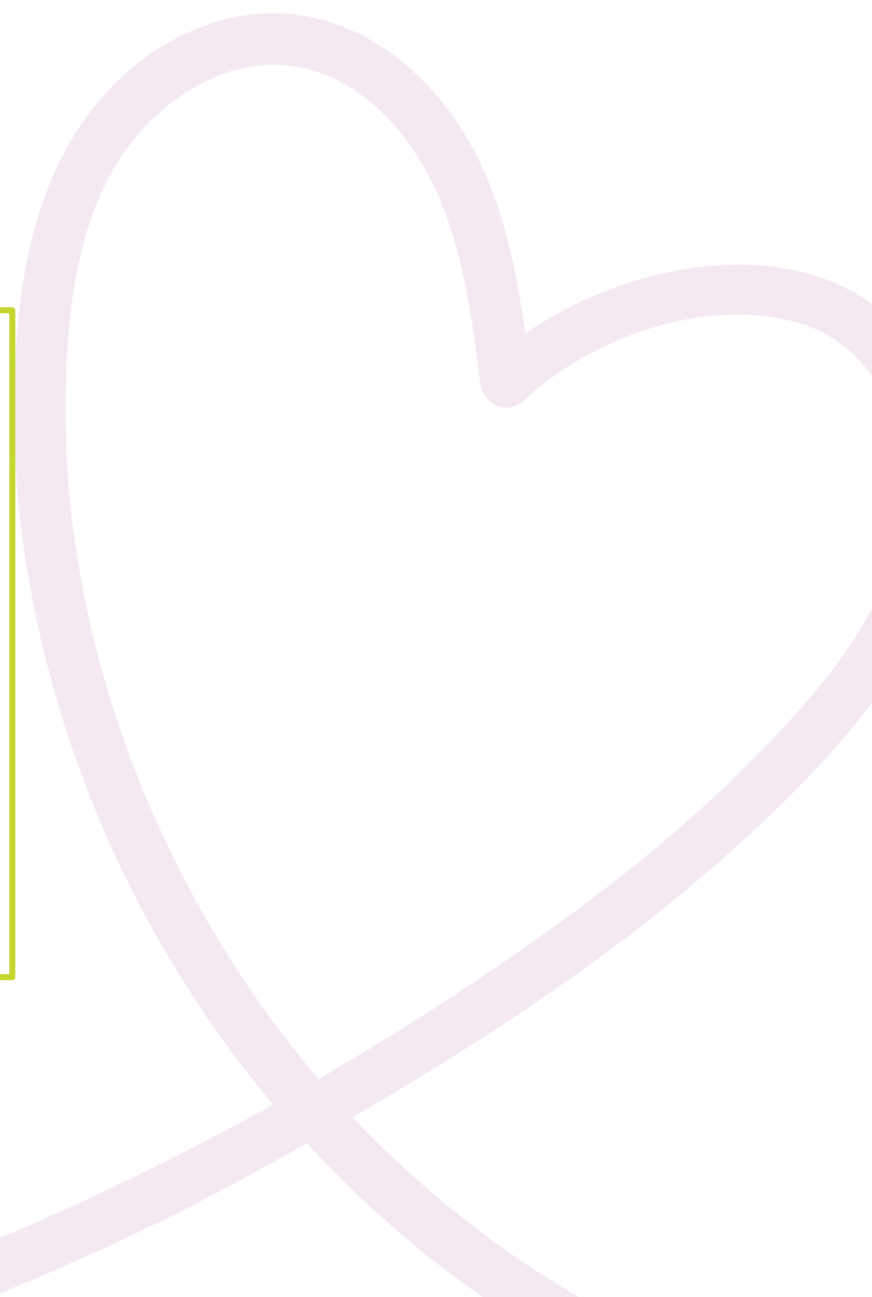


# Hampshire County Council Health Protection Annual Report April 2022 – March 2023



# Outline

- Introduction
- Health protection activities in 2022 – 2023
- Governance
- Future focus



# Introduction

- Second annual report describing the health protection activities of the Council's Public Health team
- Covers the period from April 2022 – March 2023
- Reports on activity in three areas:
  1. Living with COVID-19
  2. Responding to other emerging health protection issues
  3. Renewing focus on vaccination, helping shape the National Vaccination Strategy
- Above activities underpinned by a communications strategy to address inequalities with a specific focus on vaccinations

