

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Health Protection and System 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 December 2023
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>  This report provides an update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.  <b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b>  No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.  <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>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>  1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report	

Signed:



Jess McGregor  
Executive Director of Adults and Health  
Date: 8th December 2023

## 1. Purpose of Report

An update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden

## 2. Areas of Focus

### Winter Preparedness

- **COVID-19:** There are numerous different Covid-19 sub-variants currently in circulation in England. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) monitor variants and there have not been any reported changes in disease severity to date. COVID-19 activity continues to decrease nationally, and this includes the hospital admission rates. Hospital admission rates from data published on 30 November shows that admission rates are stable in London and that ICU and HDU admission rates are low and stable nationally. Latest COVID-19 Data for London is available online<sup>1</sup>.
- **Influenza:** Most indicators show that flu activity has remained stable and within baseline levels. The weekly Flu and COVID-19 Surveillance report is available online<sup>2</sup>.

The UKHSA detected a single human case of influenza A(H1N2)v in North Yorkshire. This is the first detection of this strain of flu in a human in the UK but there has been a total of 50 human cases of influenza A(H1N2)v reported globally since 2005; none of them linked genetically to this strain. The strain that was isolated from a sample taken in a GP practice is similar to flu viruses that are circulating in pigs in the UK but transmission from pigs to humans is rare. The source of infection is being investigated and the case who only experienced mild respiratory illness has recovered. The situation continues to be monitored by UKHSA. Further details are available online<sup>3</sup>.

Chinese authorities have reported an increase in the incidence of respiratory diseases in China that has been attributed to changes in social mixing. No detection of unusual / novel pathogens or unusual clinical presentation has been reported. Further details are available online<sup>4</sup>.

- **Seasonal COVID-19 & Flu vaccines:** The winter vaccination programme is continuing for Covid-19 seasonal booster and annual flu vaccines. Groups eligible on the NHS are similar for both vaccines and this includes adults over 65 years, care home residents, frontline health, and social care workers, and those in clinical risk groups. Additionally, children are eligible for the flu vaccine.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/healthcare?areaType=nhsRegion&areaName=London>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2023-to-2024-season>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-detects-human-case-of-influenza-ah1n2v>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-statement-on-reported-clusters-of-respiratory-illness-in-children-in-china>

For adults over the age of 65, a total of 15,232 in this eligible group in Camden (51%) had already received their Covid booster vaccine as of 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Vaccinations will continue to the end of January.

- **Seasonal COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Uptake for staff in 5 NHS Trusts operating in Camden Borough:**
  - 12,444 eligible staff have received their COVID autumn booster. Uptake varies between Trusts (18.8%-36.9%) and compares to the London region average of 21.5%.
  - 15,980 eligible staff have received their seasonal flu vaccine. Uptake varies between Trusts (26.2%-41.9%) and this compares to a London region average of 31.7%

Vaccine uptake for week commencing 17 November 2023

Information on how to get your flu / covid vaccine can be found on the Camden Council website<sup>5</sup>, including through walk-ins and the Camden Vaccine Bus which has restarted this year. The national 'Get Winter Strong' campaign to promote the vaccines is underway and this has been promoted in local communications to residents and key risk groups, such as adult social care staff. As with last year, there is an additional flu vaccine offer to Council Staff for those not in eligible groups: 204 vouchers have been issued so far to council staff (55 to school staff) on request and 12 vouchers are still available. This allows council staff to access free flu vaccination at Boots chemist using a voucher.

**Cold Weather:** resources and guidelines have been produced by UKHSA and include cold weather and health: guidance and advice, action cards, advice on keeping warm and well and a communications toolkit. These resources have been shared with Adult Social Care Colleagues and our communications team have prepared local communications for when weather health alerts are received from UKHSA. We continue to offer "Warm Welcome" spaces across Camden, and these are available in libraries, children's centres, and other community buildings in the borough. The location of Warm Spaces can be viewed online<sup>6</sup>.

There are plans to offer emergency accommodation to people sleeping rough to preserve life during severe weather. The primary offer will be self-contained accommodation in the borough supported with shared sleeping sites when single occupancy beds are not available. Camden and Westminster have joined forces to open a shared sleeping site for 50 people at Connection at St Martin's (CSTM) and Camden Public Health Team have provided health protection advice re SWEP Hub risk assessment.

**Measles and Childhood Immunisations:** There has been a rise in measles cases this year nationally. From the 1 January to 30 September 2023 there have been 149 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. Five new

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.camden.gov.uk/covid-19-and-flu-vaccinations>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ssa.camden.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=%2FMapProjects%2FWarmSpacesMap>

cases have been reported in August and 6 new cases in September. Most cases (60%) have been reported in London, although all regions have reported at least one case. 78% of the cases were in children aged under 10 years and 25% of the cases were in teenagers and young people aged 15 to 34 years. Measles Epidemiology can be viewed online<sup>7</sup>.

**MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) catch-up campaign:** The 2023/24 national vaccination and immunisation campaign will once again focus on measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). The campaign will run from November 2023 to March 2024 in two stages:

- **From November 2023 to March 2024** – practices will be required to undertake local call and recall for eligible individuals aged 12 months up to and including 5 years.
- **From January 2024 to March 2024** – practices are asked to support requests for vaccination from individuals aged 6 years up to and including 25 years. This cohort will be identified through phased national call and recall, and where individuals or parents/carers contact their practice following receipt of the invitation, practices are required to check the individual's vaccination status for valid vaccinations (e.g., given at the correct age and at the correct intervals) and book an appointment for vaccination if clinically appropriate. This catch-up will be supported by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) for the relevant age cohorts, alongside general practice activity.

NCL (North Central London) have established a group to focus on the national catch-up campaign.

### **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**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-epidemiology-2023>