

Weekly Evidence Surveillance 14/03/2025

Source	Item	Pub Date	Summary Details
ECDC	ECDC assessment of public health workforce capacity in prevention and control of infectious diseases in the EU/EEA	13/03/2025	Report on the findings of a survey on public health workforce capacity in the field of prevention and control of infectious diseases in the EU/EEA.
ECDC	Protocol for COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness multi-country study (VEBIS) using health data registries - Version 3.0	11/03/2025	This protocol presents an updated common methodology for estimating COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE) using established health data registries in participating European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) Member States. This work is performed within the Vaccine Effectiveness, Burden and Impact Studies (VEBIS) project. The first objective of the study is to prospectively monitor COVID-19 VE via pooled estimates produced monthly as part of a multi-country network. The present master protocol (version 3.0) intends to update the methods previously used to monitor COVID-19 VE, adapting them to the context of autumn 2024 vaccine campaigns in the EU/EEA.
WHO	Pandemic influenza severity assessment (PISA): a WHO guide to assess the severity of influenza in seasonal epidemics and pandemics, second edition	13/03/2025	The updated WHO pandemic influenza severity assessment (PISA) framework set out in this document provides a systematic approach for interpreting data collected through existing surveillance systems and improving their usefulness for risk communication and decision-making. The approach enables the severity of current influenza and syndromic respiratory illness activity to be assessed relative to previous years by using historical data to set thresholds that then allow for the qualitative categorization of such activity. PISA is designed to be implemented continuously based on stable/ routine reporting systems, enabling activity during epidemic and pandemic periods to be compared. Information to assess severity especially early and throughout the course of a pandemic will also be provided through investigations, studies and modelling.
WHO	Strengthening the delivery of HIV testing services and linkage to care	12/03/2025	The elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV using a combination of interventions to support women and their children is a

	during pregnancy and postpartum for elimination of mother-to-child transmission		global health priority and a cornerstone of global efforts to achieve the triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. This brief provides a practical resource to countries working to adopt and scale-up WHO HIV testing guidance for pregnant and postpartum women. Country implementation examples, evidenced-based recommendations and policy guidance are provided throughout.
WHO	Integration of HIV and syphilis testing services as part of mpox response: standard operating procedures	11/03/2025	As mpox mortality has been associated to HIV infection, and its mode of transmission is direct contact, including sexual contact, it is important to integrate mpox to sexually transmitted infections services. This is a template of standard operating procedures for the integration of HIV and syphilis testing services as part of mpox response, that countries can adapt to their context.
CDC	H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation	12/03/2025	Current Situation
UKHSA	Ebola and Marburg: returning workers scheme (RWS)	14/03/2025	14/03/2025 update:Removed the inclusion of Marburg virus disease in Kagera region, Tanzania from the list of outbreaks for which the RWS is currently active.
UKHSA	AI could help detect and investigate foodborne illness outbreaks	14/03/2025	UKHSA is exploring AI to detect foodborne illness outbreaks by analysing online restaurant reviews for symptoms and food mentions.
UKHSA	Hot weather risks and their impact on health	13/03/2025	Aims to raise awareness of the health impacts of hot weather.
UKHSA	Cold weather risks and their impact on health	13/03/2025	Aims to raise awareness of the health impacts of cold weather.
UKHSA	Ethylene oxide: general information and incident management	13/03/2025	Information on ethylene oxide for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Meningococcal B: vaccine information for healthcare professionals	13/03/2025	Information for healthcare professionals on the meningococcal B vaccine.
UKHSA	Measles epidemiology 2023 to 2025	13/03/2025	Number of laboratory confirmed cases of measles in England.
UKHSA	Pertussis epidemiology in England 2024 and 2025	13/03/2025	Number of laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis in England in 2024 and 2025.
UKHSA	Post-exposure prophylaxis for chickenpox and shingles	13/03/2025	Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is offered to individuals at high risk of severe chickenpox following an exposure.

