

Public Health Bulletin. 4th February 2020

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Please find below a list of news items from the past fortnight that may be of interest to those involved in public health. This Bulletin provides topical news and reports of relevance to public health teams, community health practitioners and anyone with an interest in health promotion. All content and links are provided for information only and we do not sponsor, endorse or otherwise approve of any mentioned website or the contents of the news items. Please refer to the terms and conditions of the relevant website should you wish to reproduce any of the information.

Details of alternative current awareness services which cover more academic/specialist sources of information can be found in the section *Other Bulletins*. Your local NHS library service can assist you in accessing other current awareness services/tailored alerts, locating peer reviewed journal articles and answer any other queries you may have regarding finding information.

The information about each news item only gives a brief overview so we recommend you view the original source by clicking on the title (or Ctrl+Click in the word document).

Please contact your local NHS library service if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, or if you know of anyone else who would like to join the mailing list. The Bulletins are also available on the Thames Valley Public Health Network at: <http://www.oxsph.org/bulletins.html> and the Wessex Public Health Network at: <http://www.wessexphnetwork.org.uk/resources/public-health-updates.aspx>

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Alcohol misuse

[The shelter giving wine to alcoholics](#)

04 Feb 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A Canadian scheme that tries to stabilise alcoholics by giving them measured amounts of wine is to be tested in Scotland.

[Local Alcohol Profiles for England: February 2020 data update](#)

04 Feb 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Update of Indicators in the Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) interactive tool.

[A quarter of UK adults cut down on drinking in January](#)

01 Feb 2020

Source: Drinkaware: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk>

More than a quarter of UK drinkers (27%) reduced, or completely stopped, drinking in January, reveals research out today from independent alcohol charity, Drinkaware.

[New evidence supports advice not to drink alcohol in pregnancy](#)

29 Jan 2020

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Drinking alcohol during pregnancy really does lead to poor brain function in babies, study confirms," reports the Mail Online...A new review of studies found some evidence to suggest that drinking alcohol in pregnancy may affect babies' thinking abilities in later life, and possibly cause lower birthweight.

[Raise alcohol duty to fund our NHS and save lives, say leading health experts](#)

Jan 2020

Source: Alcohol Health Alliance UK: <https://ahauk.org/>

A rise in alcohol duty in the upcoming Budget could help fund thousands of new jobs in health and public services, say top health experts.

See also **Prison health** section

Black and ethnic minority groups

['Sport for all' highlights ethnicity gap in sport](#)

27 Jan 2020

Source: Sport England: <https://www.sportengland.org>

The deep-rooted inequalities that mean people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are far less likely to be physically active have been laid bare in a new report.

Children and young people

[Councils share good practice for supporting children and young people's mental wellbeing](#)

03 Feb 2020

Source: Local Government Association: <https://www.local.gov.uk>

A new report published by the Local Government Association today sets out how councils and their partners can work most effectively together to support children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

[Improving mental health services for young people](#)

02 Feb 2020

Source: Scottish Government: <https://www.gov.scot>

Young people dealing with mental health issues are to be guaranteed access to high quality support wherever they live, Mental Health Minister Clare Haughey has announced.

[Update on gender identity development service for children and young people](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk>

In 2016 NHS England put in place a new service specification for gender identity development services for children and young people and committed to conducting a review of this specification and associated policies for 2020.

[Children's mental health report warns 'chasm' remains between what services are available and what children need](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: The Children's Commissioner:
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

This year's briefing shows that while the NHS has made tangible progress in the provision of mental health services for children, the current system is still far away from adequately meeting the needs of all of the estimated 12.8% of children in England with mental health problems – or the many more children who fall just below the threshold for clinical diagnosis.

[Sleep deprivation makes Scots teenage girls' anxiety worse](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Research has shown almost a third of young people experience problems nodding off which has a negative impact on both mental and physical health. But girls age 15 and over in particular are experiencing high levels of pressure in their lives which has contributed to anxiety and nervousness.

