

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Health Protection Update, Measles and MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) Vaccine	
REPORT OF Director of Public Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Wellbeing Board	DATE 13 March 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT This report provides an update on Measles with a focus on MMR vaccination. It summarises the National and London epidemiology of measles, information about MMR vaccine coverage in Camden and the ICS approach to improving access, communications and engagement using a population health approach.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Alison Quinn Health and Wellbeing Team, Camden Council 5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG alison.quinn@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: 4th March 2024

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To highlight the recent increase in measles cases. UKHSA (United Kingdom and Health Security Agency) have reported an increase in measles cases across England since 01 October 2023 with significant outbreaks having been reported in the West Midlands. During this period cases have also increased in London. No confirmed cases have been reported in Camden during this period.
- 1.2. To highlight low MMR vaccine uptake in Camden and the need for us to improve this to prevent cases and outbreaks of measles. Coverage for MMR vaccine in UK has fallen to the lowest level in a decade. Vaccination uptake in Camden is also low. Despite steady improvement through considerable partnerships effort across the past 12 months, approximately 20% of 2-year-olds have still not received the first dose of MMR vaccine that was due age 12 months and around 1 in 4 children aged 5 have only received one dose of MMR vaccine (2nd dose was due aged 3 years and 4 months). 95% of both MMR doses by age 5 is required to achieve and maintain measles elimination and prevent outbreaks.

2. **Epidemiology of the Current Measles Situation (data as of 23.02.24)**

- 2.1. **National**
Since 01 October 2023, UKHSA (United Kingdom Health Security Agency) have reported an increase in cases of measles across England, with a disproportionately high rate seen in the West Midlands (mainly in Birmingham) and an increase also seen in London. 581 laboratory confirmed cases have been reported nationally, 381 of which have been in the West Midlands, 83 in London and 43 in Yorkshire and The Humber. Most cases reported have been in children aged 10 and under (379) and 154 of cases were reported in young people and adults over the age of 15.
- 2.2. **London**
Since the 1 January 2024, 95 cases have been reported in London, of which 52 were confirmed and 43 were probable. The majority of cases were unvaccinated / had only received one of the 2 recommended doses of MMR and 18 of the total number of cases had recent travel abroad. Brent has reported the highest number of cases since 1 January (14) and Harrow has reported the highest number of cases in the past 4 weeks (7).
- 2.3. **North East and North Central London (NENCL)**
Since the 1 January 8 confirmed cases and 7 probable cases have been reported by UKHSA Northeast North Central London Team (NENCL). No probable / confirmed cases have been reported in Camden during this period.

3. **MMR Vaccine Uptake rates**

- 3.1. Childhood vaccine uptake rates have decreased across the UK over the past 10 years. The MMR vaccine is delivered in 2 doses with the first one due when a child is 12 months. Uptake of the first vaccine measured when a child is 1 year, and 3 months has improved by 5.5% from 2022-2023. The second vaccine is due when a child is 3 years and 4 months and uptake measured age 5 has increased by 2.6% from 2022 to 2023. We need to sustain efforts to improve MMR vaccine as the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends uptake rates of 95% for both doses of MMR vaccine to prevent onward transmission of measles in the community. Our uptake rate for both vaccines in 2023 was 75.5% (measured at age 5, data extracted from Immform).
- 3.2. **Population Health Approach in Camden** was mobilised last year and is now being ramped up with a new Measles/MMR Health Protection sub-group formed to prioritise work. Representatives from the Health and Wellbeing team, primary care, contingency hotels, UCLH and vaccine bus team, family hubs, early years, ICB and school age immunisation service are all part of the sub-group.

4. **Actions across Camden**

- 4.1. There are three parts to Camden's response to improving MMR vaccination uptake which has allowed us to make gradual and sustained progress. This includes making it easier for parents and families to access MMR vaccinations, engaging and listening to our residents and working closely with our NHS and community partners.
- 4.2. **Access**

GP delivery

- The majority of our residents will receive their MMR vaccine at their GP surgery. The first vaccine is given when a child is aged 12 months and the second when they are 3 years and 4 months.
- There is currently a national call recall (up until the end of March), for children aged 1-11 years who are missing either of their 2 doses of MMR vaccine The NHS call recall has been extended across the Midlands and London to include 11–25-year-olds.