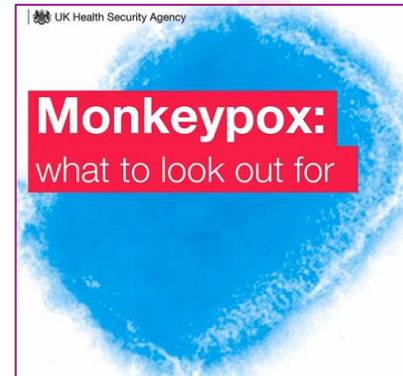
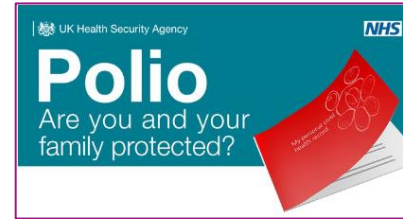
# Health protection activities in 2022 / 2023

## 1. Living with COVID-19 -

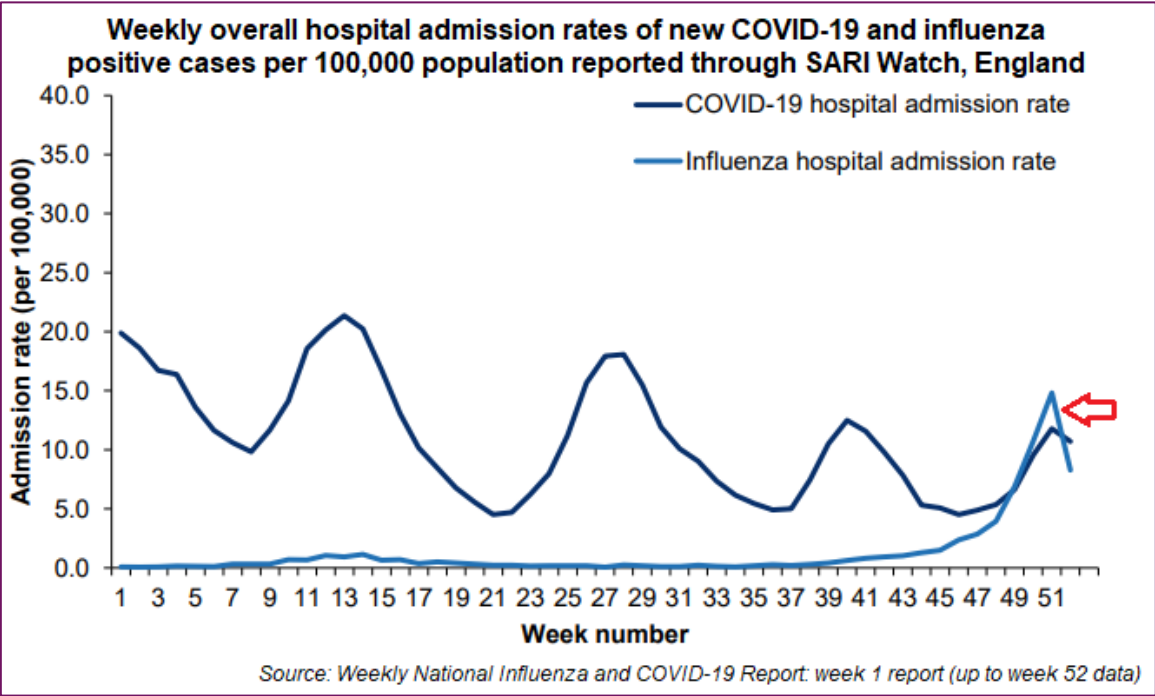
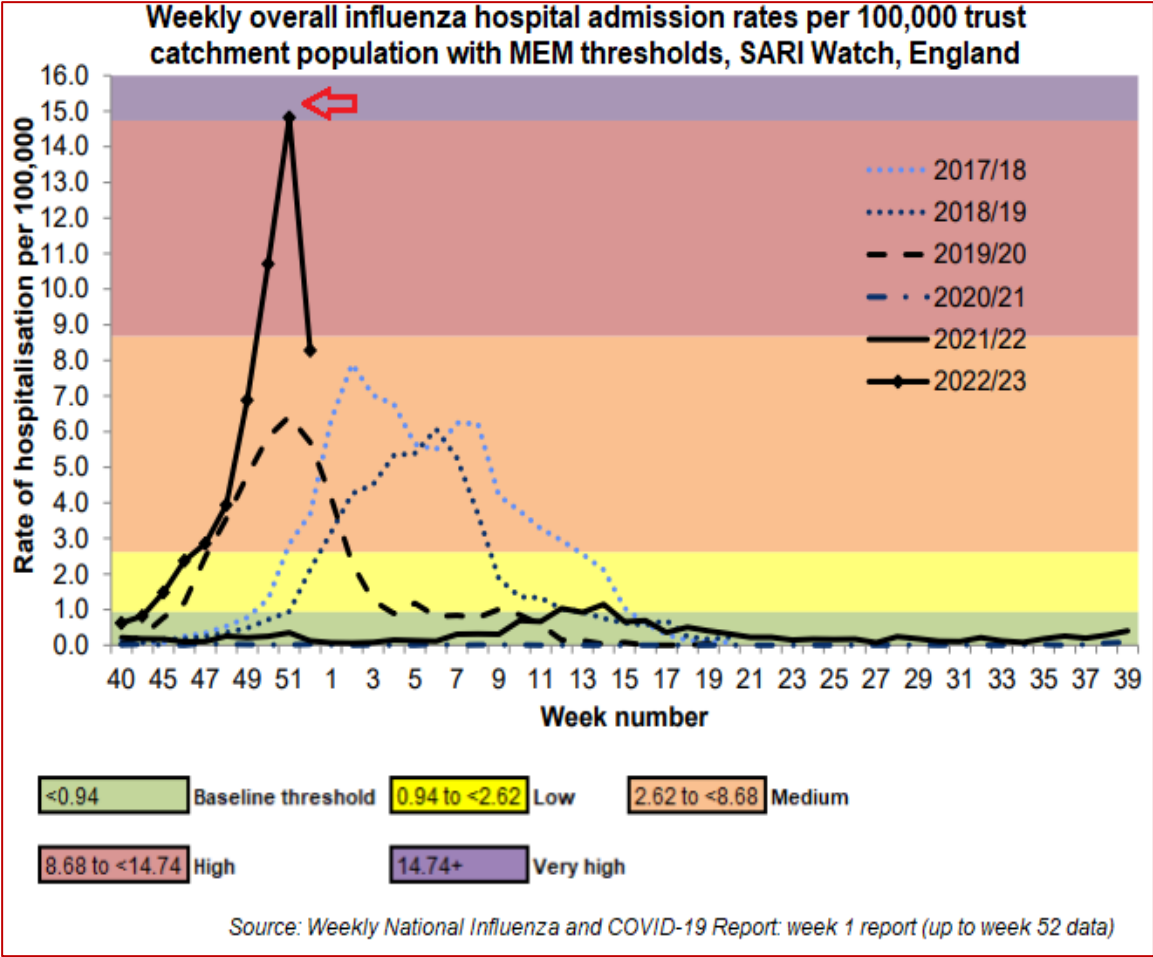
- Supported COVID-19 outbreak management working with UKHSA and ICB IPC teams
- Provided PH intelligence to support vaccination delivery plans to reach Hampshire's most vulnerable, at-risk populations
- Cascaded guidance for settings around testing and outbreak management, adapted during transition in testing policy
- Worked with the Council's Safety Advisory Group to provide guidance to event organisers for safe gathering
- Developed communication campaigns to maintain awareness of safe behaviours, informed by insights and engagement