[The nursery putting fitness at the heart of learning](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Many experts think physical activity needs to start at a very young age, and one place taking up the mantle is Teddy Bears Nursery in Washford, West Somerset. Teacher Alison Welch leads a physical activity programme there, designed to boost children's physical skills and teach them that exercise can be fun.

Child mental health unit failings criticised by parents

29 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The parents of a girl who killed herself at a mental health inpatient unit say failings have left them "devastated".

9 million children could die in a decade unless world acts on pneumonia, leading agencies warn

29 Jan 2020

Source: Unicef UK: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/>

Boosting efforts to fight pneumonia could avert nearly 9 million child deaths from pneumonia and other major diseases, a new analysis has found ahead of the first ever global forum on childhood pneumonia in Barcelona (January 29-31).

Schools encouraged to open up sports facilities all year round

26 Jan 2020

Source: Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Thousands of children will benefit from more sports activities after school and in the school holidays through a £1.6 million funding boost to help schools make better use of their facilities.

One in four children 'has too little sleep'

23 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

One in four 11 to 15-year-olds in England have too little sleep, a World Health Organization study suggests.

New study confirms success of MenB vaccine in the UK

23 Jan 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

MenB vaccination programme has reduced cases of meningitis and septicaemia in young children by almost two-thirds.

Chronic conditions

Peanut allergy drug approved by the US FDA

01 Feb 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The US has approved its first treatment for peanut allergies in children.

Huntington's disease: I'm taking a test that will reveal my future

01 Feb 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Huntington's disease is caused by a faulty gene that causes parts of the brain to become damaged over time. Because her mum has the disease, Danielle and her sister, Sophie, each have a 50% chance of developing the condition.

Diabulimia: 'Diabetes and eating disorder almost killed me'

31 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The term for the disorder combines diabetes with the eating disorder bulimia. It is only experienced by individuals such as Gwen, who must inject insulin to survive. It has been described as an "invisible condition" by experts at the charity Diabetes UK - invisible and potentially deadly.

Diabetes patients hit by glucose monitor shortage

29 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The company behind a blood sugar monitor that has changed the lives of thousands of diabetics has been forced to apologise after supplies ran short.

GLP-1 drug for diabetes gives modest cardiovascular benefits compared with placebo

29 Jan 2020

Source: National Institute for Health Research: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Taking a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1) agonist drug lowers the likelihood of having a stroke, heart attack or dying due to cardiovascular causes by 12%. The drugs give a similar 12% reduction in overall mortality. They do not increase the risk of heart failure, very low blood sugar levels or pancreatic disease.

IBS trial to test amitriptyline as potential common treatment

28 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A medical trial is being held to see if a drug developed as an anti-depressant could become a common treatment for Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

Intensive routine follow-up after bowel cancer treatment may not be necessary

29 Jan 2020

Source: National Institute for Health Research: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

More intensive follow-up strategies for patients who have surgery to cure bowel cancer do not result in an overall survival benefit when compared with less intensive follow-up.

Communicable diseases

Gastrointestinal infections: guidance for public health management

31 Jan 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Guidance to help professionals in public health and environmental health departments to minimise the risk of transmission of gastrointestinal infections.

Can wearing masks stop the spread of viruses?

23 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

One of the abiding images of any virus outbreak is people in surgical masks. Using them to prevent infection is popular in many countries around the world...virologists are sceptical about their effectiveness against airborne viruses. But there is some evidence to suggest the masks can help prevent hand-to-mouth transmissions.

Wuhan novel coronavirus:

Coronavirus: latest information and advice

04 Feb 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Information for the public on the outbreak of coronavirus in China, including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms.

PHE reaches crucial step in fully sequencing novel coronavirus

04 Feb 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Scientists at Public Health England (PHE) have fully sequenced the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) viral genome.

Coronavirus public information campaign launched across the UK

03 Feb 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

A UK-wide public information campaign has been launched to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services.

Coronavirus will be here for some months, says health secretary

03 Feb 2020 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The new coronavirus "will be with us for at least some months to come", Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said. He told the House of Commons that the number of new cases worldwide was "doubling every five days" and dealing with it was "a marathon, not a sprint".

Coronavirus: How worried should we be?

