



# The role of local Health Protection Units; Healthcare Associated Infection and Infection Prevention & Control

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# Key Areas



- **Health Protection Units**
- **Health Protection Teams**
- **Core Service Provisions**

# The Health Protection Units



- **Local health protection units (HPUs) operate as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Agency**
- **HPUs continually monitor health issues in local areas and give advice and support to the:**
  - Social care sector
  - Local NHS
  - Civil and emergency authorities

# The HPU Teams



Each unit is comprised of **Consultants in Communicable Disease Control/Health Protection, Health Protection Practitioners and specialist Nurses and Doctors** who are ready to respond to incidents around the clock

**Local administrative and surveillance teams** gather and interpret local information to create a picture of diseases and other hazards which is used to plan and coordinate our work.



# The HPU Teams continued



**Each team is supported by:**

- **Health Emergency Planning Advisors,**
- **Environmental Public Health units**
- **Surveillance teams**
- **Microbiology Network for laboratory analysis**



# Core Service Provision - HPU's

We have two types of work; proactive and reactive

Proactive work; preventing health incidents

This includes:

- Working with health and social care partners to provide effective immunisation programmes
- Helping prevent healthcare associated infections e.g. MRSA and *C. Difficile*
  - *Care Homes Study Days*
  - *Support of Self audit by Care Homes*

# Core Service Provision by HPUs continued



**Reactive work**; minimising the risk to the general public once an incident happens

Our priorities include:

• **Advising how to stop infectious diseases from spreading**

- Tracing people who may have come into contact with, or be carrying an infectious disease
- Compiling surveillance reports on notifiable diseases e.g. meningitis

# Core Service Provision - HPUs



- Management of complex issues such as Legionella, TB, and blood borne viruses
- Management of disease outbreaks such as gastroenteritis, MRSA, scabies
- If necessary convene and chair an outbreak control team meeting
- During the outbreak, the HPU will support the care home in all aspects of communication including with the media
- Production and provision of guidelines
- Outbreak report is written and copied to the PCT and CQC

Visits to care homes are only made when there is a **compelling need to do so**

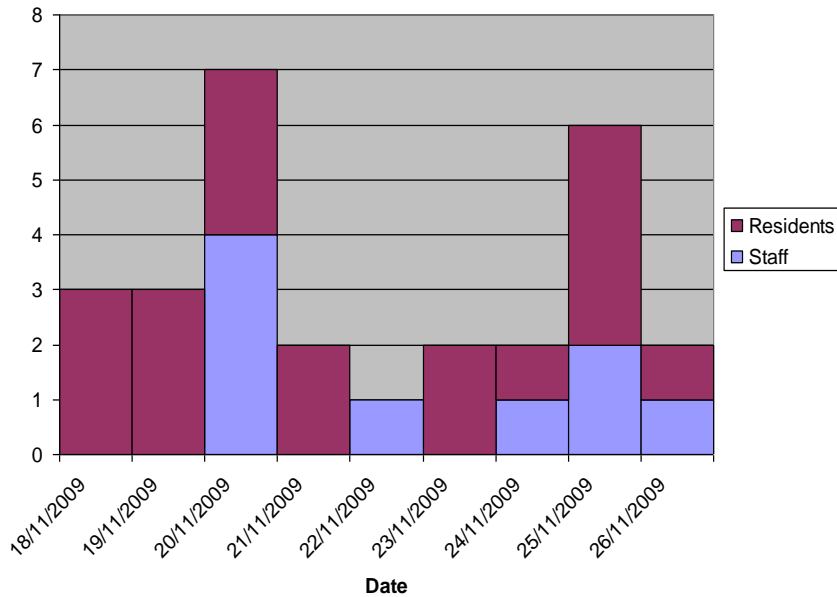
## **Care Staff occupational health should include:**

