

Health Protection update

H&W Board 31st July 2024

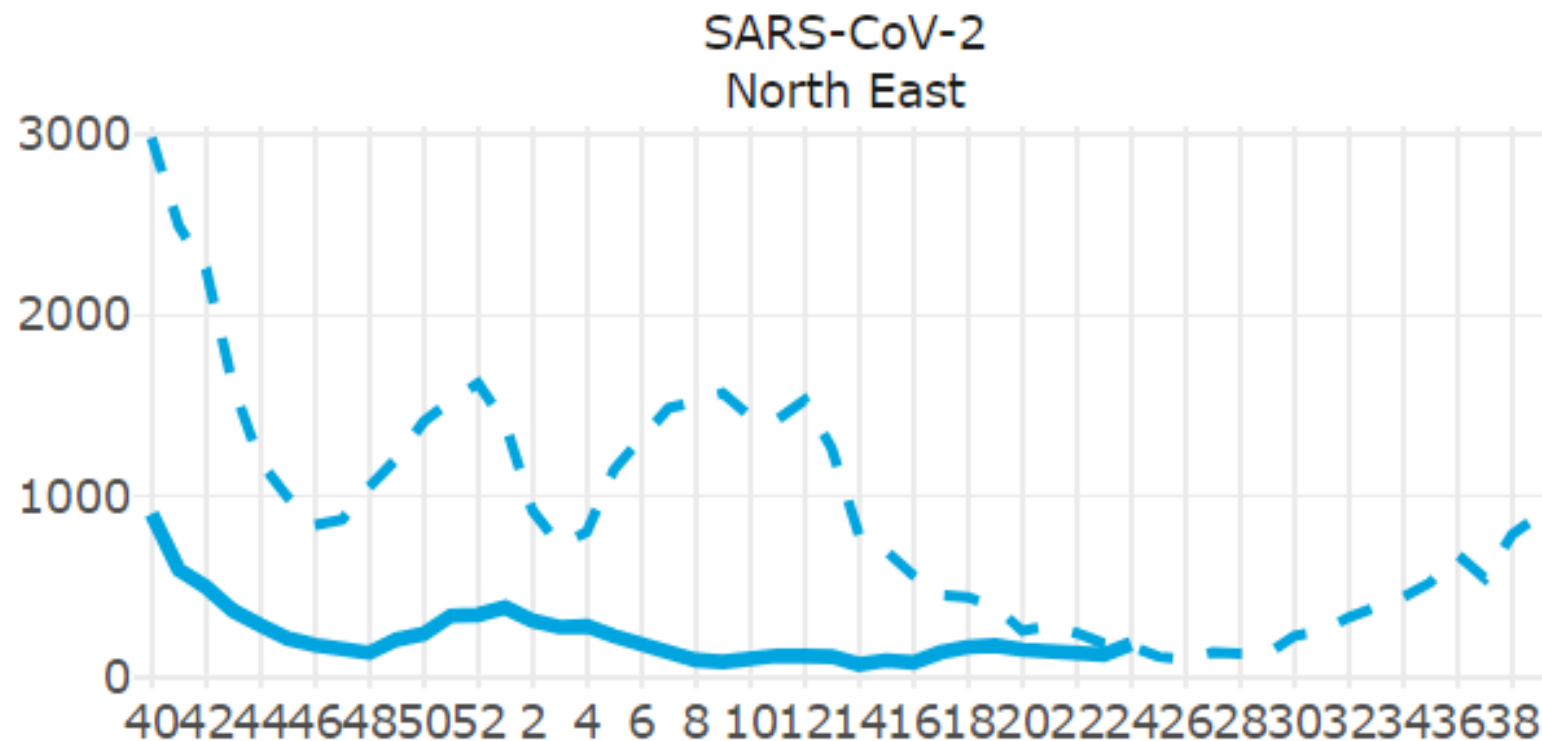
Sarah Bowman-Abouna

Health Protection Update

- COVID-19 and Flu
- RSV
- Vaccination
- Other communicable disease updates
- Outbreaks
- School aged immunisation projects
- Completed actions
- Next Steps