School age immunisation service

- Our school age immunisation team have been contacting children in reception who are missing either of their 2 doses of MMR and signposting them to their GP for vaccination.
- They also offer the opportunity for MMR vaccine catch-up when delivering other vaccination programmes at the school e.g. HPV vaccine, MenACWY vaccine and Td/IPV (School leaver's Booster).

- In addition to this the school aged immunisation service team run catch-up clinics for school aged children on an appointment basis. To book an appointment at these clinics, parents contact the team on a dedicated number. This number is shared on our communications materials and NCL (North Central London) and council websites.

Outreach to Communities

- The MMR Bus is a collaboration between the UCLH vaccine team and Camden Council which delivered MMR vaccine sessions last summer.
- We were one of the first local authorities to trial a mobile vaccination offer for MMR. During the pandemic, we realised that there were some groups who did not come forward to receive their vaccine and so the NHS needed to provide outreach to them and deliver vaccinations.
- In Camden we partnered with UCLH vaccination team and the voluntary sector to organise COVID vaccination clinics on our vaccine bus and in trusted convenient sites like our family hubs, faith settings and community centres.
- The feedback from residents was that they saw the bus as “non-judgemental space.” We used this model again in the summer last year to deliver MMR vaccinations to families.
- Three further dates are planned for the team to set up vaccine outreach clinics in Family Hub centres across Camden during March.

In-reach to contingency hotels

- We provided in-reach vaccination clinics for MMR & polio vaccine catch-up in the summer of 2023 in our contingency hotels for Asylum Seekers.
- Since then, a number of residents aged between 1 to 26 years old have moved into the accommodation. We are currently working with our ICB colleagues, Early Years staff and Council staff working in the accommodation, to provide additional in-reach vaccine clinics.

4.3. Engagement

- We are currently progressing an engagement plan with underserved communities in Camden that we know have low vaccination uptake rates. This includes planned engagement with Somali and Bangladeshi communities to co-produce communications to encourage MMR vaccination.
- Training of early years staff, parent and community champions, family hubs staff and staff working in contingency hotels has been completed / is in progress to improve knowledge of measles and MMR vaccination and help them to assist with engagement. This has been delivered in collaboration with our ICB colleagues.
- The offer of training has also been extended to VCS and faith leaders and they have received a campaign pack. The family Hubs webpage and Camden measles web pages have both been updated.
- Our DPH (Director of Public Health) hosted a webinar with all NCL GPs and provides DPH support to the Regional and Incident Management

Response. London and West Midlands have established multi-agency response structures led by UKHSA reporting into a national incident oversight board.

- A weekly sitrep from the UKHSA and ministerial briefing has also been initiated. We have attended two headteacher meetings to provide an update on measles and MMR vaccination.
- We also invited our school age immunisation service team leader to one of the meetings to share information about what her team could offer. Information about a UKHSA London webinar for education settings that will take place on the 16th of March has also been shared with education settings.

4.4. **Communications**

- We have been communicating information about the importance of vaccination to control the spread of measles and how to access MMR vaccination with a wide range of stakeholders and our residents.
- The Council's webpage has been updated at camden.gov.uk/measles
- Our leaflets and posters have been refreshed following feedback from parents who attended coffee mornings organised by our early years team.
- Printed leaflets in English, Sylheti and Somali have been distributed to schools, nurseries, family hubs, libraries, GPs, community pharmacies and VCS partners.
- Regular updates have been shared via newsletters including the resident newsletter, the head's newsletter, VCS and faith leaders bulletins.
- Outdoor advertising including bus stops and digital screens are live for six weeks across February and March in areas of high footfall.
- Articles have also been shared in the residents' newsletter, Camden Magazine and Housing News.
- We will continue to use information from engagement work completed with our residents to develop and improve communications with a focus on underserved communities.

5. **Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

The Director of Finance has been consulted and has no comment to add to the report.

6. **Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

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

7. **Environmental Implications**

No Environmental implications have been identified in relation to this report.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A – MMR Communications Stakeholder Pack
Appendix B – MMR Social Media Assets

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