UKHSA	Whole genome sequencing service launched to tackle hepatitis C	12/03/2025	Latest data show continued progress towards elimination of hepatitis C as a public health threat in England
UKHSA	Hepatitis B: the green book, chapter 18	11/03/2025	Hepatitis B immunisation information for public health professionals.
UKHSA	Clade I mpox: affected countries	11/03/2025	This page provides an overview of countries reporting clade I mpox cases (historic or current), indicating where there may be a risk of clade I mpox exposure.
UKHSA	Carbon disulphide: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information about carbon disulphide, for responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Sexually transmitted infections (STIs): migrant health guide	10/03/2025	Advice and guidance on the health needs of migrant patients for healthcare practitioners.
UKHSA	n-Hexane: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information on n-hexane for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	1,2-dichloroethane: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information about 1,2-dichloroethane for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	White phosphorus: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information on phosphorus for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Sodium dichromate: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information on sodium dichromate for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Tributyl phosphate: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information on tributyl phosphate for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Hydrazine: general information and incident management	10/03/2025	Information on hydrazine for use in responding to chemical incidents.
UKHSA	Lassa fever contact tracing underway	07/03/2025	UKHSA is tracing contacts of a person who travelled to England with Lassa fever and has since returned to Nigeria, with overall public risk remaining very low.
PHA-NI	Lifeline information sheet for professionals	13/03/2025	This information sheet outlines the types of support Lifeline can offer to people in distress or despair, and advises professionals on how they can refer clients to Lifeline.
PHA-NI	Support following an unexpected death (English and translations)	13/03/2025	This leaflet provides brief information on sources of support following an unexpected death, including the HSC Bereavement Network and the Bereaved by Suicide support services in each Trust. It also directs people to an online copy of the booklet Help is at hand.

PHA-NI	Lifeline leaflet and posters	13/03/2025	This leaflet and set of posters provide brief information on how to contact the Lifeline crisis response helpline and what support Lifeline can provide to those in distress or despair. More information is available on the Lifeline website at www.lifelinehelpline.info
PHA-NI	Director of Public Health Core Tables 2023	13/03/2025	The Director of Public Health Core Tables contain a range of demographic information such as home population figures and projections, births and fertility data, death rates, childhood immunisation rates, infectious diseases and population screening uptake rates.
PHA-NI	Caring for someone who has self-harmed or had suicidal thoughts	13/03/2025	This guide provides important information on how to take care of yourself and your family member following a suicide attempt/suicidal thoughts or self-harm and highlights resources to help you move forward. The guide is divided into three parts: 1. What happens during a visit to the Emergency Department (new name for A&E), GP or GP out-of-hours (OOH) department. 2. What you need to know following your family member's discharge. 3. Moving forward after your family member returns home. Contact details for relevant support organisations are also provided.
PHA-NI	Concerned about suicide?	12/03/2025	This leaflet contains information on what you can say and do to help someone who may be thinking of suicide. It highlights the warning signs, explains the feelings a suicidal person can have and provides a step-by-step guide to having a conversation and helping someone you're worried about. It also lists a number of support services for people having suicidal thoughts.
PHA-NI	Take 5 steps to wellbeing (English and translations)	12/03/2025	Most of us know when we are mentally and physically well, but sometimes we need a little extra help to keep well. This leaflet and poster outline five simple ways in which people can maintain and improve their mental wellbeing. Translations into 12 languages are now available.
PHA-NI	Improving the lives of people who self-harm	12/03/2025	This leaflet offers information and advice for people who have self-harmed and their families, carers or friends. It will help people understand more about self harm and how to get support.

PHA-NI	Vaping factsheet, Talking to your child about vaping, Vaping addiction soon takes hold of you - poster for young people (female), Vaping addiction soon takes hold of you - poster for young people (male)	11/03/2025	This factsheet explains what vaping is and outlines the law which regulates the contents and sale of vapes. It considers the reasons why young people vape and why parents should be concerned. Posters aimed at young people highlights the addictive nature of vaping and signposts to the PHA website for further information.
PHA-NI	Regional Perinatal Mental Health Care Pathway	10/03/2025	The Regional Perinatal Mental Health Care Pathway has been developed to facilitate the prediction, detection and treatment of mental health problems in women in the antenatal and postnatal periods.
ESRI	Adjusting estimates of poverty for the cost of disability	13/03/2025	This study explores the economic impact of disability on households. Disabled people face a double economic penalty through lower average disposable income and higher average expenditure needs. We estimate that the cost of disability is 52-59 per cent of the disposable income of households with disabled members, and that this cost varies with the severity of disability.
PH Ontario	Measles in Ontario	13/03/2025	This report describes the epidemiology of measles in Ontario between January 1, 2013 and March 12, 2025, with a focus on the current outbreak. This report will be updated weekly as of March 13, 2025 until otherwise noted
HIQA	Regulation 23 Six-monthly Unannounced Visit	11/03/2025	We have developed a template for Regulation 23(2)(a) and (b) six-monthly unannounced visit by the registered provider (or delegate) to a designated centre for people with disabilities. The template is made up of an introduction and a template to support the reporting on the quality and safety of care and support. It also includes the plan to address any concerns identified with regards to the standard of care and support in residential services for children and adults with disabilities
HIQA	Protocol: Development of a tool for the collection of costs attributable to infectious disease outbreaks in public acute hospitals	10/03/2025	The overarching aim of this study is to develop and pilot a tool that can be used to estimate the key cost implications of resources used during hospital outbreaks in Ireland. Outbreaks of diseases within hospitals are an ongoing challenge for the healthcare system: they can cause longer hospitalisation, prolonged illness, and sometimes death for infected