COVID-19 North East

Cases up to 16/6/24



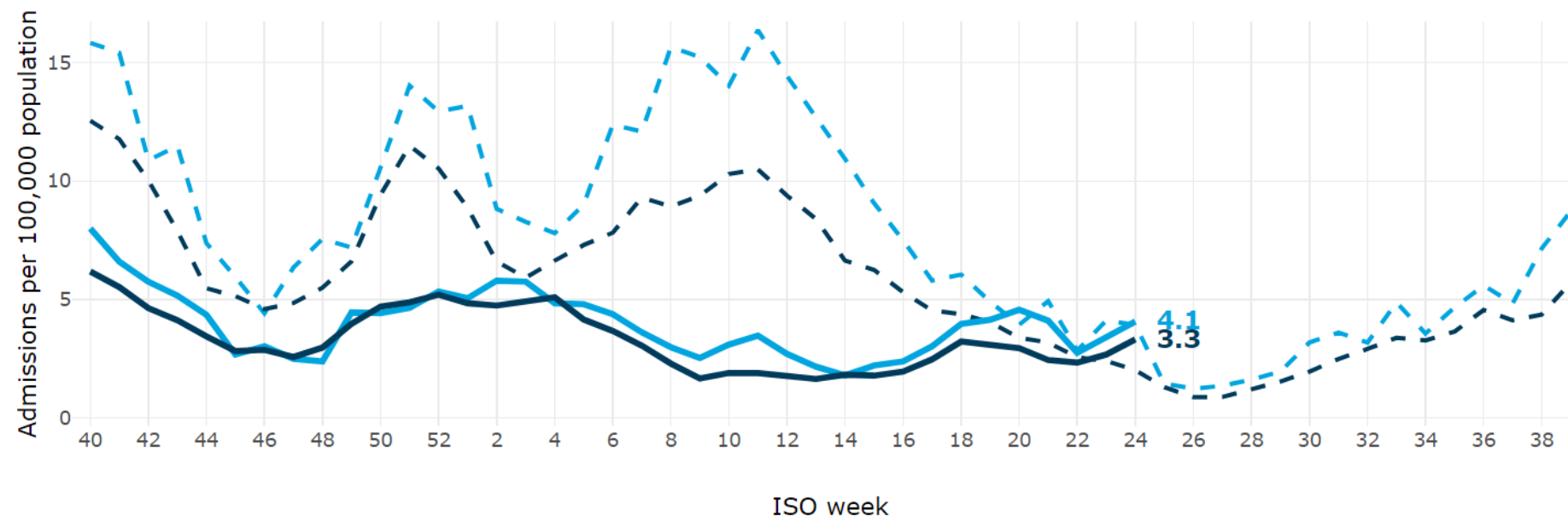
NE: increase in COVID-19 over past weeks. NE positivity has increased to 12.20% (from 9.60%) and is currently above national positivity (10.07%)

Dotted line: NE 22/23; solid line NE 23/24

COVID-19 Hospitalisations: North East

Up to 16/6/24

Figure 4. Hospital admissions with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 – SARI Watch (Mandatory Surveillance)



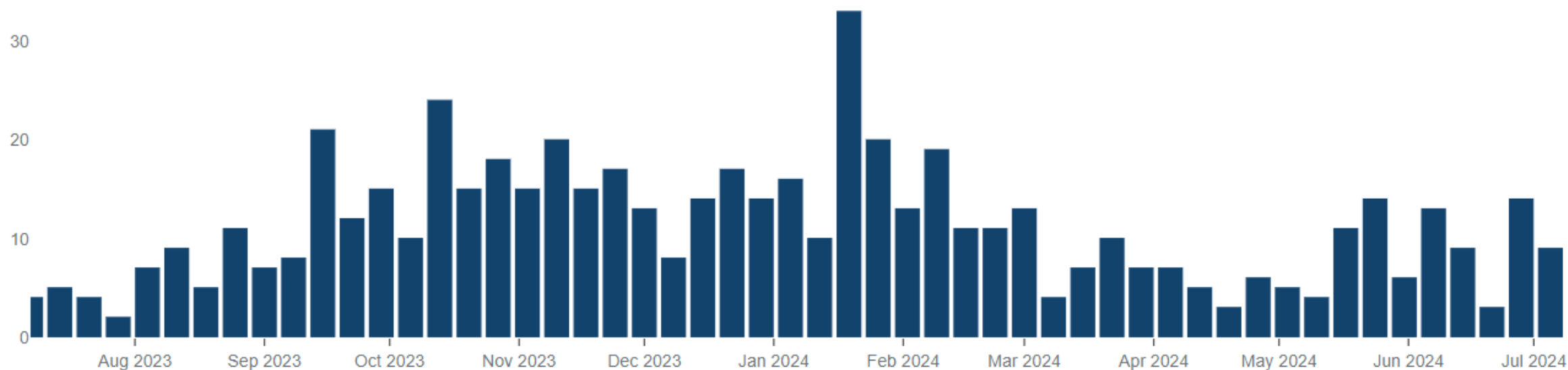
Hospital admissions are increasing to 4.07 per 100,000 (from 3.40 per 100,000 the previous week).