03 Feb 2020 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A new virus arriving on the scene, leaving patients with pneumonia, is always a worry and health officials around the World Health Organization has declared a global emergency. Can this outbreak be contained or is this something far more dangerous?

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV): guidance to assist professionals in advising the general public

03 Feb 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

This guidance will assist professionals in providing advice to the public on how to prevent spread of 2019-nCoV infection, what symptoms to look for, and what to do if they become unwell in a variety of settings.

Nowcasting and forecasting the potential domestic and international spread of the 2019-nCoV outbreak originating in Wuhan, China: a modelling study

31 Jan 2020 *Source:* The Lancet: <https://www.thelancet.com>

Here, we provide an estimate of the size of the epidemic in Wuhan on the basis of the number of cases exported from Wuhan to cities outside mainland China and forecast the extent of the domestic and global public health risks of epidemics, accounting for social and non-pharmaceutical prevention interventions.

[Coronavirus declared global health emergency by WHO](#)

31 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The new coronavirus has been declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

[Coronavirus: Why are we catching more diseases from animals?](#)

31 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The new virus - thought to have stemmed from wildlife - highlights our risk from animal-borne disease. This is likely to be more of a problem in future as climate change and globalisation alter the way animals and humans interact.

[Coronavirus: What it does to the body](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Fighting the new coronavirus has been a battle against the unknown for doctors. How does it attack the body? What are the full range of symptoms? Who is more likely to be seriously ill or die? How do you treat it? Now, an account by medics on the front line of this epidemic, at the Jinyintan Hospital, in Wuhan, is starting to provide answers. A detailed analysis of the first 99 patients treated there has been published in the Lancet medical journal.

[China coronavirus: The lessons learned from the Sars outbreak](#)

24 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Sars spread to 26 countries and China was criticised by the UN's global health body for concealing the scale of the outbreak. Now, 17 years later, the spread of a new deadly coronavirus is reviving memories of Sars and putting global scrutiny back on to the Chinese government.

See also **Children & young people** section

Diet & nutrition

[Study claims a common food compound could lower dementia risk](#)

03 Feb 2020

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Drinking tea and red wine with plenty of kale could slash the risk of Alzheimer's disease," reports the Mail Online. If you think this claim sounds familiar, that's because it is. For decades, scientists have been investigating the possible effects of chemicals called flavonols, which are found in tea, red wine, fruit and green vegetables.

[How can we realise the full potential of health systems for nutrition?](#)

27 Jan 2020

Source: BMJ: <https://www.bmj.com>

Poor nutrition contributes substantially to global disease, diminishing the wellbeing of women and children in low and middle income countries, and better nutrition must be part of the universal health coverage agenda.

[Beyond Veganuary: Is going plant-based a smart way to lose weight?](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

People do Veganuary for a wide range of ethical and health reasons. For some it's weight loss - especially if they're inspired by celebrities like Beyonce, whose pre-Coachella diet was described by nutritionists as potentially dangerous. But is it a viable or healthy way to shed pounds in January, or in the long-run?

Disability

[Autism: POSTnote](#)

23 Jan 2020

Source: UK Parliament: <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/>

Autism affects the way that someone engages with and experiences the world around them. This note provides an overview of policy issues that are relevant to autistic people and their families.

[Computerised speech and language therapy can help people with aphasia find words following a stroke](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: National Institute for Health Research: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

People with aphasia caused by a stroke show improvements in retrieving words when they use self-managed computerised speech and language therapy in addition to usual care from a speech and language therapist.

Drug Misuse

See **Prison health** section

Emergency planning

[Prepare for flooding to reduce impacts on mental health](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: Environment Agency: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Environment Agency launches campaign to highlight the impact flood damage has on mental health, advising people on the importance of signing up to flood alerts.

Environmental health

[NHS staff urged to help service tackle climate change](#)

25 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

NHS staff are being encouraged to drive to work less and bring in reusable cups and bottles to help the health service tackle climate change.

