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PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

## Public health news

### Spending Review outcomes for public health

In Wednesday's Government Spending Review the Chancellor announced a further 9.6% cash reduction in the overall public health grant over the next five years. The Spending Review recognised the government's own role, signalling its commitment to firm action on childhood obesity. The government is also providing funding for a Public Health Rapid Response Force to allow the UK to deploy on the ground anywhere in the world within 48 hours and allocated money to support the poorest parts of the world to meet the International Health Regulations and to improve international tobacco control. For more information see [Duncan Selbie's Friday message](#).

### Government commits to public health science centre of excellence

PHE's Science Hub moved a huge step closer after the government decided to move PHE's science facilities from Colindale to Harlow in Essex. This follows the September announcement that PHE's laboratories at Porton will move to Harlow and completes the plan to bring all the public health laboratories onto a single integrated campus. The Science Hub, which will include PHE's headquarters, will create a centre of excellence for research, health improvement and protection and bring together world-renowned scientists to protect and improve the nation's health. It will be fully operational by 2024 with the first facilities opening in 2019. For more information see PHE's press release.

## Report reveals continued rise in antibiotic resistant infections

A new [report](#) from PHE shows that overall antibiotic resistant infections increased through 2014. Rates of bloodstream infections caused by *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* increased by 16% and 21% respectively, from 2010 to 2014. However, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bloodstream infections reduced by 23% between 2010 and 2014, which may be related to increased pneumococcal vaccination rates. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

## Big data driving earlier cancer diagnosis in England

The complete cancer [Routes to Diagnosis data](#), which covers more than two million patients diagnosed with cancer from 2006 to 2013, has been published by PHE. This big data project tells us how people are diagnosed, with associated survival rates, for 56 different cancer sites and is a vital tool to help improve early diagnosis. When the project started in 2006, almost 25% of cancers were diagnosed as an emergency. In 2013, this figure had fallen to 20%. Survival rates for cancers diagnosed as an emergency are much worse. For more details see PHE's [press release](#) and [blog](#).

## The end of Ebola in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone was declared Ebola transmission free earlier this month. As part of the UK response to the outbreak of the disease in West Africa, over 100 PHE staff ran three new laboratories, testing over a third of all samples across Sierra Leone, greatly speeding up the diagnosis of people with Ebola-like symptoms. For more information see the joint government [news story](#). PHE continues to work with government colleagues, the World Health Organization and a wide range of partners, including UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières, to provide support and has now published an updated [assessment](#) of the risk from the current Ebola virus disease outbreak for the UK resident population and UK citizens in West Africa.

## Free HIV home sampling launched to increase HIV testing

PHE has launched the first nationally available HIV kit for testing those at higher risk, alongside announcing new funding for innovative HIV prevention projects. Improved treatment for HIV means those diagnosed early can have a life expectancy almost matching that of people who are HIV free. New [PHE figures](#) show an estimated 103,700 people in the UK were living with HIV in 2014, with around 18,100 unaware and at risk of unknowingly passing on the virus to others. Among men who have sex with men (MSM), 6,500 remain unaware of their HIV

infection, as do a further 3,900 men and women from black African communities. The government and PHE have also announced seven successful HIV innovation winners. For more information see [PHE's press release](#).

### **Reducing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning over winter**

PHE is advising people to have their fossil fuel and wood burning appliances, like boilers, heaters and cookers, checked by an appropriately registered engineer before winter sets in. There are about 30 accidental deaths a year from carbon monoxide poisoning in England and Wales. It is estimated that around 4,000 people attend accident and emergency departments in England each year because of carbon monoxide poisoning. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Inequalities in health and life expectancies persist**

A new Office for National Statistics report produced in conjunction with PHE reveals the scale of inequalities in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy across England and also within local authority areas. The data shows the number of years an individual could expect to live in good health (healthy life expectancy) in 2009 to 2013 in England was 63.5 years for males and 64.8 years for females. Compared with the most deprived areas, the figures for those living in the least deprived areas were higher by 16.7 years for males and 16.8 years for females. This difference was much greater for healthy life expectancy than it was for life expectancy. The report concludes that there has been little change in this inequality over the last decade. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Improved vaccine uptake for children, pregnant women and older people**

Flu vaccination uptake rates for older people, pregnant women, and children are at encouraging levels compared to the same point last year, but uptake in people with long-term conditions and healthcare workers is currently lower. The first monthly GP patient data for the 2015 to 2016 flu season published by PHE last week shows increased vaccine uptake rates in all pregnant women (now 32%), in 65+ year olds (58%), all two year old children (17%) and all four year old children (15%). Despite the encouraging figures for some groups, PHE is urging healthcare workers to sustain efforts to increase uptake across all eligible groups. For more information see the PHE joint [press release](#). Vaccination figures for frontline healthcare workers published by PHE earlier this month show 32% of frontline healthcare workers had flu vaccinations in September and October 2015 compared to 37% of workers in the same period in 2014 to 2015. See the joint PHE [news story](#) for more information.