*Labels shown for most recent week's rate

— North East 2022-2023 — England 2022-2023 — North East 2023-2024 — England 2023-2024

COVID-19 Deaths in North East

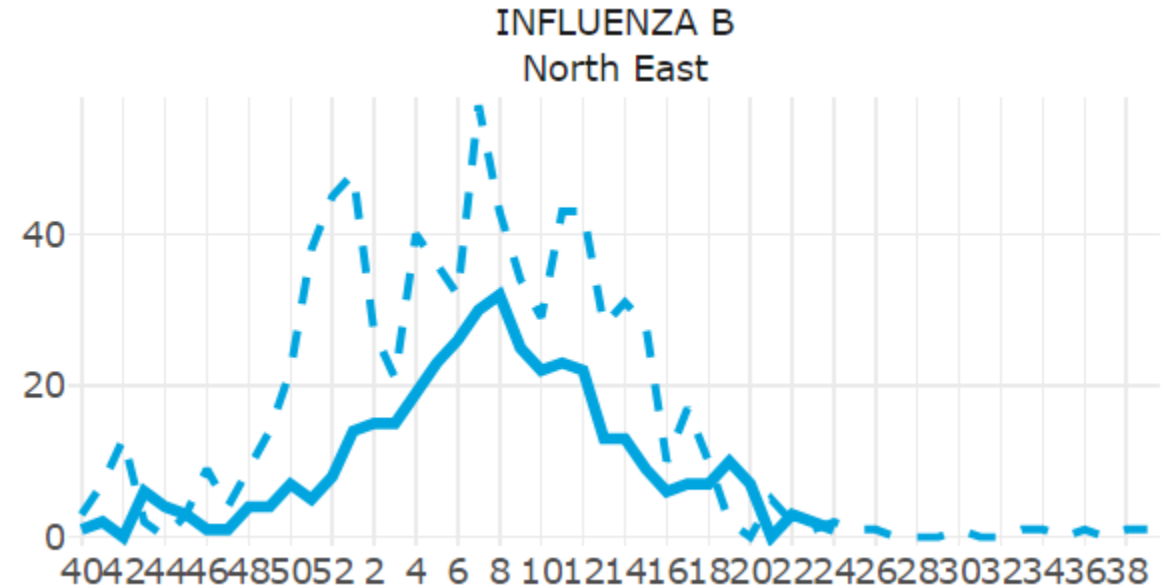
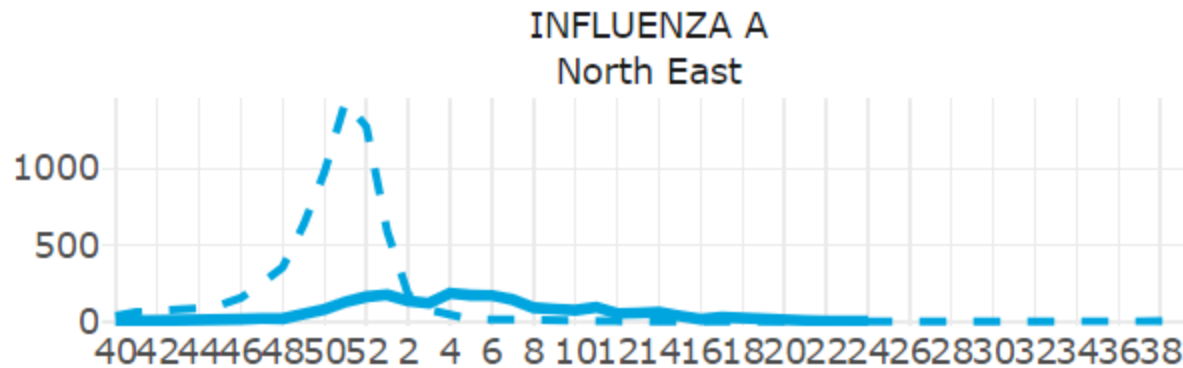
Up to 5/7/24



Flu North East

Up to 16/6/24

Decrease in Influenza A positivity in the North East to 0.51% (previous week, 0.59%) and Influenza B to 0.00% (0.40% previous week)