- **Pre-employment screening for immunity to communicable diseases such as measles and hepatitis B;**
- **Provision of relevant immunisations; and**
- **Have in place measures for reviewing the immunisation status of care workers**

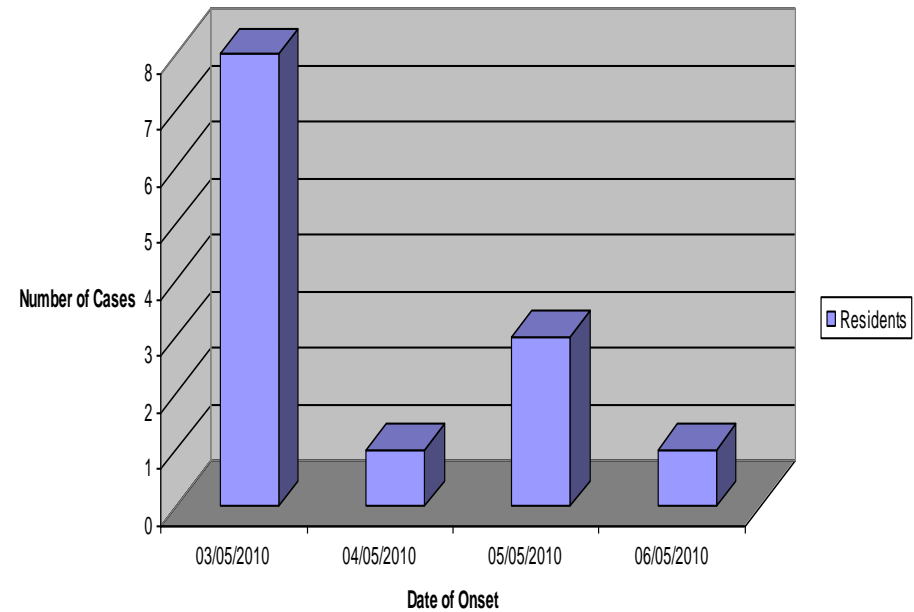
# Examples of Outbreak Epidemiological Curves



