

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Health Protection update from the Director of Public Health	
REPORT OF Director of Public Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Camden Health and Wellbeing Board	DATE 12 July 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report provides an update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Wikum Jayatunga Consultant in Public Health Medicine 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG Wikum.Jayatunga@Camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report</p>	

Signed:



Kirsten Watters, Director of Public Health

Date: 30th June 2023

1. Purpose of Report

An update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden

2. Areas of Focus

- **COVID-19:** The number of COVID-19 hospitalisations and deaths in London has continued to be low throughout 2023. The ONS survey of COVID-19 transmission in the UK has been discontinued since March 2023. Based on the latest analysis in the UK, the most commonly circulating variants are subvariants of the XBB variant, and there are no current concerns regarding COVID-19 variants.
- **COVID-19 vaccines and boosters:** A Spring booster is now available for People aged 75 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, and those aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system aged 5 years and over. Those eligible can book through the NHS website/app. Clinically vulnerable children aged 6 months to 4 years will be offered a COVID vaccine from June. For those not in the above risk groups, 30 June 2023 is the end date of the current 'evergreen' offer of first and second COVID vaccinations, and communications has been sent to make people aware that the offer is ending.
- **Measles and Childhood Imms:** Nationally, there has been a rise in measles cases. Between 1 January and 20 April this year, there were 49 cases, compared to 54 cases in the whole of 2022. Most of the cases have been in London, although there have been cases picked up across the country and some are linked to travel abroad. The measles vaccine is highly protective against measles, but vaccination rates in London are lower than the rest of the country. A catch-up campaign for polio, MMR and other childhood immunisations to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children aged one to eleven years, will be delivered during the summer term. Children will receive vaccines through a combination of primary school and community clinics, with a particular focus on supporting communities with the lowest levels of vaccine uptake
- **Mpox:** The national mpox outbreak vaccination programme is coming to a close at the end of July, but vaccines will continue to be available in London, where the programme was extended following a recent cluster of 11 cases in London, most of whom were unvaccinated. Those eligible for the vaccine include gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men who have multiple sexual partners, participate in group sex or attend sex on premises venues. Staff who work in these premises are also eligible.
- **Heatwaves and health:** UKHSA, in collaboration with the Met Office, has launched a new Heat-Health Alerting (HHA) system. The alert system follows the publication of the Adverse Weather and Health Plan last month and will focus more specifically on the health impacts that high temperatures could

have on the health of the population. The updated guidance and actions cards have been circulated for dissemination at the Camden health protection group

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the content of this report and has no comment to make at this time.

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add to the report.

5. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications to this report.

REPORT ENDS