meeting will include a panel discussion on antimicrobial resistance with external experts. Meeting [details](#), including board papers for earlier meetings and information on future board meetings, are available online.

Regional workshops on the transfer of children's public health commissioning

On 1 October 2015 the responsibility for commissioning public health services for 0-5 year olds will transfer from NHS England to local authorities. PHE is organising a series of regional workshops designed to explore the data, information and supporting IT aspects for those working in the NHS and local authorities on the transfer of commissioning responsibilities. Workshops will be held in Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and London in September and October 2014. For more details about the workshops including how to register visit the PHE events [website](#).