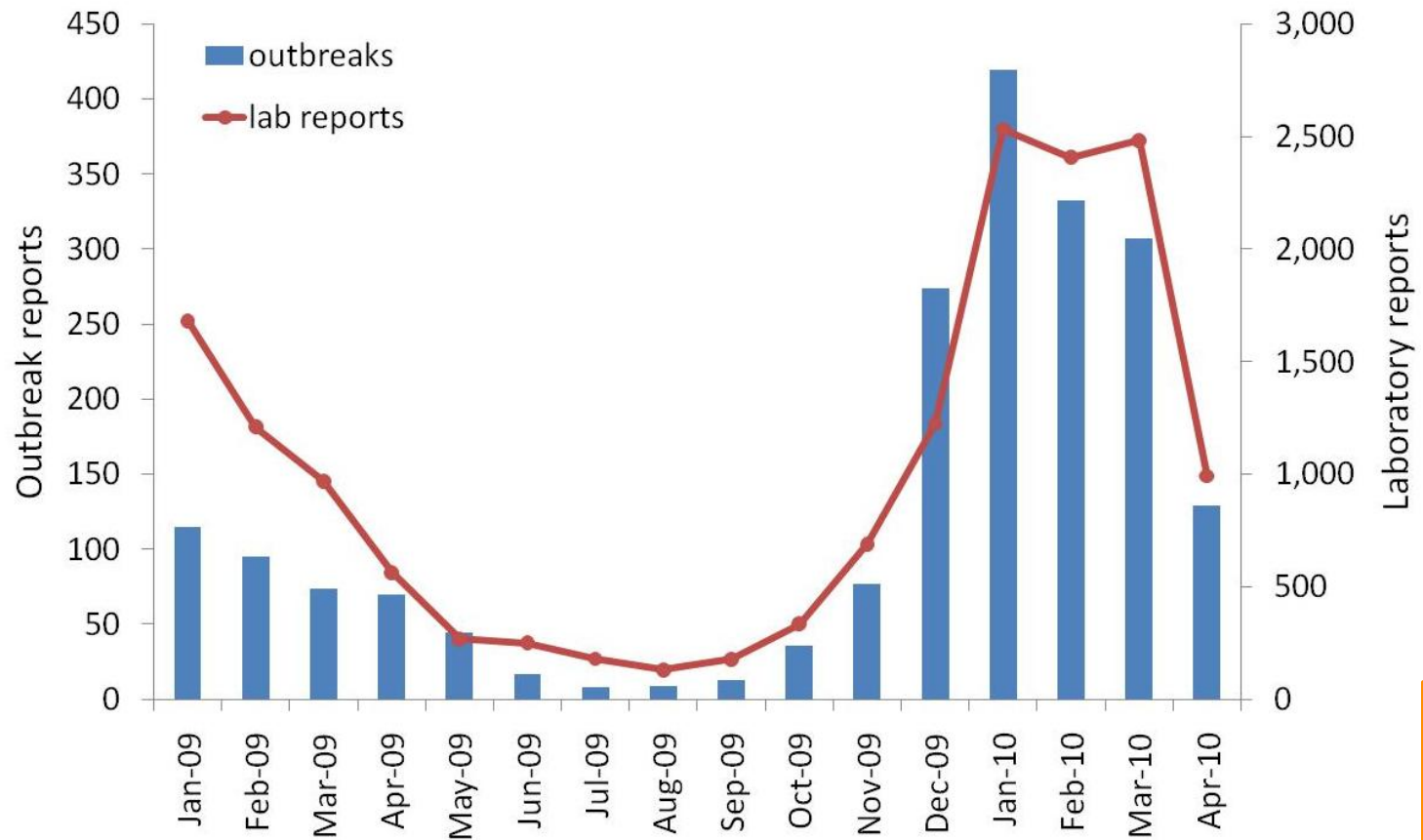
### Residential Home Diarrhoea and Vomiting Outbreak



### Nursing Home D&V Outbreak



# Laboratory and outbreak reports of Norovirus by month of occurrence



# England's MRSA and CDiff challenge 2008



MRSA bacteraemia	
2001/2	7291
2002/3	7426
<b>2003/4</b>	<b>7700</b>
2004/5	7212
2005/6	7097
2006/7	6383
2007/8	4438

<i>C. difficile</i> infection, Age >65 years	
2004	44314
2005	51767
<b>2006</b>	<b>55681</b>
2007	50392
<b>2007/8</b>	<b>45334</b>
+ 2 - 64 years	10059

.....**why?**

# Reducing Infections



**COMMUNICATION** – Care Homes Staff, Employers, Primary Care Trusts, Acute Hospitals and media

**PREVENTING INFECTION** – awareness, information, staff training and good hygiene practices

**PROTECTION OF SUSCEPTIBLE PEOPLE** – (Advice) Vaccination, prophylaxis

**CONTAINMENT/ REDUCING TRANSMISSION** – Exclusion, infection control, treatment

# Preventing and Controlling Infections



- **Improve clinical care**
  - Hand hygiene
  - Aseptic procedures
  - Saving lives and Essential Steps
  - Care Home Infection Control guidelines
- **Audit and staff training**
- **Care Homes Management involvement**
- **Infection control Link/Champion**

**“zero tolerance is a professional obligation for everyone”**

Professor Brian Duerden CBE

Inspector of Microbiology and Infection Control DH

# Summary



## Role of the local Health Protection Units

- Proactive and Reactive Services
- Outbreak management
- Audit/training and support of care home staff
- Surveillance

# Bibliography



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- 2. The Health and Social Care Act 2008-Code of Practice and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance (2009) Department of Health, London**
- 3. Health Protection Agency (2010) Norovirus Epidemiological Data. HPA, London**