## 2. Responding to other emerging health protection issues –

- Situational awareness of, and local response to **national health protection incidents**, e.g. detection of Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (VDPV2) in London sewage, rise in Measles, outbreak of listeria monocytogenes linked to Baronet semi-soft cheese, outbreak of salmonella linked to certain Kinder products, avian influenza.
- Monitored and supported response to **rebound in infections** - Group A Strep, norovirus, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) following the removal of COVID-19 mitigation measures, and C.difficile (possibly due to overuse and/or misuse of antibiotics).
- Coordinated effort with sexual health services on **mpox** response.
- Supported response to health protection **incidents involving the migrant population** - diphtheria, scabies, tuberculosis (TB).
- Public health messaging and system working around **TB and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**
  - Communications - AMR awareness week, Nov'22; World TB day, Mar'23
  - Input to HLOW TB Network and Regional TB Control Board meetings
  - Themed discussion at Health Protection Board (HPB) - health protection matters related to new entrants to the UK ,TB service delivery; Vaccinations in pregnancy and childhood; Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAs); AMR and health protection issues related to adverse weather



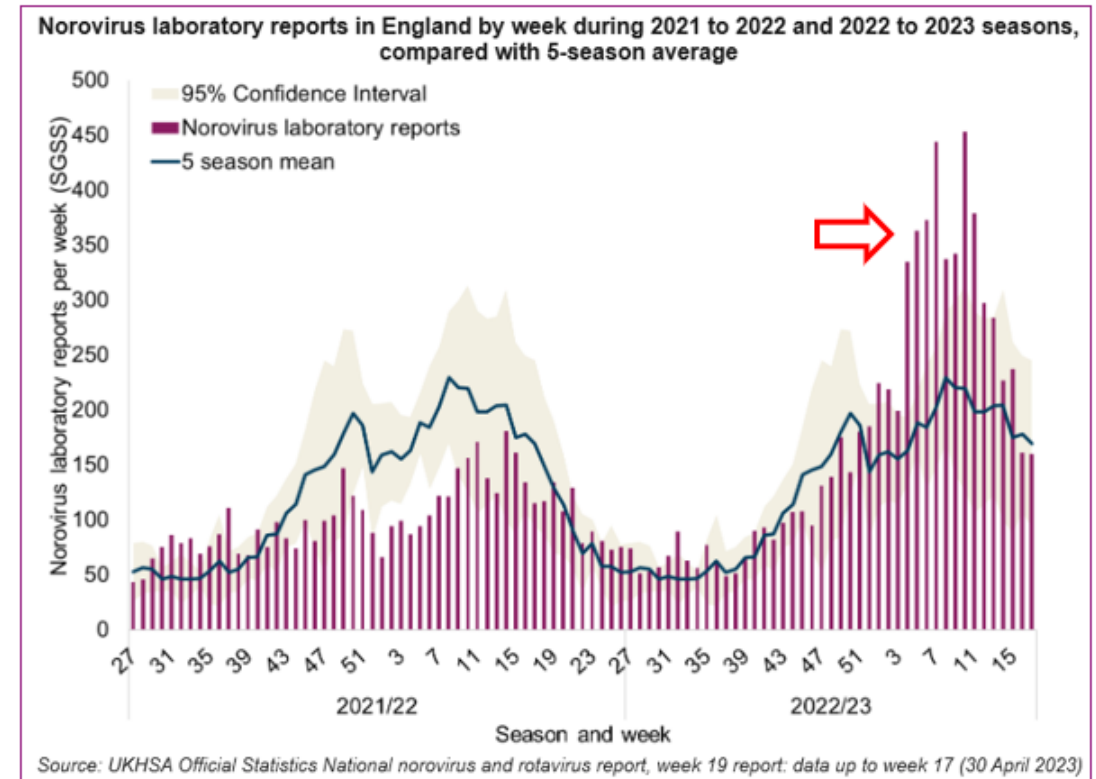
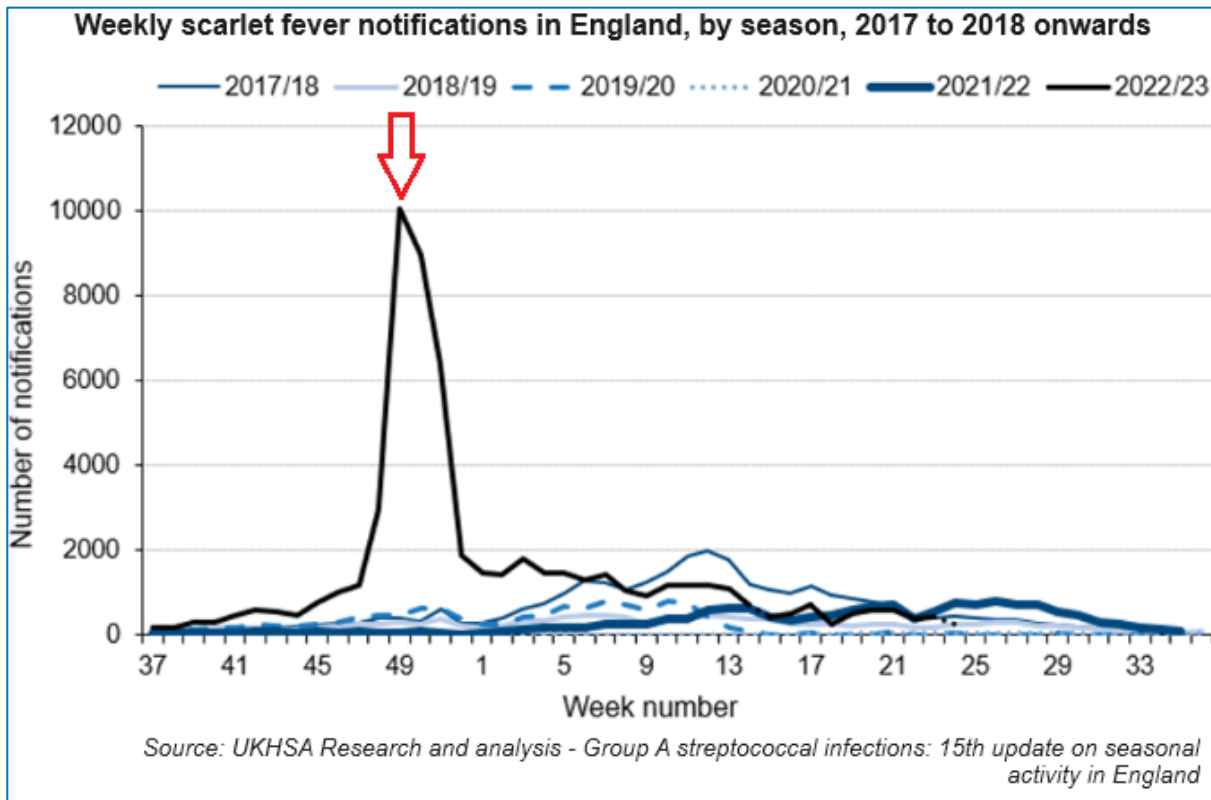
# Intensified influenza activity in winter 2022/23



