

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Health Protection update from Director of Public Health	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Public Health	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>DATE</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report provides an update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Wikum Jayatunga Consultant in Public Health Medicine 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG <a href="mailto:Wikum.Jayatunga@Camden.gov.uk">Wikum.Jayatunga@Camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></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: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## 1. Purpose of Report (and Reason for Urgency)

An update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden

## 2. Areas of Focus

- **COVID-19 – variant update:** There are numerous different Covid-19 sub-variants currently in circulation in the UK. More recently there has been the growth of the EG.5 subvariant (at the latest estimate, accounting for 15% of cases in the UK) and emergence of the BA.2.86 subvariant. Both variants are being monitored by the WHO and UKHSA due to increased mutations relative to predecessors. Covid-19 hospitalisations in London continue to remain low, and at this point these variants are not expected to behave significantly differently to other Omicron variants in circulation, but as a precaution while further data is collected, the roll out of the seasonal booster for vulnerable groups was brought forward to 11 September.
- **Winter vaccines:** The UK COVID-19 vaccination programme will soon be entering its third autumn season. Similar to last season, the JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation) has advised offering an autumn booster for those most at risk of severe illness, including care home residents, adults aged 65 years and over, frontline health and care workers, those in clinical risk groups or are household contacts of people with immunosuppression. Many of these groups are also eligible to receive an annual flu vaccine. Flu cases in Australia (to which we can look to as an indication of the upcoming UK flu season) are lower than last year, but are still higher than the 5-year baseline.
- **Measles and Childhood Imms:** Nationally, there has been a rise in measles cases this year. From the 1 January to 30 June 2023 there have been 128 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. 66% of the cases have been in London, and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) modelling suggests that due to low vaccination rates in London remains at risk of a large outbreak, and therefore efforts are underway to increase MMR immunisation. The MMR vaccine is highly protective against measles.
- **MMR campaign:** There is an extensive comms campaign to increase measles uptake: with letters to schools and early years settings, articles in the local press, and comms to parents, 19-25 year olds, ethnic minority populations, council tenants and GPs. A childhood immunisations catch-up clinic is running at the Peckwater Centre and MMR vaccines are also being delivered on a walk-in basis on Camden's vaccine bus, which will be travelling around children and community centres on particular dates. Two vaccine sessions were also recently delivered at contingency hotels for asylum seekers.
- **The MMR vaccine bus:** The bus has been mobilised to deliver vaccinations to Camden residents around the borough, with a focus on areas that our data shows has the lowest MMR uptake. The vaccine bus locations are in areas

with higher concentration of parents, like children's centres or with community partners who have activities for children and families. In areas of deprivation, learning from Covid-19 vaccination has taught us, that the bus is seen as a non-judgemental space to access health care information. Communications and the vaccine bus team will promote of the vaccine bus via social media (Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter), the resident e-newsletter, the Council website, posters, flyers and partners who have direct contact to families/parents, including community partners, faith organisations, children's centres, schools and primary care network partners like health centres and GP surgeries. UCLH provide 2 healthcare professionals and 1 floor walker to staff the bus. The healthcare professionals offer advice and perform the vaccinations, as well as offering advice on other health issues like smoking cessation, signposting to other health venues and providing advice on registering with a GP. Once the autumn term starts, the bus will visit some schools to trial uptake. The team will monitor areas where there has been more interest and potentially return for further engagement.

### **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.

### **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 the contents of this report.

**REPORT ENDS**