

<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> 12 March 2025
<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>RECOMMENDATION</b>  The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report.	

Signed:



Kirsten Watters  
Director of Health and Wellbeing  
Date: 28 February 2025

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This report provides an update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.

## **2. Areas of Focus:**

### **Winter Viruses that cause respiratory infection**

- 2.1. Flu (influenza) levels have decreased following high levels this winter season. The offer of flu vaccine for eligible groups will continue until the end of March in Camden via GPs, community pharmacies, catch-up clinics in family hubs and the vaccine bus.
- 2.2. COVID-19 activity remained stable across most indicators and was at baseline activity levels. The delivery of the winter offer for COVID-19 vaccine has now stopped. The spring booster offer will continue this year for adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults and individual aged 6 months with a weakened immune system.
- 2.3. RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) activity has decreased across most indicators and is circulating at low levels overall.

### **Norovirus**

- 2.4. Norovirus is a virus that causes diarrhoea and vomiting, and cases usually increase during the winter months. It is easily spread in settings such as hospitals, care homes, schools and nurseries. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have reported high numbers of norovirus cases this year and cases remain high. We have not had any reported outbreaks in care homes in Camden, but care home managers and extra care staff have been made aware that high numbers of norovirus have been reported.

### **New clade Ib mpox case detected in England**

- 2.5. Mpox is an infection caused by the MPXV (monkeypox virus) with two distinct clades (Clade I and Clade II). In May 2022, an outbreak of clade II mpox occurred globally and this mainly affected gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. There is currently an ongoing outbreak of Clade Ib mpox in central Africa.
- 2.6. 8 cases of clade Ib mpox have now been detected in England since October 2024 and close contacts of the cases have been followed up. The majority of the cases had a recent travel history to countries in Africa and 3 were household contacts of a case with recent travel history to Africa. The risk to the public remains very low.

### **Human Case of Avian flu detected in England**

- 2.7. Last month the UKHSA confirmed a single case of influenza A (H5N1) in a person in the West Midlands region. It was acquired on a farm in an

individual who had close and prolonged contact with a large number of infected birds. Small numbers of influenza A (H5N1) have been reported prior to this in humans with similar close contact with infected birds, and the wider risk remains very low.

**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**

There are no environmental implications to the contents of this report.

**REPORT ENDS**