

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Health Protection update from Director of Public Health	
REPORT OF Director of Public Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Wellbeing Board	DATE 9 th July 2025
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>This report provides an update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Wikum Jayatunga Consultant in Public Health Medicine 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG Wikum.Jayatunga@Camden.gov.uk </p>	
RECOMMENDATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report 	

Signed:



Kirsten Watters, Director of Public Health

Date: 27th June 2025

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. An update on health protection issues and epidemiology in Camden.

2. Areas of Focus

Measles

- 2.1. Following a very large Measles outbreak across London in Summer 2024 and subsequent decline, measles rates across London have begun to increase again this summer, with outbreaks primarily affecting unvaccinated children under 10 years of age. We currently have an outbreak of measles in one of our primary schools in Camden. The school have reported that 8 children who attend their school have now been diagnosed with measles (6 in reception classes and 2 in year 2). 6 of the measles cases that the school has reported are laboratory confirmed. One sibling of a case who attends a nursery in Camden was also diagnosed with measles. UKHSA have provided advice for all cases and their contacts.
- 2.2. We are currently working on MMR vaccine promotion in the school, including: distribution of MMR leaflets and poster containing details of MMR catch-up clinics (including translations into Somali, Bangladeshi and Arabic), checking of child vaccine history in considering a MMR vaccine session based at the school, and MMR promotion at a school fayre in July. All GPs in Camden have been informed of the outbreak and catch-up clinics. Wider communications have been circulated to our schools & early years settings and staff working with our Asylum seeker and refugee communities in Camden.

Invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) in people who inject drugs and people living with homelessness (Camden & Islington)

- 2.3. Group A Streptococcus is a common cause of sore throat and skin infections, but can cause more serious illness if it enters the blood stream (invasive Group A Strep or iGAS). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have informed us of a cluster of iGAS cases in Camden and Islington (7 cases over a 3-month period) between March and May 2025. Cases were reported in our population of people who inject drugs and people living with homelessness. No links have been established between cases but because people who inject drugs are vulnerable to a wide range of infections, we have shared communications to raise awareness about Group A Strep and the signs and symptoms of infection. We have also shared messages to remind people who inject drugs of the steps they can take to prevent infections when injecting.

NB.1.8.1 COVID-19 variant (Nimbus variant)

- 2.4. UKHSA have reported that a new variant of COVID-19 has been detected in small numbers in the UK with international data showing a growing number of cases. It is normal for viruses to mutate and change over time and to date

there is no evidence to suggest that the nimbus variant causes more severe disease than previous variants, or that the vaccines in current use will be less effective against it.

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 3.1. 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

- 4.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add to the report.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1. There are no environmental implications arising out of this report.

6. Appendices

n/a

REPORT ENDS