### **Almost half of people who inject drugs unaware they have hepatitis C**

[Latest figures](#) from PHE show that almost half of injecting drug users (48%) were unaware of having hepatitis C although rates of HIV among this group remain low (1%). Sharing and reusing needles and syringes in England has fallen from 28% in 2004 to 16% in 2014. HIV infection among this group remains low and early diagnosis is good, compared to many other countries, with 1 in 100 having HIV in 2014. The [Shooting Up report](#) highlights the changing patterns of injecting drug use and the impact local interventions are having on rates of infection in the UK. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Public Health Outcomes Framework and other PHE online tools updated**

PHE has updated the [Public Health Outcomes Framework tool](#), the online [Health Profiles](#), [Local Tobacco Control Profiles](#) and all [mortality indicators](#) in the Longer Lives tool.

### **Food teaching in primary schools – knowledge and skills framework**

PHE has published new guidance to support teachers to deliver food teaching in [primary schools](#) and [secondary schools](#). The frameworks will help them to implement the requirements for food teaching within the new National Curriculum for Design and Technology in England and the Core Competences for Children and Young People.

### **Professional cancer screening content now live on GOV.UK**

Cancer screening content for healthcare professionals has now moved to its new home on [GOV.UK](#). A copy of the old cancer screening website will be available on the [National Archives](#) in its entirety. The equivalent website transition process has already happened for the other population screening programmes.

### **Report compares health of children and young people in London to four other major cities**

PHE London has published a [report](#) comparing the health and wellbeing of children and young people in London with the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol and Leeds.

## Recent PHE blogs

[How the health and care system is preparing for climate change](#)

by Sonia Roschnik (22 October)

[We must fight back against bacteria to save our antibiotics](#)

by Susan Hopkins (23 October)

[Getting serious about prevention](#)

by Yvonne Doyle (26 October)

[Smokefree workplaces](#)

by Justin Varney (27 October)

[Deadly DNP](#)

by Simon Thomas (28 October)

[Why acting FAST when it comes to a stroke is so important](#)

by Kevin Fenton (29 October)

["I need antibiotics that work." 7 health pros share their antibiotic resistance fears](#)

by Blog editor (2 November)

[Answering questions on ticks and Borrelia myamotoi](#)

by Kayleigh Hansford and Matthew Dryden (3 November)

[Understanding the impact of particulate air pollution](#)

by Sotiris Vardoulakis (3 November)

[How we are working to reduce inequalities in screening?](#)

by Ann Mackie (4 November)

[Transport and emissions- how can we make better choices?](#)

by Steve Owens (5 November)

[PHE Data Week: Big data, data science and public health](#)

by Julian Flowers (9 November)

[PHE Data Week- data at your fingertips- revisited](#)

by Julian Flowers (9 November)

[Data in action- using data to identify areas for improvements](#)

by Lorraine Oldridge (10 November)

[Big data in action: The story behind routes to diagnosis](#)

by Lucy Elliss-Brookes (10 November)

[PHE Data Week: An A-Z of Public Health Data Science](#)

by Mary E Black, Julian Flowers and Doris Hain (11 November)

[Pulling it all together: a health intelligence network approach to young people's data](#)

by Helen Duncan (11 November)

[Keeping our focus on flu](#)

by Paul Cosford (12 November)

[PHE Data Week: digital and data science working together](#)

by David Madden (12 November)

[PHE Data Week: Making infographics work for you](#)

by Michael Heasman (13 November)

[PHE Data Week: Putting patients at the heart of big data](#)

by Chris Carrigan (13 November)

[Making sense of data: a challenge and a responsibility](#)

by Peter Bradley (13 November)

[World Diabetes Day: Putting the focus on prevention through the NHS  
Diabetes Prevention Programme](#)

by Jim O'Brien (13 November)

[#AntibioticGuardian Twitter chat](#)

by Blog editor (17 November)

[Young people to share views on children's emotional health and wellbeing](#)

by Kevin Fenton (20 November)

[Bad for people, bad for business- domestic violence and the work place](#)

by Justin Varney (25 November)

[Home sampling can help tackle increasing rates of HIV](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 25 November

[Home is where the \(climate\) risks could be](#)

by Sotiris Vardoulakis 26 November

## People news

### Lifetime achievement award screening programme clinical lead

NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme clinical lead Jonothan Earnshaw has received a lifetime achievement award from the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Vascular surgeon Jonothan is a world authority on aneurysm screening and played a pivotal role in the successful national implementation of the [AAA screening programme](#) in England.

## News from other organisations

### Report on district councils role in promoting public health

A new King's Fund report, [The district council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity](#), considers the role of district councils in promoting public health through some of their key functions. Its recommendations focus on three areas: partnership and alignment, health and wider economics, and innovating for outcomes.

### Annual data for the National Child Measurement Programme published

Annual data for 2014/2015 for PHE's [National Child Measurement Programme](#) was published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre last week. It shows the prevalence of underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obese children in reception (ages 4 to 5) and year 6 (ages 10 to 11) in state primary schools in England. Also published is [Guidance for local authorities](#) on how to inform families about their child's height and weight measurements.

### **New Marmot indicators launched**

On Friday the Institute of Health Equity launched the [Marmot Indicators 2015](#), a new set of indicators of the social determinants of health, health outcomes and social inequality.

## **Events**

### **PHE Board's next open meeting**

The next open meeting of the [PHE Board](#) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 27 January 2016. Meeting [details](#) will be available online.