Influenza hospitalisations exceeded COVID-19 admission rates last winter!

Note peak influenza hospitalisation activity, and in the ‘very high’ threshold. Activity surpassed previous five years!

# Surge in scarlet fever and norovirus activity in 2022/23



Higher than expected scarlet fever activity seen during the early part of summer 2022. But increased to exceptional levels during the early part of 2022/23 season (season being from mid-September in one year to the next, or from week 37 to week 36 in the following year)!

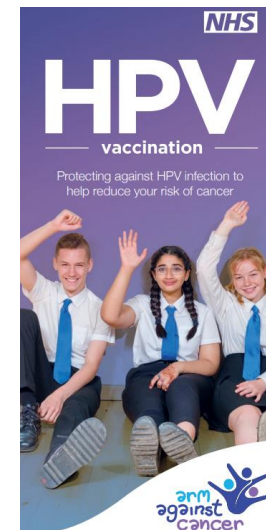
Surge in winter peak norovirus activity in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 reporting period!

### 3. Renewing focus on vaccination, helping shape the National Vaccination Strategy

- Supported COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccination roll out.
- Promoted adolescent vaccinations in response to a decrease in uptake following the impact of the pandemic (Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV), Teenage booster (Td/IPV) and Men ACWY, and MMR
- Strategic involvement in the development of a new NHS National Vaccination Strategy
- Sector led improvement work around childhood immunisations in preparation for the proposed delegation of vaccine-related functions from NHSE to ICBs in 2024/25



NHS Vaccinations Strategy Programme

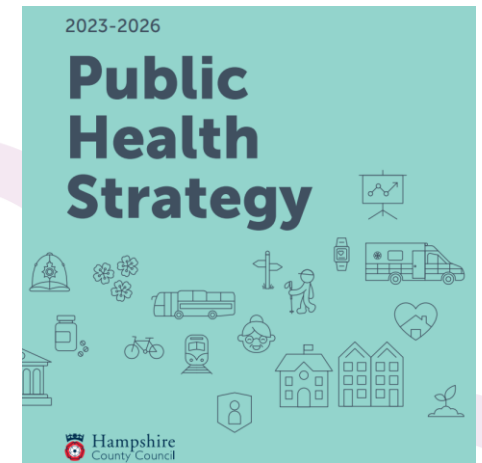




# Governance

- Internal governance:
  - Internal procedure documents updated with learning from the response to the pandemic and other local health protection incidents
    - Health Protection Standard Operating Procedure
    - Public Health team's overarching Incident Response Plan
    - Communication framework
- Wider governance of health protection matters:
  - Oversight of health protection issues and leadership assurance provided by the HPB, chaired by DPH – first meeting Sept 2022. Area of focus – communicable diseases
  - Board brings together Council departments and key partners to protect the local population
  - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Protection Boards merged in January 2023

# Future Focus – for HHWB agreement



- Continued strong focus on supporting the recovery from the pandemic. Building on actions to reduce the COVID-19 driven negative impact on health and health inequalities using the Control Outbreak Management Fund.
- Health protection activities aligned to ambitions set out in the new Hampshire County Council Public Health Strategy 2023 - 2026.
- Health protection priorities for 2023 -2024
  - Support the preparedness for, response, and recovery from health protection incidents
  - Contribute to the continued recovery of screening and vaccination programmes with a focus on reducing inequalities
  - Work with the NHS to support priorities and actions outlined in the national TB: action plan for England, 2021 to 2026, using local intelligence to inform how we should act.
  - Contribute to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) programmes and achievement of the 5-year UK AMR Action Plan objectives.

## Tackling antimicrobial resistance 2019–2024

The UK's five-year national action plan

Published 24 January 2019



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Policy paper

## Tuberculosis (TB): action plan for England, 2021 to 2026

Updated 15 March 2023