			individuals. Some outbreaks involve infections caused by antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms, meaning bacteria and viruses that have developed the ability to survive treatment with medicines that are meant to kill them. These outbreaks can be associated with even longer hospital stays, high resource use, and a significant impact on the welfare and finances of patients and their families. This protocol sets out the steps planned for a mixed-methods research study to guide the development of an outbreak costing tool for use in Irish acute hospitals. The planned work will include scoping meetings, a systematic review, a development process, and piloting. The final costing tool will enable hospitals to collect a core dataset that can be used to estimate the key cost implications of resources used during outbreaks from a public healthcare perspective.
PHS	Guidance to support opt-out blood borne virus (BBV) testing in Scottish prisons	11/03/2025	This guidance aims to ensure that, regardless of geographical location and prison status, all prison residents have equity of access to high quality blood-borne virus testing. This guidance provides a common definition of opt-out testing and outlines how this be delivered across the Scottish prison estate.
AHRQ	Webinar - March 18: Safety Culture in Healthcare: Improving Safety Culture Using Teamwork and Patient Safety Norms	Mar-25	This free webinar sponsored by the National Action Alliance for Patient and Workforce Safety is the second of a three-part series on Safety Culture in Healthcare. The webinar will discuss how to improve teamwork in healthcare settings using TeamSTEPS tools and strategies and provide an overview of the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program and focus on the role of teamwork to improve safety culture.
AHRQ	New Interactive Data Resource Illustrates Trends in Sepsis Hospital Care	Mar-25	A new interactive tool from AHRQ allows researchers, policymakers and others to explore trends in hospital care for sepsis, a life-threatening condition that is among the most expensive to treat in U.S. hospitals.
EvidenceAlerts	Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers who care for people aged 60 or older living in long-term care institutions	Mar-25	To assess the effects of vaccinating healthcare workers in long-term care institutions against influenza on influenza-related outcomes in residents aged 60 years or older. Outcomes of interest were: influenza (confirmed by laboratory tests) and its complications (lower respiratory tract infection; hospitalisation or death due to lower respiratory tract infection), all-cause mortality, and adverse events. The effects of HCW vaccination on influenza-specific outcomes in older residents of LTCIs are

			uncertain. The reduction in all-cause mortality in people observed could not be explained by changes in influenza-specific outcomes. This review did not find information on co-interventions with HCW vaccination: hand washing, face masks, early detection of laboratory-proven influenza, quarantine, avoiding admissions, antivirals and asking HCWs with influenza or influenza-like illness not to go to work. Better studies are needed to give greater certainty in the evidence for vaccinating HCWs to prevent influenza in residents aged 60 years or older in LTCIs. Additional studies are needed to further test these interventions in combination.
EEA	Mycotoxin exposure in a changing European climate	10/03/2025	Mycotoxins are toxins from fungi which contaminate crops, food and feed. Climate change alters fungal behaviour and distribution, increasing the risk of exposure to these toxins. This briefing explores associated health concerns and how a One Health approach can prevent contamination.
EPA	PestMan: Pesticide Management for Better Water Quality	Mar-25	The overarching aim of this research was to use a multidisciplinary approach merging knowledge of soil processes, molecular biology, engineering and quantitative risk assessment methodologies to (1) gain an understanding of the drivers of and pressures caused by the use of pesticides in the environment; (2) examine the fate and persistence of pesticides; (3) evaluate any potential impact on and risks to the environment and human health from pesticides; and (4) develop a low-cost, passive, in situ remediation method, to mitigate the problems caused by pesticides in the environment.
IAEA	What are Molten Salt Reactors?	11/03/2025	International interest is increasing in molten salt reactors, because they have the potential to provide large amounts of efficient and cost-effective electricity and produce high-temperature process heat usable for various industrial applications