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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

PHE encourages parents to vaccinate against measles, mumps and rubella

PHE is calling for all parents to get their children vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). The call to be vaccinated coincides with European Immunisation Week, which is run by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the theme to 'close the immunisation gap', and an increase in measles cases currently being seen in England. For more information, [read the PHE press release](#).

PHE publishes strategic plan for the next four years

[PHE's Strategic Plan](#) sets out how the organisation aims to protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities over the next four years. It outlines the actions PHE will take over the next year to achieve these aims and deliver its core functions. It confirms the role that PHE will continue to play in the health and care system, building on evidence, prioritising prevention and supporting local government and the NHS.

PHE issues reminder as antibiotic resistant gonorrhoea investigations continue

PHE has issued a reminder to the public about safe sex, after an increase in antibiotic resistant cases of gonorrhoea continues. PHE continues to monitor and investigate gonorrhoea cases that are highly resistant to the antibiotic azithromycin. For more information, see the [PHE news story](#).

Zika virus: latest updates

PHE and the National Travel Health Network and Centre continue to carefully monitor and research into the ongoing Zika virus outbreak in South and Central America and the Caribbean. There is now scientific consensus, based on a growing body of research, that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other congenital anomalies. Latest updates include: [guidance for neonatologists and paediatricians](#) and information resources for pregnant women. Colleagues are advised to monitor the Zika [clinical guidance](#) page on gov.uk for ongoing updates.

Update on rising scarlet fever across England

PHE has reported a continued increase in cases of scarlet fever across England. PHE is advising people with symptoms of scarlet fever to consult their GP. Scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics to reduce risk of complications. For more information, see the [PHE news story](#).

Uniting to end TB in England

To mark World TB Day, PHE has summarised the progress made towards implementing the national strategy in collaboration with NHS England and other major stakeholders. One year ago, PHE and NHS England jointly launched the 5-year strategy to eliminate TB as a public health problem. A significant step has been the formation of seven regional TB control boards across England. For more information, see the [PHE press release](#).

New improved prostate pack for GPs produced

PHE has updated information for GPs to discuss the prostate specific antigen (PSA) test for prostate cancer with healthy men aged 50 and over. [The Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme](#) information provides GPs clear and balanced information to counsel asymptomatic men who proactively ask about PSA testing. It consists of a full [evidence document](#), a [summary information sheet](#) for GPs and a summary [patient information sheet](#) for GPs to download and print off for men aged 50 and over who proactively ask about PSA testing.

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) consensus statement launched

PHE, NHS England and the Local Government Association have signalled their commitment to help improve the health of local populations by encouraging staff to make 'healthy conversations' part of everyday interactions. This commitment to

the MECC approach has been made via the endorsement of a [joint consensus statement](#). Many long-term diseases are closely linked to tobacco, hypertension, alcohol, being overweight or being physically inactive and the MECC work aims to support change.

Antimicrobial resistance local indicator profiles added to Fingertips

The AMR Local Indicators profile is now available through the [PHE Fingertips portal](#). Data has been uploaded for five domains (antimicrobial resistance, antibiotic prescribing, healthcare associated infections, infection prevention and control and antibiotic stewardship). The indicators are intended to raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance and to facilitate the development of local action plans. This data may be used in reference to policy documents such as the [2016/17 CQUIN](#) and the [2016/17 Quality Premium Guidance](#). For further information, see the [user guide](#).

Older People's Health and Wellbeing Profile launched

PHE have launched the [Older People's Health and Wellbeing profile](#), which can be used to examine the health and care of older people across local authorities in England. The atlas is designed to support those responsible for delivering strategies for prevention and early intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of older adults, as well as those providing evidence and intelligence to support the development of joint strategic needs assessments for their local area. The information provided in this atlas is also likely to be of use to a wide range of organisations with an interest in the health and care of older people.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles tool improved

Reproductive health related content in PHE's [Sexual and Reproductive Health \(SRH\) Profiles](#) tool has been developed further to include: new abortion related indicators, new indicators relating to the breakdown of main contraception choice in sexual and reproductive health services, including long-acting reversible contraception use in under/over age 25, updated teenage pregnancy indicators and an additional indicator – percentage births in age under 18.

