

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 22 January 2020
SUBJECT:	Health Protection Update
BOARD SPONSOR:	Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides an update on Pan-London vaccination priorities and local progress around seasonal flu, Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination pathways.

BOARD PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:

This report addresses the following priorities and outcomes set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- A better start in life (Priority 1)
- A stronger focus on prevention (Priority 7)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial implications.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the report and to encourage its members to continue to support the activities and actions to improve flu and MMR vaccinations.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Croydon Health Protection Forum (HPF) was established in July 2015 with the purpose of having a strategic overview of health protection matters with the aim to support the Director of Public Health (DPH) in her statutory assurance role around the safety of the local population. In this role, the DPH seeks assurance that arrangements in place to protect the health of residents are robust and implemented appropriately to local health needs. Health protection issues discussed at the Forum include national screening programmes and adult and child immunisation programmes.
- 2.2 The Health Protection Forum meets quarterly bringing together various organizations including Croydon Council, Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG), Croydon Health Services, NHS England, Public Health England and other agencies relevant to the particular theme under discussion.

- 2.3 This report highlights Pan-London vaccination priorities and provides a local update on progress against action plans around seasonal flu and activities around the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination pathways.

3. DETAIL

Pan London Priorities

- 3.1 From the pan-London perspective, NHS England has the following priorities around health protection:

- Increasing coverage and uptake for seasonal flu vaccination in the 2019/2020 season
- Delivery of the MMR Recovery Plan for London
- Implementation of changes to the BCG immunisation pathway in September 2020 (phasing out of universal vaccination of neonates and transition to community based vaccination of high risk babies at four weeks of age).

Seasonal Influenza

- 3.2 The purpose of the London wide influenza vaccination plan is to improve vaccination via the following aims:

- To increase vaccination uptake rates in specific clinical 'at risk' groups between 6 months to 64 years to 50%
- To increase vaccination uptake rates of over 65s in London to 2018/19 national level of 71.3%
- To increase vaccination uptake rates of pregnant women to 2018/19 national level of 45%
- To increase delivery of child flu vaccination services across all primary school year groups and increase uptake to more than 50%
- To attain 40% national standard for age 2 and age 3 child 'flu vaccinations in general practice
- To streamline the time-consuming multiple reporting processes on 'flu vaccination rates during 'flu season
- To assure that all general practices are prepared for the extra demand and capacity that 'flu vaccinations place on winter primary care services
- To increase uptake amongst frontline health care workers to 80% including primary care staff
- To improve access to vaccinations for London's homeless population by bringing vaccinations to them via pharmacy, general practices that specialise in caring for the homeless

- 3.3 Croydon Council, through its Public Health department, the CCCG, Croydon Health Services and other partners work jointly to minimize the health impact of seasonal flu in Croydon.

- 3.4 The Immunisation Steering Group was established in April 2019 in response to the publication of the UK measles and rubella elimination strategy. The group reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board via quarterly Health Protection Forum updates. Through the Immunisation Steering Group, there has been a joined up approach among partners towards effective communication, robust monitoring, and prevention and treatment strategies.
- 3.5 A local influenza action plan has been developed with key local stakeholders, using a system wide approach to promoting vaccination, and those at higher risk of flu are being targeted (such as children, older people, pregnant women).
- 3.6 There is also renewed focus on joint working among partners to facilitate targeting and vaccination of specific patient groups like housebound residents and residents who are not registered with a GP.
- 3.7 A summary of flu vaccination rates among high risk groups in Croydon in 18/19 is outlined in the table below:

Population Group	Croydon Vaccination Rate (%)	London Vaccination Rate (%)
Aged 65 and over	65	72
Over the age of 6 months with a long term condition	45.5	48
Reception to year 5 (aged 4-10 years)	32.5	44.9
Aged 2 - 3 years old	32.5	44.9

Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England

Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccination

- 3.8 In Croydon (2017/18) only 67% of eligible children had received two doses of the MMR jabs (the full course). This is the second lowest rate in the whole country with varying vaccination rates between various GPs across the borough.
- 3.9 Croydon Council through its Public Health department is working with the Behavioural Insights Team to explore the barriers to uptake of the MMR vaccine. The learning from this research will be used to inform new strategies to improve uptake of the vaccine in Croydon.
- 3.10 Through the Immunisation Steering group, there has been whole system engagement to promote MMR through the following:

- The development of a detailed MMR action plan with stakeholders across key organisations, commissioners and providers
- Development of simplified messages delivered by front line staff
- Reduction of GP practice variation on uptake
- Repeated messages to schools, parents and carers

3.11 Examples of current and planned activity in this area:

- Good practice recognized across London in terms of the catch up campaign run by the School Nursing Immunisations team to vaccinate 10 and 11 year olds
- Pop up clinics were provided in some colleges in Croydon
- Vaccination information will also be included in the new relationships and health education programme in schools
- The Immunisation team added a question about MMR vaccinations to all flu consent forms for all primary school aged children. Children who had not received two doses would be signposted to their GP
- The Immunisation team will also visit all special needs schools including Pupil Referral Units

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination

3.12 There has been a coordinated approach to re-establish comprehensive BCG and Tuberculosis services for looked after children in Croydon.

3.13 Looking to the future, changes to the provision of BCG vaccinations to neonates are expected to come into effect by September 2020. Vaccinations to neonates are expected to change from a universal offer to neonates in maternity services to a risk based offer in the community. BCG will be given at the age of four weeks to allow for the identification of neonates with a rare immunodeficiency immediately following birth. Neonates who are identified with this condition will not receive a BCG vaccination.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Feedback has been collated from members of local and regional organisations involved in the commissioning and provision of the various vaccination programmes discussed in this report as well as allied partners as part of the immunisations steering group processes.

5. SERVICE INTEGRATION

5.1 Both the health protection forum and the immunisation steering group require a continuation of close synergy between all partners involved, CCCG, Croydon Council, NHSE, Public Health England, and local stakeholders committed to delivering effective vaccination programmes in Croydon.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

Approved by: Josephine Lyseight, Head of Finance on behalf of the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and S151 Officer

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 Improved vaccination rates protect vulnerable members of society who are most at risk if there is an outbreak of disease and who may lack protection if they are unable to be vaccinated due to underlying health conditions.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

9. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

NO

There are no data protection implications for the Council as Council staff will not be involved in processing any personal data.

- 9.2 **HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

NO

Council staff will not be involved in processing any personal data. Actions and activities carried out by other organisations like the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) and Croydon Health Services will be subject to those organisations' data protection policies.

Approved by: Ellen Schwartz, Consultant in Public Health on behalf of the Director of Public Health.

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None