



PHE publications gateway number 2015069

29 May 2015

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

2015 Heatwave Plan for England

[The Heatwave Plan for England 2015](#) was issued by PHE last week. It provides advice and guidance to healthcare professionals and the public on what to do if temperatures hit heatwave levels. The summer heatwave reporting season begins on 1 June 2015.

PHE's National Infection Service goes live from 1 June

PHE's new National Infection Service (NIS) goes live from 1 June 2015. Professor Derrick Crook, who joined PHE from Oxford University earlier this year, is the director of NIS and detailed design work to bring together PHE's epidemiologists, microbiologists, bio-informaticians, laboratory scientists and others in creating a world-leading "end to end" infections service has started.

Ebola: genome sequence analysis article in Eurosurveillance journal

[A paper authored by PHE scientists](#) was published in the Eurosurveillance journal last week. The paper examines the results of a genome sequence analysis of the Ebola virus in clinical samples from three British healthcare workers during the period August 2014 to March 2015.

Annual flu report published

PHE published the [2014/15 annual flu report](#) on 21 May. Levels of vaccine uptake were maintained and in some cases increased across risk groups and the

extension of the flu immunisation programme to children successfully continued to roll-out in 2014/15.

Infection risk at petting farms: PHE urges good hand hygiene

PHE has reported an annual rise in diarrhoeal illness and is reminding visitors to petting farms to wash their hands thoroughly after handling animals.

[Cryptosporidium](#) is a parasite that can be found in soil, water, food or on any surface that has been contaminated with human or animal faeces. Between January and May 2015 there were at least seven outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis associated with petting farms across England affecting around 130 people. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Public health outcomes framework tool updated

PHE has published on 6 May an update to the [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(PHOF\) data tool](#). The online [Local Health Profiles](#) and [Local Tobacco Control Profiles](#) were also updated on the same date.

Climate change and mosquito borne disease study published

A PHE authored paper on the potential of climate change to increase tick and mosquito borne diseases in the UK, has been published in *The Lancet*. For more information, see the [NHS Choices article](#).

PHE is currently working with local councils to raise awareness of ticks and the risks to health. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

People news

PHE team receives public health nursing award

PHE's London TB Extended Contact Tracing team has received the [Nursing Standard award](#) for Public Health Nursing. The team created the first pan-London TB contact screening database and achieved a significant increase in the number of identified cases by working throughout the capital as a whole, rather than in geographical areas.

Recent PHE blogs

[Our heatwave plan: Preventing avoidable deaths](#)

by [Angie Bone](#) (21 May 2015).

[Dementia Awareness Week 2015: Add life to your years and years to your life](#) by [Charles Alessi](#) (18 May 2015).

Campaigns news

Be Clear on Cancer campaign – breast cancer in women over 70

The forthcoming national Be Clear on Cancer symptom awareness campaign will be a national reminder campaign for breast cancer in women over 70 and is scheduled to run from 13 July 2015. More information can be found in the [March 2015 tri-partite letter](#) from PHE, Department of Health and NHS England.

News from other organisations

ONS avoidable mortality statistics for 2013

Avoidable mortality figures in England and Wales for 2013 were published last week by the Office for National Statistics. They show that in 2013 approximately 23% of all deaths registered in England and Wales were from causes considered avoidable through good quality healthcare or wider public health interventions. For more information see the [ONS statistical bulletin](#).

Third report from antimicrobial resistance review

Earlier this month, the independent [Review on Antimicrobial Resistance](#), commissioned by the Prime Minister in 2014 and led by Jim O'Neill, released its third report, '[Securing new drugs for future generations: the pipeline of antibiotics](#)'. The report recommended three sets of interventions that should be pursued to support antibiotic development:

1. Supporting a viable market for the highest priority antibiotics by committing lump-sum payments to successful drug developers
2. Jump-starting a new innovation cycle in antibiotics by getting more money into early stage research

3. Catalysing discoveries into new drugs by supporting the antibiotics development process throughout the research and development pipeline

EU obesity survey shows that a third of obese adults are in denial

More than a third of UK adults who think they are merely overweight are actually clinically obese, according to a European [survey](#) of 14,000 people, published earlier this month. A fifth of Britons who consider themselves normal or healthy weight are also officially classified as overweight. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of Obesity. For more information see the Association for the Study of Obesity's [press release](#).

ASH e-cigarette figures show increase to 2.6 million users

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) has published new data showing that the use of e-cigarettes has grown over the last year. There are now an estimated 2.6 million users in Britain up from an estimated 2.1 million in 2014. Nearly all of this increase is attributed to an increase in the number of ex-smokers using e-cigarettes. For more information see the ASH [press release](#).

Consultation on a survey into the quality of end of life care

NHS England is consulting on the current VOICES survey, a national survey on the quality of care in the last three months of life. The Views of Informal Carers – Evaluation of Services (VOICES) survey collects information on bereaved people's views on the quality of care provided to a relative or friend in the last three months of life, for England. The [consultation](#) is open all those interested in this area and closes on 19 June.

Events

PHE annual conference from 15 to 16 September 2015

PHE's third annual conference takes place from 15 to 16 September 2015 at the University of Warwick. It will bring together over 1,400 participants from across the health and care system and will focus on the application of evidence into action. The outline six track conference programme is now available [online](#). Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, will be giving a keynote address. For more details including information on how to book, see the [conference website](#).

PHE National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network masterclasses

PHE's National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network is running a series of masterclasses to look at what local data is available across the cardiovascular family of diseases. The events are being delivered in partnership with NHS England's Strategic Clinical Networks. The next masterclasses are in [Crawley on 11 June](#) and in [Leeds on 9 July](#). Further details are available at www.ncvin.org.uk.