NCVIN Cardiovascular disease profile updates

[NCVIN Cardiovascular disease profiles](#) have been refreshed. The profiles, which are updated annually, provide a wide range of data on cardiovascular disease (CVD) for each CCG in England, bringing together the latest intelligence from five

separate profiles: risk factors, diabetes, heart disease, chronic kidney disease and stroke. The profiles are for commissioners and health professionals to use when assessing the impact of CVD on their local population, opportunities for improvement and making decisions about services and emerging issues.

NCVIN CVD: Primary Care Intelligence Packs updated

The [Cardiovascular disease primary care intelligence packs](#) have been updated. The packs are a powerful resource for local conversations about quality improvement in primary care. For every clinical commissioning group (CCG) the packs give practice level data on prevention, detection and management across a range of cardiovascular conditions: high cardiovascular risk and hypertension, stroke and atrial fibrillation, diabetes, kidney disease, coronary heart disease and heart failure.

Neurology data catalogue published

The [neurology data catalogue](#) lists resources relevant to neurology intelligence. It includes national datasets published at CCG, local authority or provider level. It has information on data availability and location. The catalogue is being continuously developed and improved. There have also been a series of updates from [The National Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network](#).

Recent PHE blogs

[Let's stop and think about sustainability](#)

by Paul Cosford (23 March)

[Emma Thompson urges Londoners to get tested for TB- making the video](#)

by Yvonne Doyle (24 March)

[Crush the can or just kick it down the road?](#)

by Helen Harris (5 April)

[Global health experience](#)

by Anthony Kessel (7 April)

[How organisations can plan to be more sustainable](#)

by Steve Owens (12 April)

[Nine things you need to know about UV \(ultraviolet radiation\)](#)

by John O'Hagan (18 April)

[Physical activity - how can we turn inspiration into action?](#)

by Kevin Fenton and Justin Varney (19 April)

[Public health tools and resources for teachers](#)

by Blog editor (20 April)

[14 questions news parents ask about vaccination](#)

by Blog Editor (25 April)

News from other organisations

CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework 2016/17 published

NHS England has published a new [CCG improvement and assessment framework](#) for 2016/17 to align with the CCG Mandate and planning guidance. This replaces the existing assurance framework and CCG dashboard, and aims to reach beyond CCGs, enabling local health systems and communities to assess their own progress.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence publishes guideline on the safe use and management of controlled drugs

NICE has published [guidance on the safe use and management of controlled drugs](#). The guideline covers systems and processes for using and managing controlled drugs safely in all NHS settings except care homes. It also aims to reduce the safety risks associated with controlled drugs.

Healthy caring guide produced

NHS England, in partnership with Carers UK, Carers Trust, Age UK, PHE and older carers themselves, has published a [Practical Guide to Healthy Caring](#). The guide provides information and advice to carers about staying healthy while caring and identifies the support available to help carers maintain their health and wellbeing. The guide is a companion to [A Practical Guide to Healthy Ageing](#), which was originally published in January 2015 and updated in October 2015.

Events

Booking now open for PHE annual conference 2016

Bookings are now open for the [PHE annual conference](#), taking place on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 September at Warwick University. The theme of this year's conference is 'Evidence into action'. The conference will promote and showcase the application and translation of science and research, to support effective local and national action to improve public health. Abstracts of new public health research, innovations and developments in practice are invited for submission by Friday 6 May for potential presentation at the conference. For more information and to book your place, [visit the conference website](#).

PHE Board's next open meeting

The next open meeting of the [PHE Board](#) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 May, focusing on health inequalities. Meeting [details](#) will be available online.