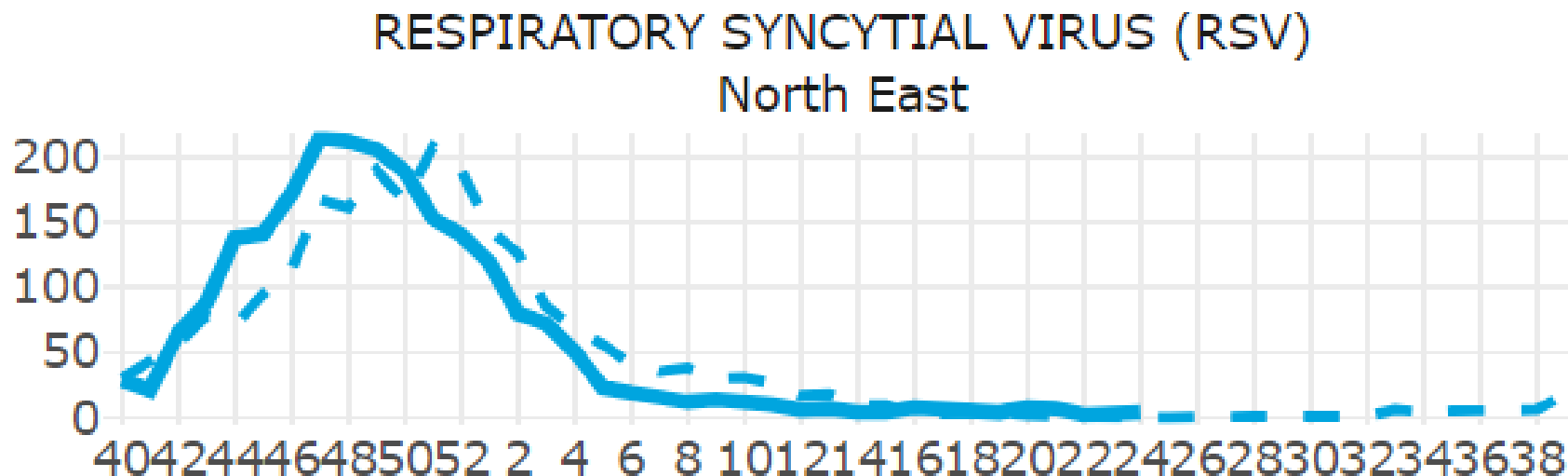


Dotted line: NE 22/23; solid line NE 23/24

Other Acute Respiratory Illness North East

Up to 16/6/24

RSV positivity in the North East has decreased to 0.17% (was 0.20% previous week)



Dotted line: NE 22/23; solid line NE 23/24

Measles

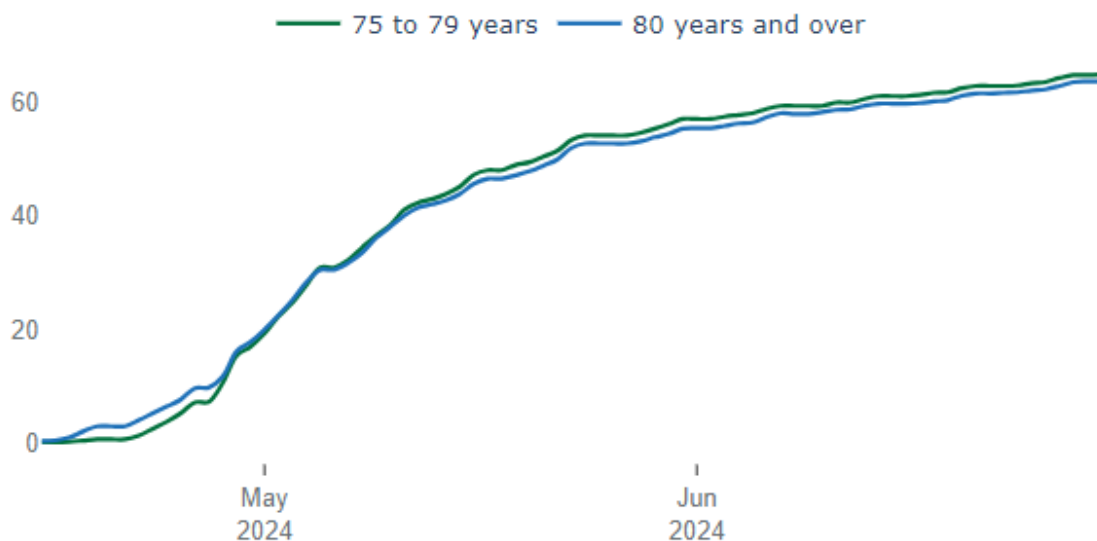
1 Jan 24 - 18 Jul 24

- Measles outbreaks have been observed nationally
- The rise in cases is due to lower MMR vaccine uptake
- Over 2,000 confirmed cases nationally
- Mostly affecting children
- There have been 78 confirmed cases of measles in the NE
- Most of these (55) were due to outbreaks in Middlesbrough
- Cases in the NE have slowed in recent weeks
- Stockton-on-Tees has high MMR vaccination rates (over 90%, however we are still below the 95% required for herd immunity)
- But cases in London continue to rise, currently at 830