[Greener NHS campaign to tackle climate 'health emergency'](#)

25 Jan 2020

Source: NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk>

NHS Chief Sir Simon Stevens has today announced the NHS and its staff will step up action to tackle the climate "health emergency" this year, helping prevent illness, reducing pressure on A&Es, and saving tens of thousands of lives.

[Poor air quality 'top concern' for councils, but most feel ill-equipped to tackle it](#)

22 Jan 2020 Source: New Local Government Network: <http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/>

In the survey of 140 council chief executives, mayors and leaders, only 18% said they had enough power and resources to tackle harmful air pollution.

Health promotion

[Digital and mobile interventions could support regular health services in helping people stop smoking and reduce their risk of obesity, says NICE](#)

24 Jan 2020 Source: NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk>

Health professionals can consider digital and mobile interventions as a supplement to regular services to support behaviour change in people at risk of developing chronic conditions.

Health protection

[Uptake of shingles vaccination is more likely if proactively offered in primary care](#)

29 Jan 2020 Source: National Institute for Health Research: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

The shingles vaccination programme is intended for people aged between 70 and 80 years, but uptake in this group has been low. This survey found that people were more likely to have had the vaccine if it was proactively offered by a GP or nurse.

[LGA: Vaccination strategy urgently needed to help boost immunity](#)

23 Jan 2020 Source: Local Government Association: <https://www.local.gov.uk>

The Government should publish its long-awaited vaccination strategy as soon as possible to help reverse a dramatic decline in take-up and protect young and vulnerable people from deadly infections, the Local Government Association says today.

See also **Children & young people** section

See also **Women's health** section

Health services administration

[Wales tax rises considered to pay for growing care costs](#)

04 Feb 2020 Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Tax rises to cover the cost of caring for elderly and disabled people are being considered by the Welsh Government.

[New Treatment Fund cuts average access time for new medicines from 90 to 13 days](#)

01 Feb 2020 Source: Welsh Government: <https://gov.wales/>

As it hits its three-year milestone, Welsh Government's £80 million New Treatment Fund has cut the average time it takes for newly-recommended medicines to become available to patients by 85%, from 90 to 13 days.

Artificial intelligence-created medicine to be used on humans for first time

30 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A drug molecule "invented" by artificial intelligence (AI) will be used in human trials in a world first for machine learning in medicine.

NICE publishes updated principles

30 Jan 2020

Source: NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk>

The NICE principles document is designed to help anyone interested in NICE better understand what we take into account when developing our guidance. It replaces the NICE Social Value Judgements (SVJ) document first published in 2005.

What people want from the next ten years of the NHS

29 Jan 2020

Source: Healthwatch: <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/>

When the NHS Long Term Plan was published in January 2019 we were asked by NHS England to engage people across the country about how people wanted the priorities to be implemented locally. Here's what over 40,000 people told us.

'Care navigation' is being widely adopted in primary care, but in varying ways

29 Jan 2020

Source: National Institute for Health Research: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in England are implementing care navigation in primary care to help people with non-medical issues to access alternative services. This 'social prescribing', facilitated by nominated care navigators, also aims to reduce the pressure on general practice, and forms part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Whorlton Hall abuse: Care watchdog wrong not to publish critical 2015 report

22 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The care watchdog was wrong not to publish an inspection report raising concerns about Whorlton Hall, four years before a Panorama investigation suggested alleged abuse, a review says.

HIV & AIDS

HIV vaccine hopes dashed by trial results

03 Feb 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

The National Institutes of Health has stopped its HVTN 702 trial, of more than 5,000 people in South Africa, as it found the jab did not prevent HIV.

Men's health

[Prostate overtakes breast as 'most common cancer'](#)

27 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Prostate cancer is now the most commonly diagnosed cancer in England, overtaking breast cancer for the first time, latest figures show. In 2018 there were nearly 50,000 registered cases - around 8,000 more than in 2017. Public Health England says it is because more men are getting tested.

['Postnatal depression doesn't only affect mums'](#)

26 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A university lecturer who suffered severe postnatal depression is calling for all new dads to be screened for history of mental illnesses.

Mental health

['Anorexia and exercise addiction caused my broken foot'](#)

30 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

This week, a study which was done by the Anglia Ruskin University said that people with an eating disorder are almost four times more likely to suffer from an addiction to exercise than those without.

