

<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> Camden Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>DATE</b> 10 July 2024
<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>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:



Kirsten Watters  
Director of Public Health

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## 1. Purpose of Report

An update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden

## 2. Areas of Focus

### **Measles and MMR Vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)**

There has been a rise in measles cases nationally since October 2023 and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) declared a national incident in January 2024. From the 1 January to 18 June 2024 661 confirmed measles cases have been reported in London and 11 of which in Camden residents connected to two school outbreaks in primary schools. Published information on the measles incident is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-epidemiology-2023/national-measles-standard-incident-measles-epidemiology-from-october-2023>

MMR vaccination has been promoted through a variety of channels, including resident bulletins, social media platforms, electronic billboards and bus advertising. We have also produced leaflets which were translated for our population, and these have been distributed via GPs, libraries and children's centres and at community events. We have also used our parent champions and school nursing teams to share key messages and to hand out leaflets in schools where cases of measles have been reported.

We have worked with our colleagues in ICB, UCLH / Vaccine bus and family hubs to deliver outreach MMR clinics and information sessions throughout the borough. Stronger connections have been established with our Bangladeshi and Somali communities and Voluntary Community Sector groups. Coffee mornings have been organised in Camden's British Somali centre. We have had the support of a G.P. and an academic from the Somali community to attend and discuss immunisations and to address concerns that families might have. Further workshops are planned to co-produce tailored communications for this community.

We have also been working with our asylum seeker and refugee populations in contingency hotels and displaced populations to promote the importance of childhood vaccinations and to ensure that this population are registered with GPs. Training has been delivered to staff working in these settings in relation to the importance of MMR vaccine and preparedness for measles cases.

Information sessions and a vaccine session has also been held at the New Horizons, a Pan-London centre for young people living with homelessness. Members of the health and wellbeing team and UCLH Team completed a visit to the centre to hold conversations with the young people about GP registration, knowledge of vaccines that they have received to date, incomplete vaccination and access to vaccination, as well as other opportunistic health checks, like blood pressure and BMI.

## **Pertussis**

Pertussis is a bacterial infection that causes respiratory illness and a prolonged cough, and it can be dangerous to babies under 6 months. Pertussis vaccination is given as part of the routine childhood immunisations schedule and also in pregnancy. UKHSA declared a national incident for pertussis (also known as whooping cough) on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 due to the increase in the number of cases reported nationally. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, 715 provisional new laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis have been reported in London, and 8 deaths in England in infants between January and April 2024. 66 confirmed cases were reported in Camden from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

To raise awareness of the outbreak and promote pertussis vaccination, the national / ICB communications messaging has been shared with all of our digital channels and Family Hubs website. Information about the increase in pertussis / whooping cough cases has been shared at various forums, and North Central London ICB have also established a pertussis/ whooping cough task and finish group. Communications will be shared about the pertussis in pregnancy programme in a Camden magazine article.

## **E.coli (STEC) outbreak**

As of 11 June 2024, there have been 211 cases of E.Coli STEC 0145 reported in the UK (of which 147 cases in England). STEC bacteria can cause severe bloody diarrhoea and, in some cases, more serious complications. A small number of salad leaf products have been identified as a potential source. Following thorough food chain analysis, these products have been recalled as a precaution. Details of the outbreak have been shared at Camden Health Protection group and staff in Environment Health are already aware of this outbreak and have been helping to complete questionnaires about cases of suspected STEC 0145. Camden has not had any reported cases of STEC 0145 in the latest weekly infection report (week to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024).

## **New variant of Mpox virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

Since September 2023, an outbreak of mpox virus in South Kivu province of the DRC has continued to spread, within the province and recently to neighbouring North Kivu, driven by sexual contact transmission. A new variant of clade 1 mpox has been described in South Kivu and it is not yet known if this variant is more transmissible or leads to more severe disease than other clade I mpox strains. As of 26 May, a total of 7851 mpox cases were reported in the DRC, including 384 deaths (4.9%). In 2022–2023 a global outbreak of mpox was caused by a strain known as clade IIb. This is an emerging situation which we are monitoring and have alerted our sexual health providers.

### **3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no comments to add to the report.

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

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

**5. Environmental Implications**

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

**REPORT ENDS**