COVID-19 Vaccination Stockton-on-Tees

Spring 2024



Date	Pop-up Location	COVID vaccines administered
29/4/24	Billingham Library	670
24/5/24	Thornaby Pavillion	67

The Spring COVID-19 booster saw 64.8% of 75-79 year olds and 63.6% of 80+ year olds get vaccinated in Stockton-on-Tees. (62.3% & 62.2% in England).

Other eligible groups included those living in care homes for the elderly and those with certain health conditions. Some of these may be reflected in this data.

Upcoming Vaccination Campaign

Winter 2024

The Winter vaccination campaign is to include COVID-19 and Flu vaccines.

Those eligible for Flu vaccine include:

- From 1st Sept: pregnant women, children aged 2-3, primary and secondary school children, and children between 6 months and 18 years in a clinical risk group
- From 3rd Oct: 65+, those aged 18+ in a clinical risk group, those in long stay residential care homes, carers, and frontline social care workers e.g. those in residential/nursing homes and hospices

Those eligible for COVID-19 vaccine are to be confirmed



New RSV Vaccine

- The RSV vaccine is to be introduced September 2024
- It will be offered to pregnant women who are at least 28 weeks (to protect their unborn baby) and people over 75 as these are those most at risk
- RSV results in around 33,500 hospitalisations per year in children aged under 5 years old, and 20 to 30 deaths per year in the UK with premature babies and those under 6 months most at risk
- RSV is estimated to account for 175,000 GP appointments in those aged 65 years and older in the UK per year and 4,000 deaths in those aged over 75 years in England and Wales in Winter
- This vaccine programme will run year round



Pertussis (whooping cough)

NHSE update

- Vaccination uptake has dropped (NE: 70-75% across 2017, to 58-61% up to Sept. 2023)
- Trusts committed to working with NHSE to enhance offer in maternity at different points
- NHSE have an agreed NENC pathway for vaccines in pregnancy
- Health visitors part of the pathway to promote & be “trusted voices” for all vaccines in pregnancy
- GPs still need to offer pertussis
- Work on pertussis closely linked to flu and RSV also in pregnancy. Change in language and focus “take up vaccines when offered” (not just single vaccines)
- NENC ICB social media vaccines in pregnancy campaign “trusted voices” – expected

Outbreaks

This month (June/July)

- D&V and COVID-19 affecting adult social care
- Public health continues to monitor and support as needed, working with UKHSA

Other communicable disease updates

- National STEC outbreak
 - almost 300 cases identified since April 2024
 - affecting some individuals in the NE, but proportionally
 - associated with pre-packaged sandwiches especially BLTs
 - food chain investigations ongoing to identify specific growers
- National listeria outbreak
 - also associated with pre-packaged sandwiches
 - resulted in deaths in hospitals in the South which received media attention
 - not believed to be affecting the NE

School aged immunisation projects

- ICB vaccine inequalities funding; commissioned behavioural insights work. Also used evidence
- Identified a lack of knowledge regarding school aged immunisations (HPV, MenACWY, and TdIPV) in young people and their families in Stockton-on-Tees
- Developed two interventions to address this:
- Currently working with an Easy Read provider to create Easy Read leaflets for each of these vaccines
- Piloting a vaccine champion coordinator to work into community organisations and schools - raise awareness and share accurate information regarding these vaccines



Completed actions

- Heat health alerting season now underway, ASC made aware at recent Provider Forum
- Measles/MMR comms shared widely especially in children and young people's settings and with Community Wellbeing Champions
- Measles/MMR awareness session carried out with migrant community in Stockton-on-Tees
- Measles/MMR information shared with traveller community
- Shared details of vaccine catch-up clinics with secondary schools
- Promoted maternal vaccination including whooping cough
- Completed all planned Covid vaccination pop-ups
- Supported settings experiencing outbreaks and with an queries/concerns
- Planning of the Winter Health Conference is underway

Next steps

- Update ASC at next Provider Forum in September
- Continue to update with comms messaging for communicable diseases to partners
- Ongoing links with UKHSA and wider partners on national issues e.g. increase in measles and roll out of MMR campaign
- Raise awareness of RSV and promote vaccination to those eligible
- Public health to maintain oversight of population surveillance / emergent issues and work with partners as these arise