[Gay body shaming pressure 'led to severe heart failure'](#)

29 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Some gay men in the UK are going to extreme lengths to get big muscles and a six pack to "fit in" to the gay community. The LGBT foundation says gay and bisexual men are "much more likely to have body image issues" than straight men.

[Anti-depressant spray not recommended on NHS](#)

28 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A fast acting ketamine-like anti-depressant spray that can lift mood within hours has been rejected by the NHS healthcare watchdog. The National Institute for Health and Care and Excellence (NICE) says there are too many uncertainties about the correlation between the price and clinical benefits of esketamine.

[Can anyone call themselves a therapist or a counsellor?](#)

28 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A BBC investigation has uncovered there are no laws against anyone operating as a therapist, psychotherapist or a counsellor in the UK. Cheap online courses allow you to cheat to complete them, meaning qualifications are often meaningless.

[Devoted football fans experience 'dangerous' levels of stress](#)

24 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Devoted football fans experience such intense levels of physical stress while watching their team they could be putting themselves at risk of a heart attack, research suggests.

[Problem gambling: Why do some people become addicted?](#)

23 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Problem gambling is estimated to affect as many as 1% of the population. Recent attempts to tackle the issue include plans to ban internet betting with credit cards and making treatment more widely available.

[Burnout: 'Sick and tired of feeling sick and tired'](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

In 2017, Amber Coster was a glamorous highflyer in a senior role at a successful tech start-up, in her late 20s and travelling the world. "On paper, my life looked incredible," she says. But she was ignoring some significant signs that all was not well.

[Mental health: How to spot if you are suffering 'burnout'](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Stress expert Nerina Ramlakhan explains the four signs of burnout that people can exhibit, due to stress at work - and, importantly, how to improve things if you are suffering.

See also **Children and young people** section

See also **Diet and nutrition** section

See also **Emergency planning** section

See also **Men's health** section

Older people

[Older adults: cost-effective commissioning](#)

28 Jan 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Return on investment resources to help local commissioners in designing and implementing services to support older people's healthy ageing.

[NHS pledges elderly rapid response community teams](#)

23 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Rapid response teams of nurses, physios and care staff are to be on hand within two hours to help sick older people at home in England under new plans.

[Dementia patients being 'dumped in hospital'](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Dementia patients are being dumped in hospitals in England because of a lack of community care, a charity says. The Alzheimer's Society called for action, highlighting

data showing one in 10 dementia patients spends over a month in hospital after being admitted.

See also **Physical activity** section

Physical activity

[The patients inspired to take up parkrun by their GPs](#)

01 Feb 2020 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

In the past 18 months, some 1,500 GP surgeries have signed up to encourage patients to take part in their local parkrun. Those who never thought they could run 5km (3 miles) and now consider the event a lifeline describe how the experience has improved their health and outlook.

[Ramblers Walking for Health](#)

30 Jan 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Walking for Health targets older adults and those with long-term health conditions to improve and maintain their health and wellbeing.

[Health matters: physical activity](#)

23 Jan 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

A professional resource for local authorities and healthcare professionals on physical activity for the prevention and management of long-term conditions.

See also **Black and ethnic minority groups** section

See also **Children and young people** section

See also **Mental health** section

Prison health

[Substance misuse treatment in secure settings: 2018 to 2019](#)

30 Jan 2020 *Source:* Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Statistics for alcohol and drug misuse treatment in prisons and other secure settings from PHE's national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS).

Safety

[Government relaunches Fire Kills campaign](#)

03 Feb 2020 *Source:* Home Office: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Adverts launched from today will highlight everyday fire hazards and urge the public to install smoke alarms on every floor.

People advised to keep using sunscreen, even though it may be absorbed through skin

22 Jan 2020

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Sunscreens leach up to 360 times more toxic chemicals into the blood than the FDA allows, raising risks for liver and kidney failure," reports the Mail Online. Researchers from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tested the absorption of 6 ingredients used in 4 different types of chemical-based sunscreen, into the bloodstream of 48 volunteers.

Smoking

New lung cells may replace tobacco-damaged cells after people stop smoking

30 Jan 2020

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Lungs 'magically' heal damage from smoking," reports BBC News. This encouraging headline is prompted by a new UK-based study.

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April 2019 to September 2019

30 Jan 2020

Source: NHS Digital: <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

This quarterly report presents results from the monitoring of the NHS Stop Smoking Services in England during the period April 2019 to September 2019.

Two UK deaths 'may be linked to vaping lung injury'

29 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

There have been two potential cases of e-cigarette or vaping-related lung injury in the UK in the past year in which both patients died. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is currently investigating the deaths.

Social & economic issues

Health inequalities statistics released

28 Jan 2020

Source: Scottish Government: <https://www.gov.scot>

Scotland's Chief Statistician today announced the publication of the latest [Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities report](#).

The King's Fund launches new strategy alongside major £3 million grant-funding programme

24 Jan 2020

Source: King's Fund: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk>

The King's Fund has published a [new strategy for the next five years](#). The strategy focuses on three strategic priorities: building healthier places and communities; tackling the worst health outcomes; and supporting people and leaders working in health and care.

Poorest get worse quality of NHS care in England, new research finds

23 Jan 2020

Source: Nuffield Trust: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/>

New QualityWatch analysis finds people living in the most deprived areas of England experience a worse quality of NHS care and poorer health outcomes than people living in the least deprived areas.

Statistics

Public health outcomes framework: February 2020 data update

04 Feb 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) examines indicators that help health and care professionals and the public to understand trends in public health.

Cancer registration statistics: England 2018

27 Jan 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Counts of diagnoses and age-standardised incidence rates for all types of registerable tumours by age and sex.

See also **Alcohol misuse** section

See also **Prison health** section

See also **Smoking** section

See also **Social & economic issues** section

Women's health

Surrogacy: Social media advertising plans prompt regulator warning

29 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Social media adverts urging young women to become surrogate mothers could be allowed under Law Commission proposals. But the government's fertility regulator has warned that the plans could lead to "significant cultural change" and "perhaps criticism".

Concerns over new 'menopause delay' procedure

28 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Experts have raised concern over a new medical procedure that claims to allow women to delay the onset of the menopause by over a decade. Its long-term safety and success remains untested - but some women have already paid at least £6,000 for the procedure.

Many women have a positive experience of maternity services, but for some care continues to fall short

28 Jan 2020

Source: Care Quality Commission: <https://www.cqc.org.uk>

The majority of women who gave birth in February last year had confidence and trust in staff, felt they were 'always' listened to by midwives and received appropriate advice at the start of labour, according to a national survey by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). However, the results also reveal that continuity of carer, access to midwives

after giving birth and perinatal mental health are areas where improvements are needed to ensure that maternity services provide a consistently high-quality experience for all.

[Woman died after being told smear test was 'normal'](#)

27 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A nurse died from cervical cancer after being wrongly informed a smear test and biopsy were normal, an inquest heard.

[Calls for 'virginity repair' surgery to be banned](#)

27 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Many Muslim women risk being outcast, or in extreme cases killed, if their spouses or families discover they have had sex before marriage. And some are opting for a medical procedure in which doctors restore a layer of membrane at the entrance to the vagina. But there are concerns a ban would increase the dangers to Muslim women by driving the procedure underground.

[Could a new blood test predict when menopause will start?](#)

23 Jan 2020

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"New blood test can predict when women will hit the menopause two years in advance, scientists claim," reports The Sun. Researchers in the US tested the ability of a blood test for anti-mullerian hormone (AMH) to predict when a woman would have her final period.

[Smear test fear 'cost my sister her life'](#)

23 Jan 2020

Source: BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Shyness around a routine medical examination cost Maria Hughes her life, her sister believes.

[HPV vaccine drives cancer causing infections down to very low levels](#)

22 Jan 2020

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

The latest PHE data confirms that HPV16 and 18 infections are now at a very low level in young sexually active women with high vaccination coverage.

See also **Alcohol misuse** section

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